

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Bream Tail Beach Pavilion,
1825 Tangaroa Road, Mangawhai Heads
on Tuesday 21 April 2026, commencing at 10.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Pita Tipene
Deputy Chairperson, Jack Craw
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Geoff Crawford (*Via audio-visual link*)
John Hunt
Colin Kitchen
Amy Macdonald
Arama Morunga

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience (*Via audio-visual link*)
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Strategic Partnerships and Engagement (*Via audio-visual link*)
People and Culture Manager
Finance Manager
Corporate Strategy Manager (*Via audio-visual link*)
Financial Accountant
Economist
Translator
Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin
Digital Experience Support
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor (*Via audio visual link*)
Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor (*Via audio visual link*)
Policy and Planning Manager (*Via audio-visual link*)
Governance and Corporate Policy Manager
Senior Policy Planner (*Via audio-visual link*)

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Morunga, which spoke to keeping the environment beautiful for future

generations. The Chair acknowledged Councillor Morunga for the karakia and welcomed all to the meeting.

Councillor Hunt, being the host and constituent councillor, spoke to the history of Bream Tail Farm and the importance of the location; being the site where the Hawaiki cable came onshore.

Translator, Kawiti Waetford, who had deep connections with Ngātiwai and the area, spoke to the legends behind the Hen and Chicken Islands.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Public Forum - Presentation by the Bream Bay Guardians Society (Item 4.0AA)

Bream Bay Guardians Society representatives, Mary Sinclair, Malcolm Morrison and Gill Webb were in attendance to address council. Key aspects of the presentation and related discussion included:

- The Bream Bay Guardians Society (the Society) was established in January 2025; the purpose of which was to protect and preserve Bream Bay.
- The Society endorsed council's proposed comments to the EPA appointed expert panel with an amendment that council request that the panel invite comment from the Society.
- It was stated the Society represented the wider Bream Bay Community and worked closely with iwi and hapu; especially Patuharakeke.
- The Society had commissioned an independent survey, with 97% of over 1500 respondents opposed to sand extraction. The report and comments could be provided to council.
- It was stated that Auckland had a reliable and sufficient supply of sand for existing consents; therefore the applicant's 'need for sand cannot be demonstrated'. There were also options for land based sand extraction and manufactured sand that needed to be further explored.
- Although manufactured sand was not deemed suitable for concrete in New Zealand it been manufactured and used for a long period in countries such as Japan, China and India.
- Concern was raised regarding the impacts of sand extraction on the recovering scallop populations as well as dolphins and birds that bred in the Bream Bay area.
- Concern was also raised that no work had been undertaken to assess the potential combined impacts of the fast track application and the existing Channel Infrastructure application for sand extraction.

In conclusion the Chair extended appreciation to the Society for its 'hard work and passion'.

Public Forum - Presentation by the Carbon Neutral NZ Trust (Item 4.0AB)

Consultant, Darleen Tana, and representatives of Carbon Neutral NZ Trust, Rolf Mueller-Glodde, and Inge Bremer, were in attendance to address council. Key aspects of the presentation and related discussion included;

- The Trust had recently commissioned the report 'Transforming Wastewater Management for Small Communities in the Far North of NZ' which investigated the use of electrocoagulation (EC) technology. This report had been presented to FNDC after elections.
- The report reviewed the use of EC technology, for example in Asia and Europe.
- Two pilot projects had been set up at Rāwene and Taipā to validate EC technology for community scale waste water treatment. These were the first of their kind in New Zealand.
- EC technology was modular so operating plants could be sized and costed appropriately for communities.
- This technology used low voltage current to remove contaminants, viruses, pathogens, pharmaceuticals and micro-plastics, which bio management systems were not designed for. EC technology also allowed discharge to land which was more acceptable culturally and to communities.
- It was stated that EC technology was compact and provided a cheaper option to traditional wastewater plants.
- The Trust welcomed any technical support available from council to progress the project.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked the presenters for their time and effort to address council.

Confirmation of Minutes - 25 March 2026 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Kitchen/Craw)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 25 March 2026, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Councillor Carr noted he could not join the March meeting due to technical issues.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Morunga)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Financial Report to March 2026 (Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

That the 'Financial Report to March 2026' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 2 April 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Nine months into the financial year there was a favourable variance of \$1.8m which was predominantly due to salary savings. This indicated that council was on target to offset rates the following year with also a small buffer to address energy price increases.*
- *Assurance was provided that council had controls to detect fraud. Council undertook regular reviews to ensure best practice and a report was provided to each Audit and Risk Committee meeting to mitigate risks.*
- *Further assurance was provided that council had a robust tendering process which had recently being audited.*

Approval of NRC comments to the Fast Track Expert Panel regarding Bream Bay Sand Extraction application by MBL. (Item 7.1)

Report from Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Approval of NRC comments to the Fast-track Expert Panel regarding Bream Bay sand extraction application by MBL.' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 19 March 2026, be received.
2. That council approve the draft comments for Northland Regional Council feedback to the Expert Panel regarding the Fast-track application for sand extraction by MBL with the deletion of the duplicated word 'proposed' from the conclusion and correction of the spelling of kaitiakitanga.

Secretarial Note:

- *With the proposed deletion (above) the concluding sentence read 'In light of the substantial concerns raised by both independent experts and the local community we oppose the sand extraction activity proposed by MBL Ltd.'*
- *Clarification was provided the EPA was technically seeking comment; not a formal submission.*
- *Concern was raised that 'oppose' was too strong a statement when council had not fully researched the matter and that 'do not support' would be more appropriate. Countering this, council had commissioned technical reports and relied on these when forming an opinion; it also had the role to represent the views of its communities. By opposing council was 'taking the precautionary approach due to lack of evidence'.*
- *There was general agreement that council did not have the capacity to make the request that the expert panel invite comment from the Bream Bay Society.*

- *Council had not commissioned economic advice, however its comments signalled that the expert panel needed to undertake this work.*
- *Attention was drawn to the importance of concrete to the economy and the need for more information about viable options.*
- *It was stressed that while the fast track process had merit it could not be 'at the cost of the environment'.*

An amendment was moved to motion 2 (Carr/Blackwell)

2. That council approve the draft comments for Northland Regional Council feedback to the Expert Panel regarding the Fast-track application for sand extraction by MBL with the deletion of the duplicated word 'proposed' from the conclusion and correction of the spelling of kaitiakitanga and the replacement of 'oppose' with 'do not support' in the conclusion.

Lost

(Councillors Blackwell and Carr voted in support of the amendment and Councillors Craw, Crawford, Hunt, Kitchen, Macdonald, Tipene and Morunga voted against)

Secretarial Note:

- *With the proposed amendment (above) the concluding sentence read 'In light of the substantial concerns raised by both independent experts and the local community we do not support the sand extraction activity proposed by MBL Ltd.'*
- *In accordance with Standing Order 23.7 'Lost Amendments'; given the amendment was lost, debate returned to the original motion.*

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Approval of NRC comments to the Fast-track Expert Panel regarding Bream Bay sand extraction application by MBL.' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 19 March 2026, be received.
2. That council approve the draft comments for Northland Regional Council feedback to the Expert Panel regarding the Fast-track application for sand extraction by MBL with the deletion of the duplicated word 'proposed' from the conclusion and correction of the spelling of kaitiakitanga.

Carried

(Councillors Craw, Crawford, Hunt, Kitchen, Macdonald, Tipene and Morunga voted in support, Councillor Blackwell voted against and Councillor Carr abstained).

Efficiency and effectiveness review of council functions (Item 7.2)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Efficiency and effectiveness review of council functions' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 1 April 2026, be received.

2. That expenditure of up to \$200,000 (excluding GST) be approved to undertake an externally facilitated efficiency and effectiveness review of council functions, in accordance with the approach outlined in this report, to be funded from existing salary savings.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Assurance was provided that the Executive Leadership Team was supportive of the review and would ensure a rigorous and transparent process to ensure opportunities were maximised.

Northland Inc Limited: Draft Statement of Intent 2026/27 - Proposed shareholder comments (Item 7.3)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Codie McIntyre, Economic Policy Advisor

Moved (Morunga/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Northland Inc Limited: Draft Statement of Intent 2026/27 - Proposed shareholder comments' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Codie McIntyre, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 10 April 2026, be received.
2. That the proposed shareholder comments as set out in **Attachment 1** to this agenda item be provided to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee for their consideration at their meeting on 24 April 2026.
3. That the proposed shareholder comments as set out in **Attachment 2** to this agenda item, specifically associated with a Key Performance Indicator relating to supporting businesses transition to net zero carbon, be provided to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee for their consideration at their meeting on 24 April 2026.

Secretarial Note:

- *There were a range of opinions expressed with regard to Attachment 2 and the inclusion of a KPI in relation to Environmental Sustainability (supporting businesses transition to net zero-carbon). On one hand it was stated that NINC should be focussing on its core functions, 'narrowing its scope' and it was emphasised that every KPI required resource to report and measure on it. On the other hand, this was considered a 'low maintenance' KPI and would provide important data, reporting and a baseline for moving forward to 'net zero'. It also signalled to council's CCO that environmental sustainability was a priority for the regional council.*
- *In accordance with Standing Order 23.3 'Motion expressed in parts' it was requested that recommendations 1 and 2 be addressed separately from recommendation 3.*

Moved (Morunga/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Northland Inc Limited: Draft Statement of Intent 2026/27 - Proposed shareholder comments' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Codie McIntyre, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 10 April 2026, be received.
2. That the proposed shareholder comments as set out in **Attachment 1** to this agenda item be provided to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee for their consideration at their meeting on 24 April 2026.

Carried

It was further moved (Morunga/Macdonald)

3. That the proposed shareholder comments as set out in **Attachment 2** to this agenda item, specifically associated with a Key Performance Indicator relating to supporting businesses transition to net zero carbon, be provided to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee for their consideration at their meeting on 24 April 2026.

Secretarial Note:

- *Concern was raised that, as worded in Attachment 2, the reduction of fossil fuel energy consumption and dependence could be viewed as a mandatory requirement which could have a detrimental impact on Northland businesses.*
- *It was suggested that the March 2024 Government Leadership Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) report should be a key point of reference given its extensive scope.*

An amendment was moved (Carr/Kitchen)

- 3A. That Northland Inc. Limited maintains a focus on improving energy efficiency; referencing the Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) report.

Carried

(Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford, Kitchen, Hunt voted in favour of the amendment and Councillors Craw, Macdonald and Morunga voted against)

Secretarial Note:

- *There being no further amendments forthcoming the Chair put the substantive motion which was carried.*
- *For the avoidance of doubt, this decision made **Attachment 2** 'Proposed shareholder comments from Northland Regional Council to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – Enabler 3 Environmental Sustainability' null and void.*

Appointments to the Members' Expenses and Allowances Panel (Item 7.4)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Kitchen/Carr)

1. That the report 'Appointments to the Members' Expenses and Allowances Panel' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 8 April 2026, be received.
2. That Councillor Blackwell, Councillor Craw and Councillor Hunt be appointed to the Members' Expenses and Allowances Panel in accordance with Section 2.8 of the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy.

Carried

Health and Safety report for January to March 2026 quarter (Item 8.1)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager

Moved (Macdonald/Morunga)

That the report 'Health and Safety report for January to March 2026 quarter' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and dated 2 April 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to staff for a comprehensive report.*
- *Concern was raised regarding the challenges staff were facing in the field.*

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Tipene/Blackwell)

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 31 March 2026, be received.

Carried

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.3)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Kitchen/Macdonald)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 30 March 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all staff who had been involved in the responses to recent severe weather events.*
- *It was requested that reporting on Kaipara Moana Remediation be broken down to a more granular level (annual or quarterly) as opposed to cumulative totals.*

Quarterly People and Culture Report (Item 8.4)

Report from Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

That the report 'Quarterly People and Culture Report' by Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and dated 8 April 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Appreciation was extended to staff for a comprehensive report.

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Hunt)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 3 March 2026
- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – 6 March 2026 and
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board – 20 March 2026

be received.

Carried

Working Party Updates Report (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

That the report 'Working Party Updates Report' be received.

Carried

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)

Moved (Blackwell/Hunt)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 25 March 2026	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
10.2	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
10.3	Northport Group Limited Debt Refinancing	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).

3. That the Independent Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

Carried

Confirming of confidential minutes in open meeting

The confidential resolutions confirmed in open meeting were as follows:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 25 March 2026 (Confidential Item 10.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Macdonald/Kitchen)

That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 25 March 2026, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes (Confidential Item 10.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Morunga/Kitchen)

1. That the unconfirmed confidential minutes of the:
 - Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board meeting – 20 March 2026be received.

Carried

Northport Group Limited Debt Refinancing (Confidential Item 10.3)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Craw/Hunt)

1. That the report 'Northport Group Limited Debt Refinancing' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 2 April 2026, be received.
2. That council enter into a commercial paper facility with the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) for a settlement amount of \$2,478,217, maturing on 15 April 2027, at an interest rate of 25 basis points above the New Zealand Bank Bill Benchmark Rate (BKBM).

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.32pm and proceedings concluded with a karakia by Councillor Morunga.