

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 26 June, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue

In Attendance

His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

Not in Attendance

Cr Jayne Golightly

Scribe

D.Garner (Democracy Adviser)

Administrative matters

- Meeting livestreamed
- Supplementary reports:
 - Item 6.14 Proposed Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited Agreements
 - Confidential Item 1.5 Draft Memorandum of Understanding

1. Karakia/Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga

Item 6.4 – Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy – Review

3. **Apologies / Kore Tae Mai**

Cr Jayne Golightly

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Paul Yovich

That the apology be sustained.

Carried

4. **Public Forum / Huihuinga-a-tangata**

4.1 **Public Forum June 2025**

There were no speakers at Public Forum.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Whangarei District Council / Whakatau Meneti**

5.1 **Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 22 May 2025**

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5.2 **Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 5 June 2025**

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on Thursday 5 June 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5.3 **Minutes of the Emergency Council meeting held 10 June 2025**

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Deborah Harding

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and

now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5.4 Minutes of the Emergency Council meeting held 18 June 2025

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Phoenix Ruka

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on Thursday 18 June 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

6. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

6.1 Fluoridation update June 2025

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

That the Council:

1. Notes the report
2. Notes that Whangarei District Council has been directed to add fluoride to the Poroti water treatment plant by 30 June 2026.
3. Notes that the Ministry of Health have notified Whangarei District Council that funding is not available to support the Poroti fluoridation works.
4. Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of Health to request an extension of the Poroti water treatment plant fluoride directive until 30 November 2028.

Amendment

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. Notes the report
2. Notes that Whangarei District Council has been directed to add fluoride to the Poroti water treatment plant by 30 June 2026.
3. Notes that the Ministry of Health have notified Whangarei District Council that funding is not available to support the Poroti fluoridation works.

4. Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of Health to request an extension of the Poroti water treatment plant fluoride directive until 30 November 2028.
5. Directs staff to work with the Ministry of Health with regard to the Poroti Water plant Upgrade that incorporates the fluoride requirements and thus attracts MOH funding.

On the amendment being put Cr Simon Reid called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	11	2	0

**The Amendment was Carried (11 to 2)
and subsequently Carried as the
Substantive Motion**

6.2 Fluoride free tap options report

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

That the Council:

1. Notes the Fluoride Free tap investigation report, attached.
2. Approves installation of two taps within non-fluoridated council water supplies, one at Maungatapere and one at Maungakaramaea, for use by the public.
3. Notes that the final installation of the taps will be subject to notification to, and subsequent approval of, the Director General of Health and engagement with impacted community groups.

Amendment

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Phoenix Ruka

That the Council:

1. Notes the Fluoride Free tap investigation report, attached.
2. Approves installation of two taps within non-fluoridated council water supplies, one at Maungatapere and one at Maungakamea, for use by the public.
3. Notes that the final installation of the taps will be subject to notification to, and subsequent approval of, the Director General of Health and engagement with impacted community groups.
4. Directs staff investigate a long term centrally located (Central Business District) solution providing fluoride free water and external funding for it.

On the amendment being put Cr Patrick Holmes called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes		X	
Cr Scott McKenzie		X	
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	5	8	0

The Amendment was Lost (5 to 8)

The original Motion was subsequently Carried

6.3 TAB Venue Policy - Review

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That Council:

1. Continues the TAB Venue Policy without amendment and incorporating updates reflecting legislative and District Plan zone naming changes as shown in Attachment 1;
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive the power to determine and grant consents for TAB venues under section 95 of the Racing Industry Act 2020;
3. Determines that the review of the TAB Venue Policy, under section 97 of the Racing Industry Act 2020, is complete;
4. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor edits or amendments to the TAB Venue Policy to correct any spelling or typographical errors or to amend formatting.

Carried

6.4 Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy - Review

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Deborah Harding

That Council:

1. Continues the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy without amendment and incorporating updates reflecting District Plan zone naming changes, as shown in Attachment 1;
2. Determines that the review of the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy, under section 102 of the Gambling Act 2003, is complete;
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor edits or amendments to the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy to correct any spelling or typographical errors or to amend formatting.

Carried

Declaration of Interest:

Cr Simon Reid declared an interest as Vice President of the Northland Club. Cr Simon Reid withdrew from the table taking no part in discussions or voting on Item 6.4.

6.5 Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw - Deliberations

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

1. Receives the feedback on the proposed new Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw in Attachment 1.

2. Approves the staff recommendations for amendments to the proposed Bylaw as provided in Attachment 2 and in accordance with Option 1 of this report.
3. Requests a final draft to be presented to Council for a decision.

Carried

Cr Ken Couper left the meeting at 9:50am during Item 6.5.

Cr Ken Couper re-joined the meeting at 9:53am during Item 6.5.

6.6 2025-26 Fees and Charges

Moved By Cr Paul Yovich

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That Whangarei District Council:

- a. Adopt the fees and charges listed in **Table A**, as follows and as per attachment 1: *Statement of Proposal: Fees and Charges 2025-26*.

These fees were consulted on and deliberated as part of the 2025-26 Annual Plan process, as required under the Special Consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002.

Table A: 2025-26 Fees and charges subject to the Special Consultative Procedure

	Refer Statement of Proposal
Bylaw Enforcement	Page 7-8
Drainage (Wastewater and Trade Waste)	Page 3-6
Food Premises	Page 9-13
Gambling and Racing Act	Page 13
Health Act Registered Premises	Page 13-15
Public Places Bylaw	Page 15
Resource Management Act Resource Management Administrative charges Council Professional Fees Monitoring and Land Use District Plan/Private Plan Changes Abatement notices	Page 16-28
Rubbish Disposal	Page 28-31
Water Supply	Page 32-34

Carried

6.7 LGNZ Remit Proposal for Council Approval ahead of 2025 AGM

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That the Council:

1. Receive the list of proposed remits from LGNZ that will be discussed and voted on at the LGNZ AGM in Christchurch on 16 July 2025.

2. **Security System Payments**

That Council **support** the remit

3. **Improving Joint Management**

That Council **support** the remit

4. **Alcohol Licencing Fees**

That Council **support** the remit

5. **Aligning public and school bus services**

That Council **support** the remit

6. **Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance**

That Council **support** the remit

7. Notes that the LGNZ AGM delegates will be His Worship the Mayor and the Chief Executive, with HWM being the presiding delegate.
8. Notes that if remits are amended on the day, voting will follow the intent of council.

The motion was taken in parts.

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendations 1, 7 and 8.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		

Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	10	2	1

Recommendations 1, 7 and 8 were Carried (10 to 2)

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendation 2.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka		X	
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	5	7	1

Recommendation 2 was Lost (5 to 7)

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendation 3.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		

Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	7	5	1

Recommendation 3 was Carried (7 to 5)

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendation 4.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	9	3	1

Recommendation 4 was Carried (9 to 3)

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendation 5.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		

Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	10	2	1

Recommendation 5 was Carried (10 to 2)

On the motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division on recommendation 6.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney			X
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	9	3	1

Recommendation 6 was Carried (9 to 3)

6.8 Proposal for Whangārei District Council Delegation to Travel to Ra'iātea for Polynesian Triangle Twinning Ceremony

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Gavin Benney

That Council:

1. Notes that Whangārei officially signed a twin-city agreement with Ra'iātea, French Polynesia, on 12 December 2024 at Terenga Parāoa Marae, officiated by Mayor Vince Cocurullo and attended by Whangārei Hapū, kaumātua and Creative Northland.
2. Notes that following the signing, the Mayor of Whangārei received a formal invitation in January 2025 to attend the reciprocal signing in

Ra'iātea, taking place as part of a regional Polynesian Triangle festival from 25 July to 01 August 2025.

3. Approves the participation of the Mayor and assigned staff in the Ra'iātea ceremony to represent Whangārei and reaffirm the twinning relationship.
4. Notes that the Mayor is covering his costs, to help reduce costs to Council.
5. Notes that staff members assigned to the delegation are to provide cultural support and logistical assistance during the festival and official proceedings.
6. Actively work with Creative Northland, on funding opportunities for this and future sister city trips, to help enable and enhance cultural exchanges with Whangārei.

On the motion being put Cr Scott McKenzie called for a division.

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie			X
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	8	4	1

The Motion was Carried (8 to 4)

A break was taken from 11:10am to 11:20am.

6.9 Mauri o Matapouri Project Update and Budget Approval

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Notes the report; and
2. Approves additional capital spend of \$230,000 in the 2025-26 financial year which will be offset by external income from Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Carried

6.10 Northland Events Centre Roof Replacement Project Working Group – Terms of Reference

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Gavin Benney

That the Council:

1. Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Northland Events Centre Roof Replacement Project Working Group

Carried

6.11 Hukerenui Recreation Reserve Public Notification

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

That the Council:

1. Resolves to give public notice in accordance with section 119 of the Reserves Act 1977 of the intention to grant a lease to the Mid-Northern Districts Rugby Club under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977 for the portions of the Hukerenui Reserve located on Domain Road Hukerenui, for a term of 33-years
2. Invites written submissions or objections on the proposed lease from any interested parties, in accordance with Section 120 of the *Reserves Act 1977*.
3. Acknowledges that any person who makes a submission or objection may request the opportunity to be heard in support of their views in person.
4. Delegates authority to the Infrastructure Committee the responsibility to hear any verbal submissions or objections relating to the proposed lease.

Carried

6.12 Whangarei Parking Strategy Adoption

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Phil Halse

That the Council –

1. Adopts the Whangārei Parking Strategy June 2025; and
2. Allows Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the Whangārei Parking Strategy, including spelling, grammar and graphics.

Carried

6.13 Council Controlled Trading Organisation Constitution

Moved By Cr Deborah Harding

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Proceeds with the establishment of a CCTO being Whangarei District Holdings Limited.
2. Notes the Transition Advisory Board has recommended that Whangarei District Holdings Limited has a minimum of three and a maximum of five directors.
3. Adopts the proposed Constitution for Whangarei District Holdings Limited, inclusive of the TAB's recommendations for a minimum of three and a maximum of five directors.
4. Delegates the Chief Executive to execute all necessary documentation and establish Whangarei District Holdings Limited as a CCTO in July 2025.
5. Adopts the changes to the Finance Committee Terms of Reference to include the wording outlined in section 4.2 of this paper.
6. Directs staff to investigate opportunities for Whangarei District Holdings Limited to work alongside hapu, for consideration through Council's initial statement of expectations for the entity.

Carried

6.14 Proposed Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited Agreements

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

1. Approves lease and standalone agreements with Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited, as outlined within this report.
2. Approves staff Undertaking any final negotiations with Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited necessary to finalise the terms of the agreements

3. Authorise the General Manager Corporate to finalise and execute all Agreements.
4. Notes that Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements, including those under the District Plan and the Resource Management Act 1991.
5. Notes that these decisions do not limit or fetter Council's discretion in relation to any future lease matters, renewals, or operational arrangements.

Carried

7. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
1.1	Confidential minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 22 May 2025	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
1.2	Council Controlled Trading Organisation Appointments		
1.3	Airport Location Study Outcomes		
1.4	Carpark Future Use		
1.5	Draft Memorandum of Understanding		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public,

are as follows:		
Item	Grounds	Section
1.1	For the reasons as stated in the open minutes.	
1.2	To protect the privacy of natural persons including that of a deceased person.	S7(2)(a)
1.3	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	S7(2)(i) S7(2)(j)
1.4	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(i)
1.5	To maintain legal professional privilege.	S7(2)(g)

Carried

A break was taken from 12:17pm to 12:21pm.

8. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

His Worship the Mayor closed the meeting with prayer at 1:29pm.

Confirmed this 24th day of July 2025

His Worship the Mayor (Chairperson)