



Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes

Date:	Wednesday, 19 December, 2018
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	Council Chamber Forum North, Rust Avenue Whangarei
In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson) Taipari Munro (Co-Chairperson) Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Sue Glen Allan Halliday Delaraine Armstrong Janelle Beazley Merepeka Henley Sharon Kaipō Takiri Puriri Joanne Hammon
Not in Attendance	Cr Crichton Christie Cr Greg Innes Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy Deborah Harding Violet Sade
Scribe	Jennie Thomas (Democracy Advisor)

Also in attendance: Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy), Simon Weston (General Manager - Infrastructure), Aperahama Edwards (Māori Relationship Manager), Debbie Taylor (EA to General Manager – Strategy and Democracy), Jason Cooper

- 1. Open Meeting**
- 2. Karakia/Mihi – Taipari Munro and Aperahama Edwards**

3. Apologies

Crs Sharon Morgan, Anna Murphy, Greg Innes and Mike Kake, Deborah Harding and Violet Sade, Mike Kake and Rob Forlong
Delaraine Armstrong (early departure) and Cr Vince Cocurullo (late arrival)

Moved by Merepeka Henley

Seconded by Cr Sue Glen

That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)

5. Previous Minutes

5.1 Minutes Te Kārearea 21 November 2018

Moved by Janelle Beazley

Seconded by Cr Tricia Cutforth

That the minutes of the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum meeting held on Wednesday 21 November 2018, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

- Terenga Paraoa Marae traffic safety - Taipari advised that he and Janelle will set a date early in the new year for trustees to meet and form a position.
- Cr Cutforth queried if there had been any follow up on the funding for de-sexing and microchipping of dogs. Dominic advised that funding from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) had closed but Auckland Council had allocated some of its funding to Whangarei. This funding will supplement microchipping, de-sexing, muzzles etc but only for menacing dogs at this stage. Cr Cutforth advised she would like to see Council become more involved in this type of programme.

6. Reports:

6.1 Action Log - December 2018

Moved by Janelle Beazley

Seconded by Cr Sue Glen

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum note the Action Log.

Carried

Dominic reminded the meeting of the report brought to Te Kārearea by Murray McDonald (Manager – RMA Consents) on the legal constraints around the notification of resource consents and the importance of focusing on the District Plan process.

There were two key actions from that report. The first, was for Council to look into an electronic notification process for Resource Consents for marae and hapū. This is scheduled to be worked on in the first quarter of 2019. The second action, to have further discussions at a Te Huinga meeting on the RMA and District Plan process, is still to be scheduled.

Dominic advised that the operational items on the action log are on schedule for contractors to complete.

The Marae Resource Kits were distributed to the meeting. Dominic advised that the Kit covers the key Council processes at a high level. Aperahama will distribute copies to Te Huinga and it will be made available online on Council's website.

Delaraine Armstrong advised she would like to reiterate the point she has raised previously, regarding the Resource Management and District Plan processes and how this is a huge area of concern for hapū. She advised that resource is required to be able to engage properly with these processes. Delaraine introduced Jason Cooper who was involved in securing funding through Te Huinga to assist with these processes. There is some financial reserve for Te Huinga but not enough to fund engagement on the RMA process. It was stated that further discussions are needed regarding funding from Council.

6.2 Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum Meeting Dates 2019

Moved by Delaraine Armstrong

Seconded by Cr Tricia Cutforth

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum adopt the schedule of meetings for 2019.

Carried

Cr Cutforth suggested that distribution of the Kit to marae may provide opportunities for Council to engage with hapū on rates and the Annual Plan process.

Sharon Kaipo advised that she was aware their people wanted to hear from Council directly about rates and meetings could incorporate other issues that impact members.

Merepeka advised that there was support for hui with Council in Whangaruru as often the elderly were intimidated by processes.

Taipari Munro and Her Worship agreed these meetings could be beneficial but saw it being run separately from Te Kārearea meetings. Council staff and marae could work together on these meetings.

Delaraine stated that a critical part of the rates process was connected to the Maori Land Court. The process needed the supporting documentation from the Land Court. She requested that Council apply some pressure to the Ministry of Justice regarding outstanding requests made by hapū.

It was agreed it was the landowners' responsibility to deal with the Court but it was stated that Council had a stakeholder interest in the form of rates and this was a request for support from this forum.

It was suggested that a presentation from the Maori Land Court with a rating perspective could be beneficial.

Cr Cutforth noted that the property revaluations being sent and the Resource Kit may encourage further queries around rating.

Cr Glen suggested more than every second Te Kārearea meeting could be held at marae in 2019.

It was resolved that the dates for the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum meetings, as reported, be approved and there be further discussion and investigation into more meetings being held on marae.

6.3 Department of Internal Affairs Three Waters Review Update

Moved by Janelle Beazley

Seconded by Cr Tricia Cutforth

That Te Kārearea note the report 'Department of Internal Affairs Three Waters Review Update.'

Carried

Simon Weston advised the meeting that he would be providing an update on the Three Waters Review by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). He would cover the paper put to Cabinet on 19 November 2018 and what it means for Northland.

The Local Government Minister advised earlier in 2018 that there would be four interconnected work schemes:

- Regulatory setting from effective oversight.

- Funding and financing mechanisms.
- Capacity and capability of decision makers and suppliers.
- Information for transparency, accountability and decision making.

The Minister put together a reference group to report back to Cabinet in October 2018. The Cabinet paper came out in November.

Government has set a tight timeframe. The Minister for DIA has said there could be alternative ways to provide the three waters for councils. They could be potentially provided at a regional level or alternatively 3-5 private water services. These were just options provided but it has sparked a lot of discussion across the country.

The cabinet paper set out:

- A roadmap for decision on the future state of the three waters – drinking, waste and storm water
- A problem definition
- Also, the paper provides the case for change.

The paper reports that the status quo is not sustainable and that changes are needed. It has become pretty clear, that the status quo will not prevail and there will be changes in this space.

The paper identified three common problems for all waters:

- Funding and financing to upgrade infrastructure.
- Capability challenges regarding skills to manager and operate schemes.
- Regulation is weak across the three waters. Both drinking water and environmental regulation exhibit inadequate stewardship, compliance and enforcement practices.

These problems increase as the community size decreases due to smaller councils having less funding.

There is a contrast in regulatory service compared to other countries such as Australia, Canada and North America. We are as far as 20-25 years behind the play in regulatory setting.

There will be detailed policy decision made in 2019 around regulation, service delivery and regulation dependent on service delivery options.

It is planned to introduce legislation in 2020 which is a tight timeframe.

Drafting of legislation can commence in areas of:

- Drinking water regulation and new risk management
- Wastewater – targeted change to environmental regulation within the RMA framework.
- Wastewater and stormwater ‘measures’ to give greater transparency to the operation of these systems.
- Regulatory bodies that would give effect to the above reforms

The cabinet paper was strongly focused on regulation. There will be further regulation depending on service delivery options.

Late in 2019 there will be detailed proposals for service delivery arrangements. These could include:

- Proceeding with regulatory reform only, with voluntary sector led reforms to service delivery arrangements.
- Establish a ‘three waters fund’ to support ‘voluntary’ service delivery improvements.
- Create an aggregated system of dedicated publicly owned drinking water and waste water provide – regionally or possibly 3-5 providers.
- Economic regulation of three waters – dependant on decisions on service delivery.
- Proposals to improve oversight and stewardship across the three waters systems.

There is acceptance that this is complex and responsibility will lie with both central and local government. The Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and Councils will be involved. There is going to be considerable changes for the sector.

Government could just proceed with regulatory reforms and look at Councils using shared services or CCO’s. If they were to do to this, they could establish a three water fund for those Councils that do work together.

Simon advised that there is no certainty on what funding would look like yet or whether there would be funding for capital improvements.

The alternative is an aggregated system may be created. All of these details will follow the June 2019 regulation changes.

When the Government first announced the review in April 2018 they probably were not aware of the complexity of the situation. This is complicated with multiple stakeholders with shared responsibilities. To improve the situation will take some time.

The paper does not mention private drinking water supplies. There are 181 private drinking water providers which does not include schools, marae, hospitals and community buildings. It is not clear, at this stage, how they will be managed.

Merepeka Henley queried whether, in particular with marae, the DHB would be included in that management. At present the DHB tests the water at the marae.

Simon explained that this is an example of what is happening at the moment. There is no enforcement of drinking water standards just some cursory assistance to organisations such as marae. There is a need for management and improvement but at this stage he is unsure of what that will incorporate.

Sharon Kaipo advised that there had been provision for funding to marae for clean water systems which has ceased. There did not seem to be anything reflected in the cabinet paper on this issue or for those using water tank supply.

In regards to other stakeholders listed in the cabinet paper there are various clauses relating to engagement with iwi and Māori. Clause 51 states 'Engagement with iwi and Māori is not only important from a Crown/Māori relationship and Treaty of Waitangi perspective, but also because of the significant expertise and experience iwi and Māori have in resource management, infrastructure development and water issues. It will be necessary to engage at the national, catchment and local levels given the range of iwi and Māori interests, and also the different and often localised way that three waters challenges are experienced by Māori communities.'

Clause 52 states 'The Minister of Local Government has commenced initial discussions with iwi and Māori. The approach she intends to take is to engage at different levels and use existing mechanisms and forums wherever possible, given many Māori communities are at engagement saturation point with other government processes.'

Government have made it clear they do intend to work with Māori in that regard.

Northland options and what should we do:

- We need to be informed and in discussions with DIA/Water NZ and LGNZ.
- There needs to be some discussion on service delivery options for Northland.

- The 4 Waters Advisory Group Northland (4WAGN), which includes WDC, FNDC, KDC, NRC and the NDHB, consider using the same sort of format as the Northland Transport Alliance (NTA).
- Request 4WAGN explore options for Service delivery with Auckland City and Water Care.

Simon advised, that of all the stakeholders, local government has probably made the most comment on this review as it does have profound implications for local government and could have far reaching effects.

Local government is saying that the systems are not broken but needs some regulation. There is agreement from local government that affordability is a challenge for smaller councils due to small teams, capacity and capability. Overall stewardship is not as good as it could be and needs to be raised.

Water NZ has previously said we have significant problems and it supports regulation and aggregation but is now distancing itself from these comments.

The Ministry of Health has been very quiet on the review.

There has not been a lot of discussion or action since the paper was released. There have been emails sent to the DIA enquiring when there will be information about funding but this is not yet been determined.

It was stated that the issue of engagement should not be with iwi but hapū. As hapū and marae are those feeling the effects.

Cr Cocurullo advised that the paper was written by Central Government and seems to indicate a major push for centralisation rather than for local. Council are trying to get them to concentrate locally.

The investment in wastewater and drinking water systems by marae was discussed and how this is not addressed in the paper. Simon advised that this is a high level policy document which does not go into any detail, but these are the issues relevant to smaller suppliers. At present the cabinet paper does not address these situations but it is hoped that there will be more information provided.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that the review was sparked by the serious problems and effects experienced with Havelock North's water supply. That is what the government is responding to but they will also review septic systems, private supplies etc. If there is to be a regulatory protection environment, then other bodies may have control

over your systems. It may result in higher costs for everyone. The impression is that they are probably headed to an aggregated system. If this is taken away from local government control there will be a big hole in the functions that Council run. At present Whangarei District Council are very good at providing safe drinking water and have done a good job on the treatment of stormwater. A letter has been drafted and sent to the Local Government Minister requesting assurance be provided that Council will be fully compensated for any assets requisitioned. We work on behalf of the ratepayers and this is what needs to be considered.

It was questioned if the Ministry of Health, due to their relationship working with people on the ground, had provided any comment at all on the review. Simon advised that within the paper it was stated that Ministers from Local Government, Health and the Environment will be involved in the drafting of options. The MOH have received criticism over the Havelock North situation and we are not sure where the Ministry stands at this stage.

Cr Cocurullo expressed concerns that the MOH have different views than that from the community for example on the fluoridation of the water supply.

Simon advised that he will keep members informed of updates through the Te Kārearea forum.

6.4 Infrastructure Operations Report Update - December 2018

Moved by Cr Sue Glen

Seconded by Sharon Kaipo

That Te Kārearea note the Infrastructure Update Report.

Carried

Sharon Kaipo advised of the problem of rubbish being dumped in the Twin Bridges, Mangakahia area which is exacerbated over the holiday period. This area is a stopping off point for tourists and the area is well used by locals swimming in the river. It was queried whether a skip bin could be located in the area over the holiday period.

Simon Weston advised that often rubbish attracts rubbish. Having a bin in that location could actually increase fly-tipping. He requested that if there was a problem with rubbish being dumped, to please phone (09) 430 4200, to report and contractors would be sent out to clear away the rubbish. It was questioned if there were any future plans for a transfer station in the area as the nearest facility was 37km

away. Simon advised that this would be a project that would need to be put forward for consideration for the LTP.

There was a suggestion to have signs erected in the area to advise where the transfer stations are located. Janelle Beazley advised that this was also an issue in the Pakotai area. There had been discussions at partnership meetings with NZTA where the sign solution had been discussed but none had been provided to date. Simon agreed that signage was a good idea in these two areas and he will suggest this to his team.

Allan Halliday advised that some months ago, he mentioned the faulty road lighting at the Puhipuhi intersection. Fulton Hogan had contacted him for details and advised him the bulb will be replaced but has not been to date. Simon will follow up.

7. General Business

- Cr Cocurullo expressed gratitude for the blessings given at the Tawera waste water tank and Kamo shared path openings.
- It was queried how projects get on the list of capital works for Council. It was advised that the LTP is the process used and the importance for the community using the process to do so.
- Takiri Puriri queried Simon who provided an explanation on the biological process used at the Kioreroa Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Her Worship the Mayor provided an update on the Annual Plan process. Council have agreed to undertake an engagement communication process for the Annual Plan. The LTP is a 10 year plan. The changes to the Local Government act do not require consultation in Year 2 but our council has resolved to go out to the community to talk about the work programme for Year 2 and to listen to suggestions. Consultation Adviser, Merryn Statham, is putting together a programme on how we will do that. The engagement process begins in March 2019 and then any changes for the year would be adopted by 1 July 2019. There is not a lot of opportunity for change to the plan, there is a budget that must be worked to. Sometimes there is scope and the ability for smaller projects and quick fixes.
- Her Worship the Mayor advised of how the Agreement between the Northland Mayoral Forum and iwi leaders came to Council. Our Council did not agree to signing the agreement. FNDC and the Northland Regional Council have agreed to be signatories. Kaipara District Council will have their meeting tomorrow to decide. The intent of the agreement was for the Northland Mayoral Forum to be signatories along with iwi chairs.

Iwi chairs invited the Northland Mayoral Forum to meet in June 2017. At that meeting it was agreed that an agreement be compiled for signing by the Mayoral Forum and iwi leaders. There have been many iterations and the example provided today was the fifth version. This agreement came to Council's meeting last week. It was not carried, this leaves it in the position where at some point in the future, it could come back to Council but not in this 2016-2019 term.

From her own personal perspective, Her Worship saw it as a governance to governance relationship and could see advantages in meeting twice year to speak of issues relevant to iwi and Councils.

There were concerns expressed in our meeting whether Te Huinga had been consulted with or had agreed to the agreement. There were also concerns of any impact on our relationship with Te Kārearea and whether it would cause changes for the wider community. Some of the elected members expressed concerns on the timing of signing due to the awareness of the evolved mandate process. The intent was for the signatories inaugural signing in February 2019. Her Worship will not be present for that signing.

There was gratitude expressed from several members for not agreeing to the relationship agreement.

There was discussion on emails being received by hapū members who advised that this was the first that they had heard of this agreement. Disappointment was expressed that it had not been raised in earlier meetings. It was queried how this type of agreement would fit with the principles of Te Kārearea and marry up given the mandate in Whangarei. There was doubt expressed over how Te Huinga would sit at the table if the agreement had been supported by Council.

Her Worship advised it was a separate form of relationship to that of the Te Kārearea relationship. Just as the Mayoral Forum is separate from Te Kārearea. It is a forum where issues up for discussion would not impact on Te Kārearea or Te Huinga. From her perspective it would not change the relationship we had as it was a separate body.

Janelle Beazley advised that Te Huinga were sent the agreement at the beginning of December which was disseminated out to members but unfortunately there was not a meeting of Te Huinga before the Council meeting. The points of view expressed to Councillors before the Council meeting were from individual hapū not Te Huinga.

Sharon Kaipō advised that people are anxious at this time. This agreement was not discussed at the last Te Kārearea meeting and there was concern that it was coming in over the top of hapū. There is a wish to form a closer relationship to bring issues from our people to Council and from Council back to them. We are looking to growing the betterment of the Whangarei District. Iwi should have talked to hapū first before speaking to Council.

Taipari Munro summarised by stating that Te Huinga had received the information at the beginning of December. Her Worship didn't feel that the agreement should impact on the relationship with Te Huinga and that Te Kārearea sits at another level. We need to hear what is being said but any agreement between iwi leaders and the Mayoral Forum would be at a different level. This doesn't influence Te Kārearea or Te Huinga relationship with Council but there was an issue caused by timing.

Her Worship advised that a Council decision had been made to not support the agreement. She reiterated that the most important and cherished relationship is Te Kārearea. There had been a number of iterations of the agreement. Previously the possibility of this agreement has been brought to Te Kārearea as general discussion. It was not on our official agenda as it would not have been appropriate to do so.

Cr Cutforth advised that one of the things raised in the discussion at the meeting was that elected members would have liked to have known the view of Te Huinga and it may have been good to have met to give that view even though it is a different relationship.

Delaraine Armstrong advised that Te Kārearea is a critical relationship and this is a critical time. This has been reflected in other situations as well with tension between iwi and hapū. Te Huinga are supported by the whanau and we come in good faith. Conversation is critical to working together and trust.

Her Worship advised that there had only been one meeting with iwi and the Mayoral Forum and her wish to reassure from her perspective that the relationship with Te Huinga has not changed. There is regret over the timing but that was the timing of the request. There was never any intent to impact our relationship.

Acknowledgement was expressed of the good working relationship between Te Huinga and Council in the form of Te Kārearea by several members. Respect was also expressed for bringing this kaupapa to the meeting and now working forward.

- Her Worship updated the meeting on the revaluations that are due to be sent out in early January. Council have used a new company Opteon to undertake the revaluation process. For various reasons, it has been a struggle for them to get the revaluations out in the timeframe expected. New valuations will be issued and then there will be the objections process to go through. Valuations will be available online on Council's website and a pack will be posted to landowners.

Her Worship wished to reinforce the message strongly, that whatever the values increase, there is no direct coalition with rates increasing. Rates increases are linked to the percentage increase of individual properties compared to sector values of commercial, industrial, rural and residential

properties.

There will be Opteon staff available at Customer Services, from the time the valuations are posted, to discuss the new valuations.

There was further discussion on Maori Land rating and the broader discussion needed on how it is rated.

- Taipari, as Co-Chair, acknowledged this as the last meeting of Te Kārearea for 2018 and on behalf of Te Huinga wished Her Worship, Councillors and staff all the best for the Christmas season and looking forward to the challenges of 2019.

Her Worship took the opportunity to also pass on her thanks as Co-Chair to all Te Huinga members for their mahi for the year and how wonderful it would be for 2019 to have more Te Huinga focused items rather than Council's reports on the agenda to help gain mutual understanding. Hopes of a safe and fulfilling Christmas and New Year were conveyed and it was acknowledged that 2019 would be a big year for all working together.

8. Closure of Meeting – Karakia – Taipari Munro

The meeting concluded at 11.26am.