



## **Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, 16 August, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

### **In Attendance**

**Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson)**  
**Merepeka Henley (Acting Co-Chairperson)**  
**Cr Crichton Christie**  
**Cr Vince Cocurullo**  
**Cr Tricia Cutforth**  
**Cr Sue Glen**  
**Cr Greg Innes**  
**Cr Sharon Morgan**  
**Allan Halliday**  
**Takiri Puriri**

### **Not in Attendance**

**Delaraine Armstrong**  
**Jared Pitman (Co-Chairperson)**  
**Cr Anna Murphy**  
**Deborah Harding**  
**Violet Sade**  
**Taipari Munro**  
**Kaile Nahi-Taihia**

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Also in attendance: Chief Executive (Rob Forlong), Maori Engagement Officer (Andre Hemara), Manager Maori Relationships (Solomon Tipene), Manager District Plan (Melissa McGrath), Senior Legal Adviser (Kathryn Candy), Consultant Planner (David Badham), General Manager Strategy and Democracy (Jill McPherson), Team Leader Democracy (Nicolene Pestana), Manager Democracy and Assurance (Jason Marris), Mike Kake, Aorangi Kawiti, Janelle Beazley, Democracy Adviser (Jennie Thomas)

- 1. Open Meeting**
- 2. Karakia/Mihi**
- 3. Apologies**

Jared Pitman, Huhana Lyndon, Taipari Munro, Te Warihi Hetaraka, Julian Reweti, Cr Anna Murphy, Cr Greg Martin, Cr Vince Cocurullo for lateness.

The apologies were accepted by consensus.

**4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)**

**5. Previous Minutes**

**Moved by** Cr Sue Glen

**Seconded by** Mike Kake

That the minutes of the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum meeting held on 19 July 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment

Community Issues – “Rubbish over summer months in Oakura” be amended to “Rubbish from Christmas to Waitangi week at Ohawini” and to be noted as an action for follow up.

**Carried**

**6. Reports:**

**6.1 Hapu Mandating Update**

Hona Edwards advised that Taipari Munro was mandated unanimously as the representative for Te Parawhau at a hui held on 6 August 2018 at Maungarongo Marae. A letter of confirmation will be sent by Te Huinga.

**6.2 Treaty of Waitangi Settlements - Progress from Hapu**

The recent hearings held at Otangaroa Marae in Kaeo was an overwhelming success. Of interest was the embroidery on a blanket that was gifted to the Tribunal Judge Coxhead as a symbol gesture of the past practices.

Timing has been a constraint for hapu in presenting, but are fortunate and appreciative to be allowed the 25 weeks thus far to be have been heard.

Week 26 is the last week of hearings with Counsel and the Judge summing up and is being held in Waitangi 16-20 October 2017.

**6.3 Action Log**

Jill McPherson provided a verbal update on the mediation on Papakainga Plan Change appeal. She advised that mediation is looking positive and there should be an announcement in a month.

Cr Innes made acknowledgment of the work completed on the Papakainga Plan Change by David Badham and Melissa McGrath. Mike Kake also acknowledged the contribution provided from Te Huinga representatives.

Update was verbally given on the safety issues at Whangarei Falls. The upper Falls has had warning signs erected on both sides and a safety barrier is being designed and will be installed to reduce the risk during flooding.

The issue of the signage for the entrance to Otangarei via Puna Rere has been referred to Tony Horton to include in the project of works for the Otangarei Village Plan. A mural and lighting to be considered to better indicate the entranceway. This project will be run in partnership with Council and the community.

Cr Cutforth asked if the Otangarei walkway's need for signage could be brought to the attention of the appropriate staff.

Her Worship the Mayor asked for and received agreement to bring a report to the next agenda on the Rates Review.

Rewarewa landlocked site - now the site has been correctly identified, Andre investigating.

That Te Karearea Partnership Forum note the Action Log attached.

#### **6.4 Briefing on the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

#### **6.5 Working Draft Plan Changes 129 NPT Notable and Public Trees and 82 SAL Signs and Artificial Lighting**

Te Kārearea noted the presentation on the draft plan change PC129 NPT Notable and Public Trees. Due to time constraints, the presentation for the draft plan change for PC82 SAL Signs and Artificial Lighting was deferred to a later meeting.

David Badham, Consultant Planner, advised that at this meeting he would be seeking Te Kārearea Partnership Forum views prior to consultation with the general public.

David ran through the presentation on the Draft Plan Change on Notable and Public Trees.

David advised that the next steps will be to advise affected landowners and neighbours of the proposed plan change prior to going out to

consultation. Any necessary amendments would be made and these would be fed back to the Planning Committee.

**Discussion focused on:**

Misconception associated with the term “Heritage Trees” – David advised that protected trees were not necessarily just Heritage Trees and under the draft plan change there is a proposal to rename them “Notable and Public Trees”. The change in name was to broaden the understanding of the range of trees protected for amenity and ecological values.

Feedback was provided that the title “Heritage Tree” denoted the importance of the tree. From a cultural point of view “Notable and Public” tree detracts from the mana of the rakau.

The meeting was advised that the informal notification process will enable the public to advise of any other trees they feel should be added or removed as at this point. This would need a request for a STEM Assessment to be undertaken by an arborist. Anything scoring 100+ on the STEM Assessment would be a notable tree.

The STEM evaluation criteria used looks at tree form, health and any cultural aspects in relation to it. If there were additional trees to be assessed the appropriate Hapu would be consulted. There was discussion on whenua being buried under trees and the cultural significance placed on this.

In reply to a query regarding the removal of Titoki at Kensington Stadium, Her Worship the Mayor reiterated that only really important trees will make the schedule as a Notable Tree. She advised that some of the conditions apply due to the identification of a Notable Tree are very onerous for the landowners.

The meeting was advised that the legislation that we must work with is quite tight. There was a change to the RMA in 2009 which stopped the ability to protect large swathes of trees. Most of the trees that are listed as Notable are on public land.

Comment was made on other ways that trees are protected e.g. the Outstanding Landscape overlay in the District Plan, private land covenants. There are also rules that apply to the clearance of Indigenous species of trees. The Resource Consent process for subdivisions consents is also important to identify areas of bush and individual trees that need to be protected.

Discussion on a single tree being separated from its ecology. David advised that at present there are already identified groups of Notable Trees and the Plan Change will not restrict identifying groups of trees.

There was a query on the process when a private individual wants to have a tree notified on someone else's land and whether the owner has a right of reply. David advised that the landowner would be notified of any submissions made relating to their property.

Discussion on the use of an arborist to carry out the STEM criteria assessment and whether they would have to be certified or licenced to qualify as an arborist – terminology to be investigated.

Subdivision – The proposed plan change rules in the District Plan have been clarified. A Discretionary Resource Consent would be required if a 100m<sup>2</sup> building platform outside of the dripline of a notable or public tree could not be provided, or if the root zone or dripline of a Notable tree is located on more than one site.

In relation to the query whether after this process another tree was identified as a Notable Tree if it could be added to the schedule. David advised that the plan could not be changed to include further trees unless there was full public notification.

The meeting was advised that this is an opportunity for Te Karearea Partnership Forum and Te Huinga to have input into this process.

It was restated that this process is not formally notifying the plan change. If there are identified stands of trees that should be protected this is the opportunity to do so. Sites of Significance to Maori is also taking place.

Non-compliance – There was discussion on the monitoring of non-compliance in relation to Notable and Public trees. The Resource Management Act has a monitoring regime but this is only as good as the monitoring undertaken. It relies on the landowners following the rules. Education is part of the process and the community also plays its part with monitoring. There is a regime for fines for non-compliance.

There was discussion on when the month of consultation begins. David advised that there are no set rules on the period of time for consultation – the month indicated is just a standard period of time used– it can be longer.

Next steps:

- Feedback from this meeting will be incorporated
- Consultation period for stakeholders and general public to make comment

- Once closed amend the planning documents and provisions as necessary
- Present to planning committee for approval for public notification.

## 6.6 Representation Review - Maori Wards

*Item was presented after Item 6.8.*

Jason Marris introduced Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer, and advised that following Te Kārearea meeting there was a public briefing at 1.00 pm covering electoral systems, the upcoming representation review and Maori Wards. Members were encouraged and welcome to attend.

Te Kārearea noted the information provided on the option of Māori Wards/Constituencies in this report and the presentation from the Whangarei District Council Electoral Officer.

Dale Ofoske ran through the presentation on Maori Wards to obtain general guidance.

Council must make a decision by 23 November 2017 if proceeding with Maori Wards.

The first point that should be established when consulting is whether or not iwi/hapu want Maori wards.

The criteria to establish Maori wards is by Council resolution or the public can request a poll at any time.

Timetable if proceeding with Maori Wards:

- by 23 November 2017 – resolution
- by 30 November 2017 – public notice
- by 21 February 2018 – demand for poll/Council resolution for poll
- by 21 May 2018 – poll concluded (if required)

**Action:** Te Huinga members of Te Kārearea Partnership Forum to consult with Te Huinga on the option and process of Māori wards/constituencies and provide feedback to Council/Te Kārearea Partnership Forum.

## 6.7 National Maori Tuna Conference Whanganui - 17-18 July 2017

*Due to time constraints item 6.7 was deferred.*

That Te Kārearea note the “National Maori Tuna Conference” Report.

## 6.8 Census 2018

*Item was presented prior to Item 6.6*

Ru Tauri and Te Hurihanga Rihari from Census NZ were introduced and ran through the presentation on the 2018 Census.

The Census is the most important national survey of 2018. Data from the Census provides important demographic data information. It helps to measure growth and identify the opportunities from that growth. Census are completed by 80% online but paper options will be available.

The problem facing Census is of declining response rates. People and in particular Maori, are not responding and the aim is to reverse this trend. It is important to note that an estimated 20% of Maori in Whangarei at the last Census did not get counted.

The 20% of Maori who are not responding to the Census is the target response group. The aim is to focus on and engage with this group to assist them with filling in the Census and as leaders, Te Kārearea Partnership Forum and Te Huinga can help with this.

Statistics NZ are seeking feedback on how to build trust and to work together to empower our communities and to increase relevance. The solutions must be community led to help engage with our Maori community. The meeting was advised that solutions and outcomes will be led from the feedback received.

It was expressed that one of the challenges in raising response rates is caused by suspicion around privacy and the process.

Suggestion was made that Marae based hui could be used to help those who needed it with filling out the Census. There is no internet coverage in some areas of the district and local knowledge would be helpful to ascertain who needs hard copies. It was suggested that these could be sent out to marae.

Discussion on the need to ensure the correct person and language is used to engage with their community to ensure a better response. To get beyond that barrier kuia and kaumatua could be the key. A view was expressed that the matriarch of the family could be the messenger but the challenge is this could be different in various whanau and this is where specific knowledge would assist.

Discussion also on the issue of the Census not being considered or discussed until it was about to take place and how we could incorporate it more into conversations at marae. Suggestions were

made to use YAG members, Maori wardens and local radio stations to spread the message of the importance of the Census.

The feedback from members will be different based on their communities. Any specific contacts or feedback to be compiled and sent to Ru Tauri and Te Hurihanga Rihari. Te Huinga members of Te Kārearea to discuss with Te Huinga and look at steps for more consultation.

## **6.9 Infrastructure Update**

*Due to time constraints item 6.9 was deferred.*

That Te Kārearea note the Infrastructure Update Report.

## **7. General Business**

There was no general business.

## **8. Closure of Meeting - Karakia**

Meeting closed Karakia at 12.00 pm.

Te Kārearea members then attended a farewell luncheon for Solomon Tipene.