



HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

Unconfirmed

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Planning Committee

Date: Wednesday 13 August 2025

Time: 2.00pm

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

Present: T Hopmans (Co-chair) – *Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust*
Cr H Ormsby (Co-chair)
Cr T Hokianga (Deputy Co-chair)
T Eden – *Mana Ahuriri Trust*
Cr X Harding
M Hazel – *Hineuru Iwi Trust (online)*
L Kele – *Tamatea Pōkai Whenua Trust (online)*
Cr C Lambert
Cr J Mackintosh (*online*)
M McIlroy – *Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Trust*
M Mohi – *Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa Trust*
J Nelson-Smith – *Tamatea Pōkai Whenua Trust*
Cr S Siers
T Thornton – *Ngati Pahauwera Development Trust*
Cr J van Beek (*online*)
Cr M Williams

In Attendance: N Peet – Chief Executive
K Brunton – Group Manager Policy & Regulation
T Munro – Te Pou Whakarae
N Nicholson – Manager Policy & Planning
S Gudsell – Intermediate Policy Planner
S King – Policy Planner
J Smith-Ballingall – Māori Relationship Manager, Central HB & Internal
R Hollyman – Governance Advisor
R Ellison – RPC Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor
D Smith (*online*)
K Hooker (*online*)
R Graham – public forum speaker
Dr N Jones – Medical Officer of Health public forum speaker

1. Welcome/Karakia /Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Matua Mike Mohi opened with a karakia.

Resolution

RPC18/25 That the apologies for lateness from Councillor van Beek be accepted.

Ormsby/Hopmans
CARRIED

2. Conflict of interest declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

Councillor Williams noted that he has been involved with submissions on the National Direction Programme representing entities with a different perspective than council. This is also the case for a number of PSGEs who have also made submissions.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Regional Planning Committee held on 14 May 2025

RPC19/25 **Resolution**

Minutes of the Regional Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 14 May 2025, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

Ormsby/Nelson-Smith
CARRIED

4. Deputation - Health risks of orchard fires / smoke on the Heretaunga Plains

Rex Graham presented a deputation with supporting photographs ([Attachment 1](#)), highlights and discussions included:

- There are environmental and health impacts from orchard and vineyard burning on the Heretaunga Plains. Smoke with fine particulate matter can be linked to respiratory issues, asthma, and premature deaths and is supported by the most recent (2022) 'New Zealand Health and Air Quality' study, as confirmed by Nicholas Jones (Medical Officer of Health).
- Current rules permit burning for orchard redevelopment and disease control, but enforcement is challenging due to delayed reporting and limited monitoring capacity.
- HBRC staff confirmed their proactive compliance efforts, including early morning monitoring and a high number of infringement notices issued in 2023–24, with Hawke's Bay leading nationally in prosecutions for illegal burning.
- Committee members raised concerns about the adequacy of existing rules, the inability to make plan changes under current government restrictions, and the need for interim solutions. Suggestions included developing a bylaw, engaging with the horticulture industry on best practice compliance, and preparing for future rule changes once permitted.
- The committee requested that staff investigate options including industry engagement, health data analysis, and potential interim regulatory tools.

RPC20/25 **Resolution**

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *Deputation - Health risks of orchard fires / smoke on the Heretaunga Plains*.

Eden/McIlroy
CARRIED

5. Natural Hazards and Climate Change Plan development update

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Saul Gudsell spoke to the item and shared a presentation ([Attachment 2](#)) noting:

- Development of the Natural Hazards chapter continues, incorporating feedback from councils, Joint Taiao Operational Group (JTOG), and national policy direction; the Climate

Change chapter is paused due to government directives.

- Climate considerations are embedded within the Natural Hazards chapter, ensuring future scenarios are addressed despite the pause on standalone climate planning.
- Engagement with PSGEs is supported by Kaupapa funding, and collaboration with Napier, Hastings, and potentially Central Hawke's Bay councils is ongoing to avoid duplication and align efforts.
- A dedicated RPC workshop is proposed to review draft policy and explore options; to be scheduled once the new Council is in place.
- Members emphasised the need for actionable responses informed by Cyclone Gabrielle, using best available data and avoiding delays from excessive review.
- The committee endorsed the continued development of the chapter to amend the operative RPS.

RPC21/25

Resolutions

That the Regional Planning Committee:

1. Receives and notes the *Natural Hazards and Climate Change Plan development update*.
2. Endorses the proposal to:
 - 2.1. continue to develop the Natural Hazards chapter to amend the operative Regional Policy Statement, and
 - 2.2. hold workshops on the draft chapter with Regional Planning Committee governors.

**Harding/Eden
CARRIED**

6. National Direction Package update

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Saul Gudsell spoke to the item, assisted by a presentation ([Attachment 3](#)) highlighting:

- A formal submission was made on the National Direction package.
- While immediate updates to regional policy statements or Resource Management Act (RMA) plans are not required, future planning must align with the new direction.
- Concerns were raised about the adequacy of the proposed NPS on Natural Hazards. HBRC emphasised the need for stronger national direction to support councils in restricting development in high-risk areas in the submission.
- Discussions covered the permissibility of granny flats and housing on Māori land in high-risk areas, the removal of Land Use Capability (LUC) Class 3, and the shift to modern land use assessment methods. HBRC is updating its Land Use mapping to reflect more accurate data.
- Members expressed concern over proposed changes to synthetic nitrogen fertilizer reporting, emphasising the importance of maintaining reporting requirements to protect water quality and public health.

RPC22/25

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *National Direction Package update*.

**Siers/Hokianga
CARRIED**

7. Freshwater Vision and Values

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Saul Gudsell spoke to the item assisted by a presentation ([Attachment 4](#)) highlighting:

- The freshwater vision and values work was initiated under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) 2020 in partnership with Post-Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs) to meet national requirements, despite a pause in freshwater planning until

December 2027.

- Five reports have been completed, including one representing three PSGEs along the Mohaka catchment, and will be circulated to committee members and presented at a future meeting. Discussions are underway on how to integrate the findings into the new planning system, including spatial planning.
- These reports reflect significant collaborative effort and valuable insights and staff and PSGEs were acknowledged for their extensive work and partnership, with particular thanks to technical teams and JTOG members for their ongoing contributions.
- The reports are public documents but contain intellectual property held by the PSGEs. While they can be shared, any reuse beyond HBRC's intended purpose requires PSGE approval.

RPC23/25

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *Freshwater Vision and Values* staff report.

**Harding/McIlroy
CARRIED**

8. Update on Policy and Māori Partnerships joint projects

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Jack Smith-Ballingall spoke to the item and shared a presentation (**Attachment 5**) highlighting:

- Since May, the focus has broadened from iwi/hapū management plans to include a wider range of Māori planning documents such as Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, Cultural Impact Assessments (CIAs), cultural values reports, and other RMA instruments.
- A draft framework has been developed to guide the consistent treatment of these documents across the organisation, including tailored guidance for different document types, recognising their unique purposes, levels of accessibility, and intellectual property considerations.
- A dual workstream between Māori Partnerships and Policy teams is enhancing internal systems with templates, updated website, and staff training to ensure culturally informed and consistent handling of these documents.
- The overarching goal is to embed Māori values and expectations into council operations and planning, ensuring alignment with RMA compliance, strategic planning, and cultural capability development.
- Members requested a matrix or flowchart to clarify how Māori planning documents interact and inform council work. There was strong support for referencing these documents in council papers to demonstrate their influence and avoid duplication of effort.
- The Auditor General's report identified over 12,000 Treaty settlement commitments across 80 settlements, with many public agencies falling short. HBRC has identified approximately 23 commitments and is actively progressing two key OAG recommendations – improving monitoring and including commitments in annual reporting.
- Concerns were raised about inconsistent access to up-to-date data across communities. Members emphasised the need for shared data sets to support informed, equitable decision-making and to ensure all stakeholders are working from the same information.
- Continued engagement with PSGEs is essential to ensure shared understanding and appropriate application of cultural values. Members recommended aligning council processes with the Hawke's Bay Regional Planning Committee Act 2020 and individual PSGE Treaty settlement legislation to ensure legal compliance and consistency.

RPC24/25

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *Update on Policy and Māori Partnerships joint projects*.

**Eden/Lambert
CARRIED**

9. August 2025 Policy Projects update

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Saul Gudsell spoke to the item and shared a presentation ([Attachment 6](#)) highlighting:

- The Plan Change 9 – TANK continues through the Environment Court process, with hearings expected in May 2026. It is unaffected by the government’s plan-making pause, as it is already in the hearing stage.
- The Flood Protection Bylaw review (under the Local Government Act) and work on the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Urban Development are continuing. The NPS for Highly Productive Land has paused due to an anticipated update.
- Spatial planning preparation is ongoing. A successful hui was held with councils and PSGEs, generating strong engagement and actionable outcomes. Work is progressing at the officer level to maximise the available time before statutory deadlines.
- HBRC has received four Mana Whakahono ā Rohe initiations. Initial hui are being scheduled. Nationally, over 40 initiations have occurred, with only four formal agreements completed to date.

RPC25/25

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *August 2025 Policy Projects update*.

**Nelson-Smith/Mohi
CARRIED**

10. August 2025 Statutory Advocacy update

Nichola Nicholson, Shelley King, and Saul Gudsell spoke to the item, assisted by a presentation ([Attachment 7](#)) highlighting:

- The second Resource Management Amendment Bill (Tranche 2) is expected to pass in early September. New and amended national direction instruments are expected to be gazetted by the end of 2025.
- The Local Government (Water Services) Bill has been set down for a second reading in parliament shortly. HBRC has made submissions on the Napier City Council Proposed District Plan, with hearings on ecosystems, natural hazards, and rezoning scheduled. Marine and Coastal Area Act hearings are ongoing and expected to continue into May 2026.
- The amendment bill introduces significant changes, including a plan-making freeze, expedited consent processing for energy and wood processing activities, restrictions on reviewing coastal permits until 2030, and new ministerial powers to override plan provisions that hinder economic growth (expiring end of 2027).
- Updates to freshwater farm plans include simplified certification and auditing processes, with industry bodies potentially approved to certify. Courts will gain powers to revoke or suspend consents for serious non-compliance, and insurance against fines will be prohibited. Penalties increase to \$1M for individuals and \$10M for companies.
- New powers will allow temporary regulations to override RMA processes for up to three years following a natural hazard event, enabling faster recovery responses.
- Members raised concerns about the high cost of participation for both council and PSGs, and staff committed to improving collaboration and information sharing to reduce duplication and increase efficiency.

RPC26/25

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *August 2025 Statutory Advocacy update*.

**Siers/Hokianga
CARRIED**

Mike Mohi led the group in offering a closing karakia

Closure:

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.01pm on Wednesday 13 August 2025.

Signed as a true and correct record.

Date:

Chair:

To be attached:

Att 1

Att 2

Att 3

Att 4

Att 5

Att 6

Att 7