

Natural Resources Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 25 February 2026, commencing at 9:00 am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor, Amy Macdonald (*Via audio-visual link*)
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor Arama Morunga
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi Janelle Beazley (*Via audio-visual link*)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Ihapera Paniora (*Via audio-visual link*)
Ngāti Tara Mahue Greaves (*Via audio-visual link*)
NRC Chair, Pita Tipene (Ex-Officio) *arrived at 10.28am*

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Pou Tiaki Taiao | GM Environmental Services
Pou Whakaritenga | GM Regulatory Services (*Via audio-visual link*)
Monitoring Manager | Natural Resources
Natural Resources | Science Manager
Principal Advisor | Environmental Services
Land Programme Manager | Land Management
Kaiāwhina Tari | Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement
Policy and Planning Manager
Natural Resources Data Manager
Hydrology Manager

The meeting commenced at 9.00am with karakia by Cr Morunga and mihi to all present.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

NRC Chair Pita Tipene (note – Pita Tipene arrived 10.28am)

Record of Actions – 6 August 2025 (Item 4.1)

Presented by: Chairperson, Councillor Geoff Crawford

Agreed action points:

- Taken as read - Chair, Geoff Crawford confirmed. Note: Councillor Crawford is the only Working Parties member eligible to confirm this item from the previous triennium.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

Presented by: Chairperson, Councillor Geoff Crawford

Agreed action points:

- Taken as read - Chair, Geoff Crawford confirmed. Note: Councillor Crawford is the only Working Parties member eligible to confirm this item from the previous triennium.

Taumāreere Business Case - next steps (Item 4.3)

Presented by: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Discussion and agreed action points:

- The Working Party received a briefing and acknowledged the business case as a significant partnership between Council and Ngāti Hine, with clarity provided that Ngāti Hine Rūnanga is the key partner.
- The Chair sought transparency on total NRC costs to date and questioned whether the rationale is sufficiently strong. Staff confirmed the purpose—reducing sedimentation in the Bay of Islands—and noted key learnings from KMR, with Ngāti Hine expected to lead locally.
- Members highlighted the need for broader engagement with other landowners and farmers in the surrounding area, despite Ngāti Hine's land ownership.
- Secured funding would provide major benefits for Northland, support future LTP opportunities, and requires deeper engagement with FNDC and other councils who recognise the Bay of Islands' economic importance.
- The group emphasised the need for economic impact data, agreed the business case could serve as a broader case study, and the Chair suggested a field visit for Councillor Morunga to understand the tool in practice.
- **Action:** Circulate the Case Study report to the Working Party, noting the presence of new members.

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:

1. Updates on progress and any proposals/recommendations are reported back to this Working Party for consideration and endorsement.
2. That the Working Party endorse the next steps (with any amendments) for implementing the business case set out in the report are progressed.
3. That the report Taumāreere Business Case - next steps by Justin Murfitt, Principal Advisor, Environmental Services be received

Strategic review of Northland Regional Council's Natural Resources Unit (Item 4.4)

Presented by: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Jason Donaghy, Monitoring Manager Natural Resources

Discussion and agreed action points:

- A summary and briefing of the item was delivered to the members for clarity.
- Members are supportive of direction of Natural Resources Unit.

- **Action:** A progress update on the Strategic review will be provided to the Working Party at a future meeting.

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:

1. That the Natural Resources Working Party provide feedback
2. That the report Strategic review of Northland Regional Council's Natural Resources Unit by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Jason Donaghy, Natural Resources Monitoring Manager be received.

Land Management Work Programme (Item 4.5)

Presented by: Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Ellen Williamson, Land Programme Manager

Discussion and agreed action points:

- Action: Presentation to be sent Working Party members.

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:

1. That the Natural Environment Bill largely maintains existing regional council functions that drive existing land-management activities. But includes expanded indigenous biodiversity responsibilities and new expectations around action-plans to achieve environmental limits which may additionally require support from land management staff.
2. That the current Land Management Work Programme, including the team's strengthened structure to support farmers in understanding rules, and preparation for implementing Freshwater Farm Plans.

January Weather Event (Item 4.6)

Presented by: Jason Donaghy, Monitoring Manager Natural Resources

Discussion and agreed action points:

- Acknowledgements were given to Chantez Connor Kingi, Kai Whiri Iwituna for her contribution and support during the event.
- Karla was acknowledged for her role in the helicopter operations, with appreciation expressed to the wider team for drawing on specialist expertise and the knowledge held by kaimahi familiar with the area.
- It was noted that delays in capturing intelligence during an event can negatively impact funding and overall response effectiveness.
- The group identified a gap between science and resilience functions when responding to an event.
- Blind spots in the mahi and recovery process were noted, including that risk to life was not explicitly covered within NRC's BAU framework. Despite this, staff stepped beyond their usual responsibilities to ensure communities were heard.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.12AM with closing karakia by Cr Morunga.