



# MINUTES Ordinary Meeting



**Date:** 18 February 2025

**Venue:** Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

**Document:** TRCID-1492626864-330

**Present:**

C S Williamson	Chairperson
N W Walker	Deputy Chairperson
C L Littlewood	
S W Hughes	
A L Jamieson	
M J Cloke	
M G Davey	
D H McIntyre	
D M Cram	
D L Lean	
B J Bigham	zoom

**Attending:**

S Ruru	Chief Executive
M Nield	Director – Corporate Services
A Matthews	Director – Environmental Quality
A D McLay	Director – Resource Management
D Harrison	Director - Operations
N Chadwick	Executive Assistant to Chief Executive and Chairperson
M Jones	Governance Administrator
K Holland	Team Lead - Communications
S Tamarapa	Pou Takawaenga – Relationship Facilitator
A De Faria	Finance Manager

Four members of the public present

One media representative Present (left meeting at 11.57am

The meeting opened with a group Karakia at 10.30am.

## 1. Confirmation of Ordinary Council Minutes – 10 December 2024

### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) took as read and confirmed the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held Suite at two, Yarrow Stadium, Maratahu Street, New Plymouth on 10 December 2024.

Littlewood/Cloke

## 2. Deputations

Council Chair C Littlewood approved requests for Council to receive two deputations.

2.1 P Moeahu gave a deputation relating to item 9 of the agenda.

2.2 D Moeahu gave a deputation relating to item 9 of the agenda.

## 3. Election of a Chairperson

3.1 N Chadwick provided an overview regarding the need to appoint a new Chairperson of Taranaki Regional Council and outlined the voting process.

3.2 C L Littlewood called for nominations for the position of Chair to the Taranaki Regional Council. One nomination was received. Councillor Walker nominated Councillor Williamson.

Walker/Davey

3.3 There being no further nominations, C L Littlewood, called for nominations to close and Councillor Williamson was duly elected as Chair of Taranaki Regional Council.

3.4 Councillor Williamson made an oral declaration required under section 14, schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the Election of a Chairperson report
- b) appointed Councillor Williamson to the position of Chairperson
- c) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Hughes/Jamieson

#### 4. Receipt of Operations and Regulatory Committee Minutes – 4 February 2025

##### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the minutes of the Operations and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 4 February 2025
- b) adopted the recommendations therein.

Hughes/Cloke

#### 5. Receipt of Policy and Planning Committee Minutes – 4 February 2025

##### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 4 February 2025
- b) adopted the recommendations therein.

Williamson/Walker

#### 6. Receipt of Executive Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 10 February 2025

##### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the unconfirmed minutes of the Executive Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten, Stratford on Monday 10 February 2025
- b) adopted the recommendations therein.

Cloke/Cram

#### 7. Council Conduct Complaint

- 7.1 S Ruru provided a summary of the complaint against the Council's actions during its discussions regarding whether to approve a submission on the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill and to decide on the appropriate course of action moving forward.

##### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the Council Conduct Complaint memorandum
- b) confirmed that at its meeting on 10 December 2024 it acted in a manner inconsistent with:
  - its normal meeting protocol and the expectations that it has about the way in which it wishes to operate as reflected in its Mission, Organisational Values and principles in Standing Orders
  - relevant statutory provisions within the Local Government Act 2002 and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
  - expectations of good practice as set by the Ombudsman, Office of the Auditor-General and other sources of good practice relating to local government.

- c) apologised to Mr Dinnie Moeahu, the Iwi representatives on Council standing committees, the Taranaki community and councillors who were not able to express a view on the merits (or otherwise) of making a submission on the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill (the Bill) for the short-comings identified above
- d) agreed that it should initiate an internal review (as proposed under option 3) of what occurred at its 10 December 2024 meeting, its current meeting procedures and standing orders with a view to identifying improvements that it can make during the current triennium and/or recommendations that it might make to the new Council to be elected in October 2025 as to how it can improve its governance processes

*Option 3 – Internal Review option*

- a. *The third option is for Council to direct the Chief Executive to initiate an Internal Review of the way in which the Bill matter was handled by Council with a view to:*
- b. *document the steps taken and assess the effectiveness of the way in which the matter was managed*
- c. *identify any opportunities for improving Council processes including the governance structure, processes and standing orders*
- d. *the way in which Iwi input is sought on matters which need to be considered with a degree of urgency*  
*identify any further review work that might be warranted given the findings of the internal review work that is completed*
- e) asked the Chief Executive to report back on a suggested process for reviewing current meeting processes and standing orders including options for allowing for all councillors to express a view on both the 10 December 2024 meeting and options for improving its meeting processes given their experiences during the current triennium
- f) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- g) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Williamson/Hughes

McIntyre voted against

## 8. Appointment of Councillor Littlewood to Standing Committees

- 8.1 N Chadwick provided an overview of committee structures and the need to re-appoint Councillor Littlewood to standing committees.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the Appointment of Councillor Littlewood to Standing Committees memorandum
- b) selected and approved option one: direct swap into vacancies on standing committees created by the election of the new Chair
- c) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of

the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Jamieson/Hughes

## 9. 2025/2026 Annual Plan and Estimate Approach

9.1 M Nield outlined the options for the preparation of the 2025/2026 Annual Plan.

### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received and noted this memorandum on the preparation and adoption of the 2025/2026 Annual Plan
- b) noted the requirements of section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 in the preparation of the 2025/2026 Annual Plan
- c) confirmed that there are no significant or material differences proposed for the 2025/2026 Annual Plan from the content of the 2024/2034 Long-Term Plan
- d) approved the preparation and adoption of the 2025/2026 Annual Plan without any further public engagement or consultation in accordance with section 95(2A) of the Local Government Act 2002
- e) noted the preparation and adoption of administrative charges under section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 will require the use of the Local Government Act 2002 special consultative process
- f) noted the approach and timetable to be undertaken dependent upon whether the decision is to undertake further public engagement and consultation.
- g) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- h) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Cloke/Williamson

## 10. Upcoming Meeting Dates for March 2025

### **Resolved**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum Meeting Dates 2025
- b) noted the upcoming meeting dates.

Cloke/Jamieson

## 11. Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, resolved that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 February 2025 for the following reason/s:

The matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are as follows:

Item 15:

Confirmation of Public Excluded Ordinary Council Minutes – 10 December 2024

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 (a) and section 7 (2) (a) and (2) (g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Item 16:

Confirmation of Public Excluded Executive Audit and Risk Minutes – 10 February 2025

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and/or enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice, commercial activities.

Williamson/Cram

There being no further business the Chairperson, C S Williamson, declared the meeting of the Ordinary Council meeting closed with a karakia at 12.09pm.

**Council Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C S Williamson**