

Unconfirmed

Minutes of a meeting of the Māori Committee

Date: 5 June 2024

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Present: M Paku (*Heretaunga*) (Co-chair)
K Kawana (*Wairoa*) (Co-chair)
M Apatu (*Heretaunga*)
D Taunoa (*Te Whanganui-a-Orotū*)
P Eden (*Te Whanganui-a-Orotū*)
P Kelly (*Kahungunu Executive*)
Cr C Lambert
R Maaka (*Tamatea*)
H Mita (*Wairoa Taiwhenua*)
A Robin (*Te Whanganui-a-Orotū*)
P Sciascia (*Tamatea*)
Cr S Siers
D Smith (*Tamatea*)
A Te Whaiti (*Heretaunga*)

In Attendance: N Peet – Chief Executive
T Munro – Te Pou Whakarae
J Smith-Ballingall – Manager, Central & Internal Relationships
N Heath – Area Manager Northern Hawke's Bay
TR Gilbert – Senior Advisor - Māori
A Tipene-Matua – Māori Relationship Manager Southern HB
L Hooper – Team Leader Governance

1. Welcome/Karakia /Apologies

The Chair, Mike Paku, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Resolution

MC13/24 That the apologies for absence from Haami Hilton and councillors Will Foley and Hinewai Ormsby be accepted.

**Sciascia/Apatu
CARRIED**

2. Conflict of interest declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Alternate member appointments

MC14/24 **Resolution**

That Ana Te Whaiti be appointed as a member of the Māori Committee for the meeting of 5 June 2024 as a short term replacement on the Committee for Haami Hilton.

**Paku/Apatu
CARRIED**

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Māori Committee meeting held on 6 March 2024

MC15/24 **Resolution**

Minutes of the Māori Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

**Robin/Barber
CARRIED**

5. Call for minor items not on the Agenda

MC16/24 **Resolution**

That the Māori Committee accepts the following *minor items not on the agenda* for discussion as item 10.

Topic	Raised by
Te Taiwhenua o Heretunga letter to HBRC	Marei Apatu
Tangata kaitiaki / Angiangi marine reserve	Paora Sciascia
Procurement processes to support mana whenua	Peter Eden
Wairoa Bar	Paul Kelly

**Maaka/Mita
CARRIED**

6. Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill

Te Wairama Munro introduced the item and provided a brief explanation of the proposed Bill which reinstates binding polls for the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies.

Discussion traversed:

- HBRC made a submission in opposition to the Bill and members of the committee noted

their support for the submission as shared via email.

- Very disappointing that a new government can come into power and overturn or unwind legislation, and that the country's constitutional framework is not strong enough to withstand this.
- It was noted that Bayden Barber made an oral submission to the select committee on behalf of Ngati Kahungunu.
- Ngati Kahungunu's rohe includes 3 regional councils and 7 city/district councils so Māori wards/ constituencies are important for the Māori voice to be represented at these decision-making tables.
- The role of councillors elected in Māori constituencies is the same as all councillors – to represent the interests of all who live in Hawke's Bay.

MC17/24

Resolution

That the Māori Committee receives and notes the *Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill* staff report.

**Eden/Robin
CARRIED**

7. May 2024 Statutory Advocacy update

Dr Nic Peet introduced the item, advising that the Regional Planning Committee has submitted to the Fast Track Approvals Bill (FTAB) – focused on the protection of the taiao and challenges for the community to be able to engage in the process – before outlining Central Government's planned programme of resource management reforms. Councillor Thompson Hokianga and Tania Hopmans will present the RPC submission in person.

- The FTAB is similar to the Covid Fast Track process, but with the 3 ministers making the final decisions on consent conditions as recommended by an expert panel.

MC18/24

Resolution

That the Māori Committee:

1. Receives and notes the *May 2024 Statutory Advocacy update*.
2. Supports the Regional Planning Committee submission to the Fast Track Approvals Bill.

**Barber/Apatu
CARRIED**

9. HBRC Chair / CE verbal updates on current issues

Nic Peet provided an update which covered:

- Top level highlight from the government's budget is one of financial restraint for the next few years.
- Transport – the government set aside \$609M for recovery works from the cyclone which is to reinstate state highways to the standard before the cyclone. Anything else, including improvements, has to compete for different funding and requires that a business case is developed and submitted to Waka Kotahi.
- Kaupapa Māori pathway for whenua Māori has taken a very long time and although money has been added to the budget it is quite hidden. HBRC continues to work with Tangoio and Petane marae.
- An additional \$20M to speed up recovery projects and \$10M for silt recovery was announced as part of the government's budget.
- National Resilience Plan funding applications are now closed but monies already allocated are secure.
- Further discussions are needed about how to implement outcomes of reviews and overhaul

Emergency Management locally, regionally and nationally.

- HBRC's three year plan decisions are to be made at an extraordinary Regional Council meeting on 18 June and the TTOH letter will be included with other applications for financial assistance.
- The Council's strategic plan refresh over the next 6-9 months will commence shortly and input from our Māori partners will be sought.
- Work to move category 2 properties to category 1 – stress to government that you can only go as fast as the community can cope with because of the impacts they have on the community. Hard infrastructure is only one part of the flood resilience picture.
- The story of Wairoa started with two communities either side of the river. Currently Tapiwai has the upper hand and the rivermouth is at Whakamahi Lagoon, where there's mud and silt creating a bottleneck and flooding Ngamotu Lagoon. The bar needs to be maintained so that the river drains properly and recommends that a new bar is dug closer to Ngamotu Lagoon. It is also requested that a seawall is built at Rangi-Houa /Pilot Hill to protect it from erosion.
- The independent review of the HBRC flood and drainage schemes is due to be reported to Council at the end of July.

8. **Take Ripōata ā Takiwā – Taiwhenua representatives' updates**

Marei Apatu (Heretaunga Taiwhenua) – the need for Taiwhenua and PSGEs to focus on working together more strategically. A lot going on, including hosting the Hui Taumata and the opening of Te Whare Tapere on Saturday.

Bayden Barber (NKII Board) –Bringing together the best of everyone at Hui Taumata. Fishhook Summit is coming up on 26 June and Kahungunu is hosting the iwi chairs in October at Toitōi, which the pohiri being held at Waiaroha. Wairarapa Moana are being returned to iwi ownership on 29 June.

Ana Te Whaiti (Heretaunga Taiwhenua) – tautoko what Bayden said. Attended the Hui Taumata and it ran seamlessly, kotahitanga in action.

Henare Mita (Wairoa Taiwhenua) – very busy time. Thank you to WDC, HBRC, and Waka Kotahi for working with the iwi authority on rebuilding/repairing the roads in the area. As a member of the Wairoa District Council Māori Committee member, expressed support for the HBRC submission against the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. (written report attached)

Paul Kelly (Kahungunu Executive) – merger between Kahungunu Executive and Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae is progressing.

Di Smith (Tamatea Taiwhenua) – continuing korero with Tukituki Water Security group, in the Environment Court in September to support HBRC's appeal against the Tranche 2 water consents. Some marae/taiwhenua are opposed but one Māori organisation wants water from tranche 2. MAR project has been granted consents and mana whenua will be involved in building that.

Paora Sciascia – Porangahau flood hui with HBRC went well, however some confusion remains in the community about what the land classification means for rebuilding. Te Angiangi Reserve was gifted to DOC 25-odd years ago, and a recent review sought by Ngati Kere was positive and it is encouraging that the DOC CE has agreed to discuss ideas for the reserve. A discussion with Sustainable Seas showed that mataitai is a significant tool. Regeneration of paua in Te Angiangi has been very successful as evidence of the rahui working.

Peter Eden (Te Whanganui a Orotū)– spoke briefly to the written report submitted and attached to the Minutes. Acknowledged new CE, Matt Maloney, and the mahi of Tania Eden. Several marae still closed after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Di Taunoa (Te Whanganui a Orotū) – in the taiao space, expressed some concerns at the pace of TREC work and the ability to monitor the mahi. Working with NIWA on fish passage in waterways since Cyclone Gabrielle.

Api Robin (Te Whanganui a Orotū)– extend an invitation to everyone to Waipatu Marae on 19 June at 9.30am for the Governor General’s visit.

10. Discussion of minor items not on the Agenda

Topic	Raised by
Silt and debris removal – concerns raised by marae about debris in and on the waterways.	Peter Eden
Procurement processes and building Māori capacity to participate. Te Kaha Hawaikirangi is working in the Infrastructure Programme Management Office (IPMO) as the Māori Engagement Advisor on procurement processes for the Flood Resilience work.	Peter Eden
Wairoa Bar – covered during CE’s verbal update	Paul Kelly
Tangata kaitiaki / Angiangi marine reserve	Paora Sciascia

Bayden Barber offered a karakia to close the meeting.

Closure:

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.37pm on Wednesday, 5 June 2024.

Signed as a true and correct record.

Date:

Chair:

**HBRC Komiti Māori Hui 12:30
Wenerei/Rāapa 5 Hune/Pipiri, 2024
Purongo ā-Takiwa
Henare Mita (Wairoa Taiwhenua)**

Nuhaka School and Playcentre:

In 2023 the Nuhaka School and Playcentre suffered two significant flood events, and following measured inspections of their facilities, and engagement with their boards, staff and community, the Ministry of Education determined, that with the exception of the schools' Assembly Hall and Ablutions Block, all materials and buildings would have to be removed by interested parties or be demolished by contractors. In addition, only the Primary School would be rebuilt. The removal of materials and/or buildings by private parties prompted immediate enquiries, confirmation of which fell to the appropriate board to facilitate.

In early May, a blessing of the school site was conducted and temporary high fencing erected to prohibit unauthorised public access during the removal of asbestos materials. By this time materials had already been removed, some legally and some, it would seem, illegally. The latter still a bone of contention in Nuhaka.



Hīrere Stream Taiao Management Project:

Without a doubt, one of the most enjoyable projects I have ever had the pleasure of attending, was facilitated by Te Iwi O Rakaipaaka Trust (TIORT) regarding their Hīrere Stream Taiao Management Project, located near the intersection of Tamakahu and Riripeti Streets. The Hīrere Stream flows from west to east beside the disused railway tracks, large sections of which have now been disassembled, along with the relocation of a significant amount of loose metal. A new depot containing the equipment of project engineer, Damian White, sits on a portion of this stripped area and on Tuesday, the 14th of May a sizeable crowd assembled in preparation for the arrival of Nuhaka School staff, parents and students.



They had been invited to participate in the first phase of a three-stage riparian planting schedule. Over 400 plants of 70 different varieties, purchased from the Wairoa Community

Ngahere Nursery, had been provided by TIORT and because this was scheduled to be a morning activity only, Damian's team had already predrilled the necessary holes. The children along with their minders were given a demonstration on what was required of them and following a brief Q&A session were able to proceed at their leisure. Assistance was readily available, but the children, staff and parents operated like a runaway locomotive. A little before lunch - a celebratory sausage sizzle - the intrepid army had returned to home base, a job very well done.



In truth, the Hīrere Stream Taiao Management Project aspires to fulfil two major goals. One that relates to the enhancement of the stream and surrounding areas and the other that concerns the improved resiliency of this area to future flood events. A major coup has seen NZ Rail return a large portion of this land to the school with TIORT in further negotiations to have more lands follow suit. Selected culverts have been replaced, drains cleared and in some cases reconfigured to allow a more efficient flow of water along the Tamakahu Street drains or alternatively, into the Hīrere Stream. There is still more work to be done, but it does offer greater confidence to the school, marae, and residents along Tamakahu and neighbouring streets.



The first two photographs show tracts of the now disassembled railway line. A large amount of loose metal was also removed from these areas and relocated temporarily to the depot. The third photograph shows a major problem area. The drain has been reconfigured to allow a better flow of water to the Hīrere Stream, while the final photograph shows a recently constructed fence built from materials found strewn about at the mouth of the Hīrere Stream.

May Storm:

In May, many parts of New Zealand, like Wairoa experienced driving winds and rain, the storm proving so severe, the possibility of a Civil Defence Emergency being activated, loomed large. Fortunately, the heavy showers eased and although the strong winds continued, it appeared a very serious situation had been avoided. Nuhaka suffered flooding along State Highway 2, between Blucks Pit Road and the southern end of an area known as Waipuia. Always a

problem location during torrential rains, it had been years since the paddocks were so heavily inundated, water quickly filling drains and spilling over on to the road. With the rain easing, floodwaters slowly began to recede, traffic forced to proceed cautiously, but at least commuters would make it home safely.

In terms of flood mitigation, much was learnt from this event. Because of risks to local residents, most of the attention has rightly been based in and around Tamakahu Street and the Hīrere Stream. The success of this work suggests it is time to shift focus elsewhere in Nuhaka.

Ngā Waari Māori:

I would like to commend the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for authoring a submission on the proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. I say this because, with so little time available to us, the WDC Māori Standing Committee was unable to offer a submission of our own. It would have been more than appropriate to do so, since Wairoa occupies a unique political space, in that Māori make up 67% of our district's population. This high percentage reflected too in Māori representation on council. Importantly this does not apply in terms of Wairoa's representation on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and speaks to why Wairoa supported the establishment of Māori Wards and Constituencies. Such mechanisms offered the possibility of Wairoa securing two seats on Council, as opposed to the one general seat.

I argue therefore that it is incumbent upon Wairoa, to lend our support to the HBRC submission, not only because of the benefits accrued to Wairoa, but also due to all the hard work done by so many communities throughout New Zealand, in pursuit of Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies.

Te Whanganui Orotu Report

June 2024

Matt Malaney was welcomed as the new CEO for Te Whanganui Orotu board Taiwhenua, acknowledged the mahi Tania Eden undertook to get Taiwhenua to their current position, and look forward to working with Matt in his role.

Ahuriri Marae is still challenged with rebuilding from Cyclone Gabrielle underway.

- Tongoa, Petane, Waiohiki(partial), and Moteo are still closed.
- Wharerangi, Timi-Kara, Te Harato, Kohupatiki, Pukemokimoki open.

Acknowledge the support from Councils Maori Wards and Tautoko the importance these roles provide for Maori within the Council forums and the community.

Supportive of recent Hui Taumata at Omahu Marae provided an opportunity to identify pathways for Maori as they navigate through challenges in a new environment and identify long-term strategies to build strong communities.

Civil defense and building resilience within our community is an important step moving forward to future-proof Maori response.

Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the important role Marae/Hapu/Whanau can play when our communities are challenged.

As we move through challenges, global warming, environmental and social change Taiwhenua identifies the importance of building strong relationships within our community.