



## **Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 17 April, 2019</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Council Chamber Forum North, Rust Avenue Whangarei</b>
<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Cr Sharon Morgan (Acting Co-Chairperson) Mike Kake (Acting Co-Chairperson) Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Sue Glen Cr Anna Murphy Allan Halliday Deborah Harding Delaraine Armstrong Janelle Beazley Merepeka Henley Takiri Puriri Aorangi Kawiti</b>
<b>Not in Attendance</b>	<b>Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson) Cr Crichton Christie Taipari Munro (Co-Chairperson) Cr Greg Innes (Chairperson) Violet Sade Sharon Kaipo</b>
<b>Scribe</b>	<b>Jennie Thomas (Democracy Adviser)</b>

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**Also in attendance:** Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy), Andre Hemara (Māori Engagement Officer), Debbie Taylor (EA to General Manager Strategy and Democracy), Sandra Boardman (General Manager – Community), (Simon Weston – Acting CE/General Manager Infrastructure), Cindy Velthuisen (Community Funding Officer), Kathryn Candy (Senior Legal Adviser), Nicolene Pestana (Team Leader –Democracy)

**1. Open Meeting**

**2. Karakia/Mihi - Mike Kake**

**3. Apologies**

Her Worship the Mayor, Taipari Munro, Cr Innes, Rob Forlong, Aperahama Edwards, Violet Sade and Crs Cutforth and Cocurullo for lateness.

**Moved by** Cr Sharon Morgan

**Seconded by** Delaraine Armstrong

That the apologies be sustained.

**Carried**

**4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)**

**5. Previous Minutes**

**5.1 Minutes Te Kārearea 20 March 2019**

**Moved by** Janelle Beazley

**Seconded by** Merepeka Henley

That the minutes of the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum meeting held on Wednesday, 20 March 2019, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting, subject to the correction of spelling of Catherine Murupaenga-Ikin.

**Carried**

Allan Halliday updated the meeting on the issue of drain clearance at Hikurangi causing silting. NRC have advised drain cleaning is a permitted activity but the effects of the activity need to be mitigated. Silt can be present for no longer than 12 hours. Allan advised that in some cases, the silting has occurred for up to six weeks. NRC have advised they will enforce measures to prevent this from happening

Allan advised that the street light at the Puhipuhi intersection has been replaced and can be resolved on the action log.

## 6. Reports:

### 6.1 Action Log April 2019

**Moved by** Mike Kake  
**Seconded by** Cr Sue Glen

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum note the attached Action Log.

**Carried**

Dominic Kula endorsed the previous Te Kārearea meeting held at the Matapouri marae and the constructive dialogue that was presented. Some of the foremost issues that were discussed included road safety issues in the area and staff are looking at what can be done to address these.

The signage for Te Wai O Taniwha (Mermaid Pools) at Matapouri would be erected on Friday advising of the rāhui. Hapu will be working directly with DOC and NRC. From Dominic's understanding, there are ongoing discussions with the NRC regarding this situation.

The issue of cattle in waterways has been raised, and follow up will occur, with NRC.

Sandra Boardman, General Manager Community, addressed the meeting on the community hall funding versus funding for marae. Community halls funding is allocated according to the Community Halls Strategy. This strategy is due for renewal next year. At present, there are 36 community hall facilities receiving funding with the expectation that they are open to all members of the community. It was acknowledged that at present marae currently do not fall into the category of the strategy. This matter will be reviewed as part of the strategy renewal.

The issue of marae not receiving funding from this strategy was raised by Merepeka Henley as a submission to the hearings of the Annual Plan. It was stated that there has been an issue in the past of marae being encouraged to apply to the community hall fund but being turned down as they don't meet the criteria. It was stated that marae are open for everyone, you are tangata whenua once you step in the door. Marae are used for culturally appropriate events, they are used to host dignitaries. The view was expressed that there should be a discussion around why marae should have their own strategy. Marae are subject to a raft of costs including insurance and koha is relied upon for funding.

Cr Murphy noted that the Ngunguru marae is being used by the community for a variety of activities. Residents are coming to understand that it is a resource for the community.

Sandra Boardman advised that the strategy will be reviewed after July 2019. At present, only the named halls fit the criteria. Of the 86 community facilities within the district, Council only fund 36.

The submission presents a strong argument to include marae. Once the strategy is reviewed, staff will come back with options to Council. It was queried and clarified that if the 36 venues increased due to the review the associated cost would be communicated back to Council. It was queried whether the facilities partnership fund could be used for funding for marae. The facilities partnership fund is specifically for new facilities.

Delaraine Armstrong advised she was in support of the submission. She advised that other councils, such as Auckland, fund marae. Marae are community facilities and some are used as Civil Defence centres. In many rural communities, they are the only facility available for the community. Alan Halliday noted that there are many marae volunteering as Civil Defence centres and this had been an initiative suggested by NRC and WDC and the contribution of assisting both local and central government should be recognised.

Deborah Harding noted that some of the marae, including Takahiwai and Mangakahia were originally built as halls for the returned soldiers.

It was noted that new build marae are classed as commercial buildings for Building Act purposes (not rating). Cr Cutforth commented that marae seem to fit better under community facilities rather than community halls. There seemed justification for marae that are used for Civil Defence to receive funding. It appears that the Annual Plan is not in sync with the Community Halls Strategy review and it might be to consider them for funding during the review.

Delaraine questioned if there could be another conversation regarding procurement across Tai Tokerau and whether items such as insurance for marae could be considered in Council's procurement policy.

Merepeka advised that she has written to the Crown regarding insurance underwrites as marae are caught in the boundaries of commercial rates.

Cr Murphy queried whether Sandra Hawken had received feedback regarding the notified consent for the Matapouri replenishment works. Dominic advised that Parks Manager, Sue Hodge had had direct

contact with Sandra. The consents process had been delayed due to a number of issues.

Dominic acknowledged that the action log was extensive with many pending items but noted that the comprehensive community forum had added a considerable number of items. The Commissioner training has been delayed due to staffing issues at MfE, but discussion is due to occur next month.

A meeting is being organised with staff to discuss the RMA and District Plan.

It was noted that the Porowini Terenga Paraoa Marae traffic improvements completed had eased the issue around access out of the marae and the extra space provided for the bus bay was working well.

Deborah Harding suggested that the relationship agreement be added to the Te Huinga agenda. Dominic noted that Council elections will be taking place in October. He advised that the new Council would have to make decisions on any new structures. He suggested progressing the Te Huinga review before then and then look at the timing regarding the new council.

The data base of marae contacts has been completed.

Cr Cutforth queried whether the marae resource booklet had been distributed to all marae. The document is available through the hapu hub and is on Council's website. The booklet was praised but it was noted that the contact details of Aperahama Edwards (Manager – Māori Relationships) and Andre Hemara (Māori Engagement Officer) should have been included. Aorangi Kawiti queried whether and information pack had been dispersed to the Pīpiwai marae as rating information was useful.

Merepeka discussed the issue in the Whangaruru Harbour of yachts being beached for cleaning and painting on the Motukauri Island and the detrimental effects that it was having on kai moana. Merepeka advised that this had been relayed to NRC who had advised that they did not have the resources to monitor this and that the coastline added to the difficulty of launching boats. It was suggested that media be contacted. Cr Murphy requested that she be written to as the local councillor regarding the issue so she could follow up on it and to contact the local regional councillor Paul Dimery.

## 6.2 Elections 2019

**Moved by** Cr Sue Glen

**Seconded by** Deborah Harding

That the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum notes this report.

**Carried**

Kathryn Candy, Council's Senior Legal Adviser, provided a presentation to the meeting on the 2019 Elections.

### The key dates for the elections are:

Nominations open	Friday 19 July 2019
Nominations close	Noon, Friday 16 August 2019
Delivery of voting documents	From Friday 20 September 2019
<b>Election Day</b>	<b>Saturday 12 October 2019 – voting closes at 12 noon</b>
Official declaration of results	Thursday 17 October 2019

### The election is for:

- Mayor and Councillors for Whangarei District Council
- Northland Regional Council members
- Northland District Health Board members

### The Whangarei District Council positions are for:

- The Mayor
- And 13 Councillors from 6 Wards:
  - Bream Bay (2)
  - Denby (3)
  - Hikurangi – Coastal (2)
  - Mangakahia – Maungatapere (1)
  - Okara (4)
  - Whangarei Heads (1)

### To stand for the election you:

- Must be a New Zealand citizen
- Must be on the parliamentary roll anywhere in New Zealand
- Must be nominated by two people who live in the ward that you stand for or the district if standing for Mayor
- Cannot stand for both WDC and NRC

### **Voting in the election:**

- Local Government elections rely on the Parliamentary electoral roll and combines the general electoral roll and the Māori electoral roll.
- Includes non-resident ratepayers – those that own property in Whangarei but live outside the district.
- Voting age = 18 years and older.
- Must have lived in NZ for more than 1 year, a NZ citizen or have permanent residence.
- Postal vote – from Friday 20 September to noon Saturday 12 October.
- Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the electoral officer using the orange pre-paid envelope sent with their voting document.
- Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Friday 20 September to noon Saturday 12 October.

### **Voting Systems**

- WDC and NRC – First Past the Post
- DHB – Single Transferable Vote

### **Election Protocols**

Protocols for staff and elected members recently been reviewed and released by SOLGM for the 2019 Local Government Elections.

#### **Staff Protocols -**

Guidance to staff:

- Remaining politically neutral
- Standing for office or undertaking other political activities
- Use of Council resources
- Publications and communications during an election
- Providing information to candidates

Guidance to Elected Members:

- Continuation of Council business during the period leading up to the election.
- Current elected members must balance and differentiate between their roles as elected members vs candidate in election.
- Use of council resources
- Social media
- Availability of information
- Use of Mayoral resources

## Promotion of Election Process

- Council has a role in encouraging participation in the electoral process.
- New obligations for the Chief Executive as at 21 March 2019
- Collaboration with other Councils (NRC, FNDC, KDC)
  - simplified campaign to reach all electors
  - staged to encourage candidacy, then encourage voting
- LGNZ Vote 2019 campaign
- Candidate Evenings during July and August
- Candidate Handbook available May.

Kathryn advised that since she attended the Te Huinga meeting the representation review decision had been made by the Local Government Commission. The changes suggested by WDC have been endorsed. The Okara and Bream Bay wards boundary has been moved to include the Smeaton Drive area in the Okara ward. The reason for this change to reflect that the community of interest is more aligned with the urban ward of Okara rather than the rural ward of Bream Bay.

There has also been a subtle change in the boundary between Hikurangi and Denby wards. The reason for this change is to recognise the increase in subdivision activity which had increased the density of the population in this area.

There had only been one appeal received, which had requested the district be represented as one large ward.

Council must review their representation arrangement at least once every six years. Communities of interest must be considered as well as the most effective representation of our communities of interest i.e. total number of councillors, number of wards, community boards etc. Council can choose to review their representation before the 2022 election. A review would have to be undertaken if Māori representation was introduced.

It was queried and confirmed that candidates must now provide proof of New Zealand citizenship. Previously the nominated candidate signed a declaration that included a statement that they were New Zealand citizens and this was accepted by Councils.

Delaraine noted that it was interesting that candidates could not stand for both Councils as cross fertilisation would be beneficial.

Kathryn advised that the voting will be conducted by postal vote. The orange prepaid return envelopes will be provided. Special voting, for those that have lost their voting papers or are not on the roll, will take place at Customer Services Forum North and Ruakaka. Other sites are being investigated for special voting.



It was noted that rurally a lot of ratepayers do not have letter boxes. Postal voting does rely on the addresses provided for the electoral roll. Please communicate to the community that if they don't receive their voting papers that they can cast a special vote.

Merepeka queried whether there could be a facility for special voting closer to Whangaruru. There are a number of residents that would have difficulty casting a special vote due to transport etc.

There has been a suggestion that the library bus could be used for special voting. Consideration must be given to the security and staffing of any voting venue. It was questioned whether supermarkets could be considered for voting venues.

Kathryn advised that Council has an important legislative role in encouraging the electoral process. From 21 March 2019, the CE is legislated to foster participation in elections. There has been a working group established with Far North, Kaipara and the Regional Councils to consider how to encourage candidates to stand and to increase voting across the whole wider district.

Delaraine Armstrong stated that Māori participation in the electoral process was an ongoing issue. Democratically the process does not sit well with the minority. So much of the process is bound by legislation. Māori representation needs to be considered well in advance of any process.

Deborah Harding advised of a Tai Tokerau Local Government Symposium to encourage Māori to stand for election and to vote. Te Huinga members are part of the councils' working group. A paper is being submitted to NRC regarding funding and what other funding could be mutually beneficial to assist in the area of Māori participation, for councils and Māori. It was noted that Council has to be careful regarding legality and political neutrality.

The Electoral Commission has been part of the process. One of the key factors they have identified is the need to get out to the schools to educate the younger population regarding voting and the voting system.

Candidate evenings are being planned. Part of the programme for these will be an explanation of the differences between NRC and WDC.

11 July – Paraoa Marae - 5.30 – 7.00pm (WDC led)

24 July – Parua Bay Community Centre – 5.30 – 7.00pm (NRC led)

25 July – Ruakaka Recreation Centre – 5.30 – 7.00pm (NRC led)

27 July – Northland Regional Council Chambers – 10 – 11.30am (NRC led)

8 August - Hikurangi Friendship House - 5.30 – 7.00pm (WDC led)

These dates along with Local Election information and the candidate handbook will shortly be available on Council's website [here](#).

Cr Murphy suggested that election information could be circulated to local groups through community facebook pages. Council's Advisory Groups have been met with.

Deborah Harding queried if voting information could be provided in the resource to marae.

Details of the Tai Tokerau wide Māori symposium will be sent to Andre Hemara and Aperahama Edwards.

### **6.3 Infrastructure Operational Report Update - April 2019**

**Moved by** Mike Kake

**Seconded by** Merepeka Henley

That Te Kārearea note the Infrastructure Update Report.

**Carried**

Simon Weston (Infrastructure General Manager) ran through the Infrastructure update presentation. Highlights included:

- The new toilet block at Parakao is a great facility and is kept in a nice state.
- The Bascule carpark next to Te Matau a Pohe will provide 63 carpark spaces and 8 for campervans. The development will include water gardens and will be completed by June this year. It will be completed in three stages, the second stage will include lighting and CCTV and the third stage seating and final amenity. The funding for this has mainly been provided by the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF). You can apply to this fund if you are considering a project that will attract tourists. It is a subsidy fund so some of the budget has to be provided by the applicant. It was queried whether marae were eligible to apply to the TIF. This will be investigated and reported back to this forum [see link](#).
- There has been an investigation report completed on the One Tree Point seawall in regards to coastal protection. Council are trying to achieve a more consistent approach regarding coastal protection. It was queried what Council's approach would be to the rest of the Whangarei Harbour in regards to coastal protection. There is some funding available in the LTP but there are more works required than funding allows. The next LTP will look at prioritisation of works. There is a climate change strategy being formulated at present. Council are hopeful that central government will

provide some direction. A government national position is seen as the best way forward for this issue.

- There has been a number of completed seawalls renewals. It was questioned what the role of NRC in relation to seawalls versus WDC's. NRC plays a bigger part in relation to the picture of climate adaption. The two Council's agree on the jurisdiction but there are some grey areas. Council must apply for consent from NRC for coastal work.
- A consent has been lodged with NRC for stage 2 of the Ngunguru seawall. DOC are reviewing this consent at present.
- The Sandy Bay consent is being reviewed by DOC as well.
- Otaika Sports Park Field Construction – light installation and establishment of kikuyu is completed for stage 1. Drainage has been completed for the stage 2 fields.
- The Otangarei Sports Park toilets have been completed and decorated with a graffiti protected wrap.
- The Teal Bay stormwater upgrade construction has begun.

Simon also provided an update on the Three Waters Review:

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) are undertaking a series of workshops around the country. The Northland workshop was at Kaikohe on 2 April. There was not a lot of notice was given ahead of the workshop. The workshops are aimed at people with technical and operational expertise or with an iwi/Māori perspective. Fortunately, the Kaikohe workshop was attended by a number of tangata whenua and smaller suppliers. The workshops are to focus on improving the regulatory system. The three areas of concern are:

1. Regulation and Obligation
2. Risk Management
3. Accountability

The Kaikohe workshop broke into smaller working groups. Most of the conversation that took place revolved around smaller suppliers and compliance for marae and individual dwellings. Central government has not yet looked in much depth into these areas. There was fascinating conversation recorded and provided to the meeting. The DIA are compiling this information as they hold these workshops around the country. It was requested that for future forums such as these, that have a focus on marae, that Te Huinga are advised. Simon advised he would pass this feedback on to the Crown.

It was questioned if there will be a further chance for iwi in Whangarei to provide input. The minister has said she will work with Māori and Simon expressed his hope that this is ongoing in the background now.

LGNZ concerns:

- How currently unregulated supplies are going to be brought in the regulatory system and whether they will become Local Government responsibility.
- That a “one size fits all” approach may be taken to wastewater and stormwater discharges.
- That the pace is too fast and poor decisions may be made.

Central Government is looking at regulation first in July and then the aggregation issue later in the year.

The NDHB has engaged Broadspectrum to provide a water technical advice service.

One of the issues that has been raised is the number of residents on water tank supplies and how they will be tested and treated. If you wish to have water at the marae tested speak to the water assessors at the NDHB.

The Four Waters Advisory Group Northland, consisting of the four councils and NDHB, have put together an improved database to measure compliance around resource consents and water standards. The group is undertaking a review of funding required and how that can be attained. There is also a review on what is happening with NZ regarding service delivery reviews.

One of options is to form a group like the NTA. At present the group is waiting on advice on funding from government.

## **7. General Business**

It was queried whether a new concrete road berm/footpath would be created at the new Potter Park. There are issues with buses exiting Te Kura Kaupapa causing congestion.

Cr Cutforth requested that the neighbours and herself be consulted regarding the removal of trees on Matai Street, Otangarei. It was noted that it was important for the neighbours to know when the trees will be removed and how the timber will be used. Sue Hodge (Parks Manager) has a communication plan that Cr Cutforth will be included in.

The ongoing roadworks on Riverside Drive are due for completion soon but please advise others to slow down during the works.

Delaraine advised that the Salvation Army's young drivers scheme has been inundated with requests from those interested in securing a driver's license. Of the 10 new drivers 100% have passed.

There was further discussion on a possible funding strategy for marae. Cr Morgan advised that some years ago, Council received a Community Hall funding strategy report that included marae that did not receive support at the time. The report was well set out and could be reviewed and used as a base for consideration. The review of the strategy after July could be an appropriate time to consider this paper. This will be researched and circulated.

Cr Morgan advised of the funding the Mangakahia marae applied for and received from the Community Funding Committee for the Mangakahia Sports complex playground. This is an example of a community working collaboratively together for a community asset.

Allan Halliday advised of a hui being held in the Far North with New Zealand Rail.

Both Cr Cutforth and Mike Kake acknowledged the sad passing of Dean Martin and the positive impact he and his family have had on the Whangārei community.

Janelle Beazley advised of the national commemoration to mark the 250th anniversary of the first encounters between Māori and Europeans. In October 2019, First Encounters 250 will commemorate the early meeting of Māori and Europeans during James Cook's 1769 voyage to New Zealand. The flotilla will involve waka, tall ships and the New Zealand Navy. Lotteries money has been secured for Hihiaua to run the Whangarei event.

## **8. Closure of Meeting – Karakia – Takiri Puriri - 11.30am**