



I, Matthew Lawson, Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive, hereby give notice that a Māori Standing Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 23 June 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Whakakī Marae, Wairoa

AGENDA

Māori Standing Committee Meeting

23 June 2026

MEMBERSHIP: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Benita Cairns, Cr Trevor Waikawa, Cr Michelle Tahuri, Cr Sara Bird, Mr Rongopai Kira, Ms Erena Hammond, Ms Whai-ora Maindonald, Ms Pauline Symes, Ms Marino Harker-Smith, Ms Elizabeth Palmer, Ms Juanita Symes

The agenda and associated papers are also available on our website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz

For further information please contact us 06 838 7309 or by email info@wairoadc.govt.nz

Order Of Business

1	Karakia	5
2	Apologies for Absence	5
3	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	5
4	Chairperson’s Announcements	5
5	Late Items of Urgent Business	5
6	Public Participation	5
7	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	5
8	General Items	9
8.1	WDC Māori Policy Review	9
8.2	MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE: IWI PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS.....	42
8.3	Spatial Planning - Introduction and Progress Update	46
8.4	HBRC - Māori Relationships Manager Report	51
8.5	Takiwā Update - Te Wairoa Matangirau	55
8.6	Takiwā Update - Te Wairoa Hōpūpū	60
8.7	Takiwā Update - Te Wairoa Hōnengenenge	63

1 KARAKIA**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE****3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have.

This note is provided as a reminder to members to review the matters of the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting, or at the relevant item of business, and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item.

If a member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive or the Chief Operations Officer (preferably before the meeting). It is noted that while members can seek advice, the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS****6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A maximum of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. Up to 5 minutes per person is allowed. As per Standing Order 15.1 requests to speak must be made to the Chief Executive Officer at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ordinary Meeting - 28 April 2026

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA
ON TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2026 AT 1:04 PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Michelle Tahuri, Cr Benita Cairns, Cr Trevor Waikawa, Cr Sara Bird, Mr Rongopai Kira, Ms Erena Hammond, Ms Whai-ora Maindonald, Ms Pauline Symes, Ms Marino Harker-Smith, Ms Elizabeth Palmer, Ms Juanita Symes

IN ATTENDANCE: **Matthew Lawson** (Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive), **Juanita Savage** (Chief of Operations) **Hinetaakoha Viriaere** (Pouwhakarae Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), **Kamal Narang** (Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau | Group Manager - Assets and Infrastructure), **Frances Manase** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer), **Sarayde Tapine** (Policy and Bylaw Officer), **Kate Standring** (Executive Principal), **Duane Culshaw** (Māori Relationships Officer)

1 KARAKIA

The opening karakia was given by Cr Waikawa.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nil.

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2026/274

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Ms Whaiora Maindonald

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2 September 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL ITEMS**8.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2026/275**

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Ms Elizabeth Palmer

The Māori Standing Committee:

1. Receives the report; and
2. Appoints Cr Michelle Tahuri as Chairperson of the Māori Standing Committee; and
3. Appoints Elizabeth Palmer as Deputy Chairperson of the Māori Standing Committee.

CARRIED

His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, recommended the appointment of Cr Michelle Tahuri as Chairperson.

8.2 WDC BYLAW REGISTER REPORT**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2026/276**

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Cr Sara Bird

The Māori Standing Committee:

- a) Receives the report titled "WDC Bylaw Register Report"
- b) Notes that bylaws will be presented to the Māori Standing Committee for input as they are progressed for Council consideration.

CARRIED

The Policy and Bylaw Officer introduced the report, highlighting the importance of bylaws being reviewed by the Committee, particularly where community consultation is required.

8.3 WDC EXTERNAL POLICY REGISTER REPORT**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2026/277**

Moved: Cr Benita Cairns

Seconded: Cr Sara Bird

The Māori Standing Committee receives the report titled "WDC External Policy Register Report"

CARRIED

8.4 MEETING VENUES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2026/278

Moved: Cr Trevor Waikawa

Seconded: Ms Elizabeth Palmer

The Māori Standing Committee approves the proposed marae locations for Māori Standing Committee meetings, as amended at the meeting.

CARRIED

The Committee discussed arrangements for meetings held at marae, noting that any items requiring consideration in a public excluded session would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee at the Council Chambers.

The Committee also discussed marae fees, including booking fee invoicing and koha processes, noting that these matters would be considered in consultation with Operations.

The Meeting closed with a closing karakia by Cr Waikawa at 2:21pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Māori Standing Committee Meeting held on 23 June 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 WDC MĀORI POLICY REVIEW

Author: Sarayde Tapine, Policy and Bylaw Officer

Authoriser: Juanita Savage, Chief of Operations

Appendices:

1. Māori Policy - MSC Comments/Tracked Change Version [↓](#)
2. WDC Māori Policy 2026 [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from the Māori Standing Committee on the proposed changes to the Wairoa District Council Māori Policy 2026, following feedback provided at the Committee workshop held on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

The Policy and Bylaw Officer RECOMMENDS that Committee:

- a. Receives this report.
- b. Notes that the Māori Policy was presented to the Māori Standing Committee workshop on Tuesday 16 June 2026 for review and feedback.
- c. Notes that the proposed changes have now been incorporated into the Māori Policy 2026.
- d. Endorses the Māori Policy 2026, attached as Appendix 2.
- e. Recommends to Council that the Māori Policy 2026 be adopted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Māori Policy provides an important framework for how Wairoa District Council recognises, supports and enables Māori participation in Council decision-making.

The review has focused on strengthening the purpose, language and intent of the policy so that it better reflects the Wairoa context, Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002, the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the role of whānau, hapū, iwi, marae and mana whenua across the district.

The draft policy was tabled with the Māori Standing Committee at a workshop held on Tuesday 16 June 2026. Feedback from members has been considered and incorporated into the revised version. The updated policy is now presented back to the Committee for endorsement before being recommended to Council for adoption.

The proposed policy does not remove the ability for any individual, whānau, hapū or iwi to engage directly with Council. Rather, it provides clearer direction on how Council will work with Māori in a meaningful, early, respectful and ongoing way.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current Māori Policy was due for review to ensure it remains relevant, fit-for-purpose and aligned with Council's current legislative obligations, strategic direction and relationship with Māori in the Wairoa district.
- 2.2 Wairoa has one of the highest proportions of Māori of any local authority area in Aotearoa New Zealand. This reinforces the importance of having a clear and meaningful policy that supports Māori participation in local government decision-making and reflects the unique cultural identity of the district.
- 2.3 The review has considered the need for stronger policy wording around:
 - Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - Early and meaningful engagement.
 - Representation and participation.
 - Tikanga and cultural protocols.
 - The role of the Māori Standing Committee.
 - Internal capability and resourcing.
 - Monitoring and review; and
 - The importance of place-based, relationship-driven engagement.
- 2.4 The draft policy was presented to the Māori Standing Committee at its workshop on Tuesday 16 June 2026. The purpose of the workshop was to provide members with an opportunity to review the draft, provide feedback and ensure the final version appropriately reflected Māori perspectives and expectations.
- 2.5 The proposed amendments have now been made. A tracked change version is attached as Appendix 1 and a final rewritten version is attached as Appendix 2.

3. REVIEW OF THE MAORI POLICY

- 3.1 The review has resulted in a more purposeful and strengthened policy that better articulates Council's commitment to working alongside Māori.
- 3.2 The revised policy establishes that Council will partner with Māori to ensure meaningful, early and ongoing participation in decision-making, and to support outcomes that reflect the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi across the district.
- 3.3 The policy recognises that effective partnership is critical to community wellbeing and development, particularly in a district where Māori identity, whakapapa, tikanga, marae and mana whenua relationships are central to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community.
- 3.4 The revised policy also provides clearer expectations for Council elected members, committees and staff by confirming that the policy applies across Council decision-making processes, planning activities and engagement with Māori.

4. KEY CHANGES PROPOSED

- 4.1 The key changes proposed through this review include:

- a. Strengthening the purpose of the policy so it clearly focuses on partnership, participation and Māori aspirations.
- b. Including clearer recognition of the Wairoa context and the significance of Māori within the district with updated data from Census 2023 data figures.
- c. Strengthening the legislative framework, particularly Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002.
- d. Including clear guiding principles such as kotahitanga, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, tika/pono, rangatiratanga/mātauranga Māori and whakawhanaungatanga.
- e. Strengthening the section on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Council's responsibility to uphold its principles through governance, decision-making, policy development, service delivery and engagement.
- f. Clarifying the importance of representation mechanisms, including the Māori Standing Committee, advisory groups and direct engagement with iwi and hapū.
- g. Strengthening expectations around cultural protocols, tikanga Māori and the appropriate use of kawa.
- h. Improving the significance and engagement section so it clearly identifies how Council will inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower Māori depending on the nature and significance of decisions.
- i. Clarifying advocacy expectations, including where Council or the Māori Standing Committee may advocate on matters affecting Māori.
- j. Strengthening internal capability and resourcing commitments, including the role of the Māori Relationships Officer.
- k. including monitoring and review provisions to support ongoing accountability and continuous improvement.

5. OPTIONS

- 5.1 The options identified are:
 - a. **Option 1** – Endorse the Māori Policy 2026 and recommend it to Council for adoption.
 - b. **Option 2** – Endorse the Māori Policy 2026 subject to further minor amendments.
 - c. **Option 3** – Do not endorse the Māori Policy 2026 and request further review.
- 5.2 **Option 1 is the preferred option.** This option recognises the feedback already provided by the Māori Standing Committee through the workshop process and enables the policy to progress to Council for adoption.
- 5.3 Option 2 would allow the Committee to request minor amendments before the policy is recommended to Council. This may be appropriate if members identify wording that requires refinement, however substantial changes may delay adoption.
- 5.4 Option 3 is not recommended. The review has already been undertaken, the draft has been workshopped with the Committee, and the proposed changes have been incorporated. Delaying the policy may also delay clearer direction for Council on Māori participation and engagement.
- 5.5 The preferred option is **Option 1**, this contributes to the following community outcomes

Cultural wellbeing	Economic wellbeing	Social Wellbeing	Environmental Wellbeing
Valued and cherished community.	Strong and prosperous economy.	Safe, supported and well-led community.	Protected and healthy environment

6. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

What is the change?

- 6.1 The decision will enable the Māori Policy 2026 to be endorsed by the Māori Standing Committee and recommended to Council for adoption.
- 6.2 The revised policy will provide clearer direction for Council elected members, committees and staff on how Māori participation, engagement and partnership should be approached.

Compliance with legislation and Council Policy

- 6.3 Annual Plan - There are no direct Annual Plan implications arising from this decision.
- 6.4 Other Council Policies – The policy aligns with the Significance and Engagement Policy and should be read alongside other Council policies and strategies that require engagement with Māori.
- 6.5 Relevant legislation – The policy is particularly relevant to the Local Government Act 2002, including:
- Section 4, which recognises the Crown’s responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - Section 14, principles relating to local authorities.
 - Section 77, requirements in relation to decisions.
 - Section 78, community views in relation to decisions.
 - Section 81, contributions to decision-making processes by Māori; and
 - Section 82, principles of consultation.

What are the key benefits?

- 6.6 The key benefits of adopting the revised policy include:
- Clearer expectations for Council on Māori engagement and participation.
 - Stronger recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga Māori.
 - Improved alignment with the Local Government Act 2002.
 - Clearer guidance for staff and elected members.
 - Stronger recognition of the Māori Standing Committee’s role.
 - Support for early, meaningful and ongoing engagement with Māori.
 - Stronger relationships with whānau, hapū, iwi, marae and mana whenua; and

- Improved transparency and accountability through monitoring and review.

What is the cost?

6.7 There are no direct costs associated with endorsing the policy. Any future costs associated with implementation, engagement, training or resourcing will be managed through existing budgets or considered through future planning processes where required.

What is the saving?

6.8 There are no direct financial savings associated with this decision. However, a clearer policy framework may support more efficient engagement processes, reduce uncertainty and improve decision-making over time.

Service delivery review

6.9 A section 17A service delivery review is not applicable to this matter.

6.10 No section 17A review is scheduled.

6.11 This decision does not trigger a section 17A review.

Maori Standing Committee

6.12 This matter was referred to the Māori Standing Committee through a workshop held on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

6.13 The policy is now being brought back to the Māori Standing Committee for formal endorsement and recommendation to Council.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 This matter is of high significance due to the importance of the policy to Māori participation, representation and engagement in Council decision-making.

7.2 The policy itself does not make a final decision on any specific project, asset, service level or activity. It provides a framework to guide how Council works with Māori.

7.3 There is likely to be interest from Māori Standing Committee members, mana whenua, hapū, iwi, marae and Māori communities because the policy relates directly to Māori participation and engagement.

7.4 There are no direct budget impacts arising from this decision.

7.5 The decision can be reversed or amended through a future policy review.

7.6 The decision does not alter levels of service for any significant Council activity.

7.7 The decision does not impact any Council strategic assets.

7.8 The decision does not change the way in which a significant activity is delivered.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 In accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy the inherent risks associated with this matter are: Low

Human	Financial	Regulatory
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Low	Low	Low to Medium
Operations	Employees	Image & Reputation
Low to Medium	Low	Medium

HUMAN – LOW

The policy supports respectful relationships, meaningful engagement and clearer expectations for Council staff, elected members and Māori communities.

FINANCIAL – LOW

There are no direct financial implications arising from endorsement of the policy.

REGULATORY – LOW-MEDIUM

The policy supports Council's compliance with the Local Government Act 2002 and its obligations to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes.

OPERATIONS – LOW-MEDIUM

Implementation will require ongoing staff awareness, appropriate processes and consideration of engagement requirements across Council work programmes.

EMPLOYEES – LOW

The policy provides clearer guidance for staff and elected members.

IMAGE AND REPUTATION – MEDIUM

There is reputational risk if Council does not maintain a current, meaningful and fit-for-purpose Māori Policy. Endorsing the revised policy demonstrates Council's commitment to strengthening its relationship with Māori and supporting meaningful participation.

Who has been consulted?

The Māori Standing Committee was consulted through a workshop held on Tuesday 16 June 2026. Feedback received through that process has informed the revised policy now presented for endorsement.

Further Information

- Appendix 1 – Māori Policy 2026 – Tracked Change Version
- Appendix 2 – Māori Policy 2026 – Final Rewritten Version
- [Local Government Act 2002 | New Zealand Legislation](#)
- Wairoa District Council Significance and Engagement Policy - [Documents & Forms | Wairoa District Council](#)

References (to or from other Committees)

- The draft Māori Policy was tabled with the Māori Standing Committee at its workshop on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

MaORI POLICY

DATE ADOPTED: 9 MAY 2017



TE WAIROA
WAIROA DISTRICT

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	Māori Relationships Manager	COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE:	Māori Standing Committee
CATEGORY:	Economic Development & Engagement	STATUS:	Final
DATE REVISED POLICY ADOPTED:	9 May 2017	APPROVAL BY:	Council
REVIEW PERIOD:	3 Years and As required	NEXT REVIEW DUE BY:	2020
DATE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:	13 November 2012	REVISION NUMBER:	2

TE WAIROA HoPuPu HoNGENGENE MATANGIRAU TE WAIROA TaPOKO RAU

This policy does not prevent any individual, whānau, hapū or iwi from dealing directly with the Council concerning any issue that may affect them.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes how Wairoa District Council (Council) will partner with Māori of Wairoa to ensure meaningful, early and ongoing participation in decision-making and achieve outcomes that reflect the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi across the district.

This policy recognises Wairoa as a district with a significant Māori population and strong cultural identity, where effective partnership is critical to community wellbeing and development.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council elected members, committees and staff and informs all decision-making processes, planning activities and engagement with Māori.

WAIROA CONTEXT

Wairoa District has one of the highest proportions of Māori of any local authority area in New Zealand with approximately 68.5% of the population identifying as Māori (2023 census). This demographic context reinforces the importance of enabling meaningful Māori participation in Council decision-making processes.¹

Council acknowledges:

- The high proportion of Māori within the Wairoa district.
- The role of local iwi and hapū as mana whenua.
- The importance of marae as key community and cultural hubs.
- The strong presence of tikanga Māori in local practices and decision-making.

Council will prioritise place-based, relationship-driven engagement that reflects the unique identity, tikanga and aspirations of Wairoa.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Council recognises its obligations to Māori under the Local Government Act 2002 and a range of other legislation, regulations and statutory instruments that require Council to engage with Māori, provide opportunities for participation in decision-making, recognise and respect Māori interests, and give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi where required.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following provisions of the Local Government Act 2002:

- Section 4 – The Treaty of Waitangi.
- Section 14 – Principles relating to local authorities.
- Section 77 – Requirements in relation to decisions.
- Section 78 – Community views in relation to decisions.
- Section 81 – Contributions to decision-making processes by Māori.
- Section 82 – Principles of consultation.

These obligations are implemented through the commitments, mechanisms and practices outlined in this Policy. Council is committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all decision-making and any future legislation relation to Māori participation in local government decision making.

¹ [Wairoa, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ](#)

Council also acknowledges that obligations relating to Māori participation, engagement, consultation, partnership and the protection of Māori interests may arise under other legislation relevant to Council's functions and activities, including current and future enactments, amendments and statutory requirements.

These obligations are implemented through the commitments, mechanisms and practices outlined in this Policy. Council is committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in its governance, decision-making and service delivery functions and to giving appropriate consideration to any present or future legislative requirements relating to Māori participation in local government decision-making.

DEFINITIONS

<i>Council</i>	Refers to Wairoa District Council elected members and staff.
<i>District</i>	Refers to the territorial authority area of the Wairoa District Council.
<i>Mana Whenua</i>	Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 - <i>means customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area</i>
<i>Māori Standing Committee Member</i>	Refers to members selected by their takiwā, each of whom bears an obligation to faithfully represent the views of their takiwā and collectively as a committee, the interests of all Māori in the district.
<i>Takiwā</i>	Refers to ward areas for the purpose of having a set number of areas and therefore independent members as representatives on the Māori Standing Committee.
<i>Tangata Whenua</i>	Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 - <i>in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area</i>

PRINCIPLE This policy sets a clear expectation that Māori are engaged at the outset of decision-making, ensuring their input informs outcomes from the beginning rather than at

an advisory stage. Council will be guided by the below principles that underpin how Council will interact and work with Māori.

- **Kotahitanga** – Mutual respect of the unity of all things tangible and intangible.
- **Manaakitanga** – The mutual elevation of mana in encounters and when engaged in discourse as a means of seeking shared understanding based on the spirit of respect and dignity.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – The duty of Council to recognise and support Māori in fulfilling their duty as kaitiaki of air, land, water and all other taonga tuku iho.
- **Tika/Pono** – A shared commitment to “do the right thing” morally and ethically by making certain that everyone is treated with equal respect and fairness. To ensure informed decision-making is underpinned by and made with honesty, integrity and good faith.
- **Rangatiratanga/Matauranga Māori** – The duty of Council to accept and support Māori in fulfilling their role as mana whenua over lands, resources and other taonga tuku iho within the local authority boundaries.
- **Whakawhanaungatanga** - The commitment to building and nurturing meaningful relationships based on trust, respect and collaboration. It recognises that strong relationships are fundamental to effective engagement, shared understanding and positive outcomes for Māori, Council and the wider community.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand and provides the basis for the relationship between Māori and the Crown. Council acknowledges the enduring significance of Te Tiriti as a living document and is committed to upholding its principles through its governance, decision-making, policy development, service delivery and engagement practices.

Council recognises its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and other relevant legislation to facilitate Māori participation in local decision-making processes and to foster positive and enduring relationships with iwi, hapū and Māori. In giving effect to this commitment, Council will work in partnership with Māori, actively seek and consider Māori perspectives and support opportunities for Māori to contribute to matters.

3. REPRESENTATION

Council recognises the importance of effective representation mechanisms to enable Māori participation in decision-making. Representation may occur through multiple mechanisms, including committees, advisory groups and direct engagement with iwi and hapū and must consider all of the principles outlined above and the diversity of Māori in the district.

Council will periodically review the effectiveness of representation arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate and inclusive of the diversity of Māori.

CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Council will ensure that tikanga Māori is appropriately recognised and incorporated into Council activities and events. This includes ensuring appropriate cultural for formal occasions, including pōwhiri, hui and tangihanga.

SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy enables both Council and the community to identify the degree of significance attached to particular decisions, understand when engagement will occur and know how that engagement is likely to take place.

In recognising the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council is committed to ensuring Māori can participate effectively in decision-making processes on matters that affect them.

Council will engage with Māori using the following approaches:

- **Inform** – Sharing accessible, timely and culturally appropriate information.
- **Consult** – Seeking feedback and whakaaro on proposals and initiatives.
- **Involve** – Working directly with Māori in shaping outcomes,
- **Collaborate** – Partnering with Māori in decision-making processes.
- **Empower** – Supporting Māori-led solutions and initiatives where appropriate.
-

Engagement with Māori will:

- Occur early in the decision-making process.
- Recognise and respect mana whenua, tikanga Māori and local kawa.
- Be proportionate to the significance of the decision and its impact on Māori.
- Be undertaken kanohi ki te kanohi wherever practicable.
- Be tailored to iwi, hapū, marae and takiwā structures where appropriate.

For decisions of moderate to high significance affecting Māori, Council will:

- Prepare and implement an engagement plan.
- Document feedback and perspectives received from Māori.
- Demonstrate how Māori views have informed decision-making.

ADVOCACY

- Council acknowledges that some decisions affecting Māori occur outside its jurisdiction.
- Council and the Māori Standing Committee may advocate on matters affecting Māori, provided such advocacy is undertaken with the full knowledge of Council when representing such positions.
- This does not prevent individuals (whether on the Māori Standing Committee or Council) from advocating on behalf of their own hapū or group, as long as there is a declaration that they are not acting on behalf of Council.
- An important role for the Māori Standing Committee is an advocate for Māori perspectives and issues to local, regional and national bodies.

INTERNAL CAPABILITY AND RESOURCING Underpinning Council's commitment to the effective facilitation of Māori in decision-making is the provision of dedicated staff and other resources. The aim of this is to increase Māori influence in the Council and foster greater understanding of Māori issues. Council will build and maintain capability to effectively engage with Māori by:

- Providing appropriate resourcing for engagement activities.
- Supporting the role of the Māori Relationships Officer.
- Promoting the use of Te Reo Māori in Council communications and operations.
- Providing cultural competency and Te Tiriti o Waitangi training for staff and elected members.

Council has a Māori Relationships Officer as a means of facilitating and enhancing Māori involvement in decision-making. The purpose of the position is to provide advice to and liaise with Council and its Committees, Council staff and the community in respect to their relationship with and impact on Māori.

8. MONITORING & REVIEW

Council will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Annual reporting to Council and the Māori Standing Committee on engagement activities and outcomes.
- Tracking engagement with Māori on significant decisions.
- Identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required. The Māori Standing Committee will also monitor the policy through an informal annual review to assess its relevance and effectiveness.

Appendix 1 – GLOSSARY OF MaORI TERMS

ahi kaa	The continuous unbroken occupation of land by whānau, hapū or iwi over successive generations.
hapū	Sub-tribe
hui	Gathering / meeting
iwi	Tribe
kaitiaki	Whānau, hapū or iwi given the responsibility to care, maintain, manage and protect taonga tuku iho (tangible and intangible) within their territorial domain.
Karakia	Incantation, prayer, affirmation
karakia(whakanoa)	Prayer to remove tapu karanga Ceremonial calling of visitors
kawa	The specific protocols and processes that particular hapū or iwi engage to formalise encounters with others. Kawa varies amongst hapū and iwi, however the kawa of the hosts will take precedence and will govern proceedings
kawenga	Duties incumbent on someone to fulfill responsibilities
manaakitanga	The expression and responsibility inherent to the mana of encounter or engagement as in the reciprocal relationships between host and visitor
mana whenua	The acknowledged authority, that a particular whānau, hapū or iwi has over a particular area. This authority affords whānau, hapū and iwi rights as kaitiaki and obligations to manaaki. It also infers the obligation of other groups to negotiate or consult for access rights to land and resources
pōwhiri/pōhiri	Ritual of encounter tangihanga Grieving ritual/process taonga
	Tangible resources or treasures taonga tuku iho Intangible resources or treasures that are important to the cultural
	heritage of Māori, taura here, and the wider community
tapu	Sacred restriction
taura here	The association of Māori individuals or groups who join together to fulfil a common purpose or goal, that share similar aspirations and who live outside their tribal area
wāhi tapu	Sacred place
whaikōrero	Oratory
whakapapa	Relates to the genealogy, not only of people but all things. It is the relationships to and between all elements, tangible and intangible, such as matter and energy, the universe, the gods, people, mokopuna and other forms of life
whenu	Land

APPENDIX 2:
MaORI STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference

Version: 1.0

Māori Standing Committee

Reports To: The Council

Chairperson: Appointed by the Committee at Inaugural Meeting

Ngā Mematanga / Membership: 8 Takiwā Representatives
(one representative per takiwā)
The Mayor
Minimum of 3 Councillors

Te Kōrama / Quorum: 50% of appointed takiwā representatives (excluding vacancies)
1 elected member

Ngā Wā Hui / Meeting Frequency: Bi-monthly
(Meeting location to include takiwā marae)

Te Kaupapa / Purpose:

To provide a Māori perspective to guide Council with its responsibilities in the implementation of policies and work programmes to enable effective governance, engagement, and service delivery for all people within the district.

Ngā Kawenga / Responsibilities

- Provide advice to Council on matters relating to wāhi tapu, papakāinga, and other matters regarding whenua Māori
- Advocate on behalf of Māori in the Wairoa District to support Council's objectives at a local, regional, and national level.
- Assist Council in conducting and maintaining effective communications, good faith working relationships with whanau, hapu, and iwi, for the benefit of the community
- Determine actions that Council should take to develop and enhance Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes
- Provide strategic leadership and direction for any projects for the benefit of the whole district, that has a Māori interest
- Promote the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the Wairoa District by recognising, valuing, and leveraging Wairoa's unique natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and community strengths.
- Facilitate and support the growth of kaupapa Māori initiatives that promote partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and advance Māori aspirations across the district
- Strengthen engagement with tangata whenua and support the development of the Māori economy, ensuring alignment with broader economic strategies
- Provide strategic and appropriate tikanga guidance to the Council as requested

Terms of Reference

Version: 1.0

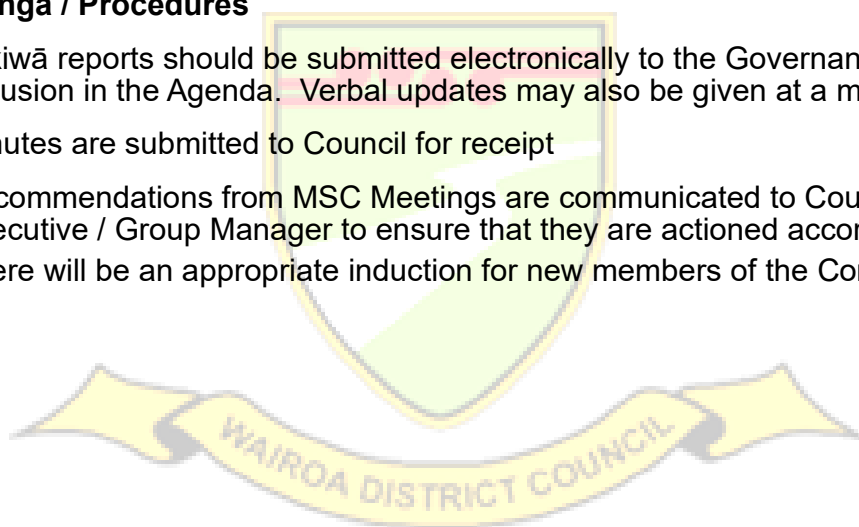
Ngā Tuku Mana / Delegated Authority

The Committee is delegated authority to act on all matters within its Terms of Reference except those excluded by Clause 32(1) schedule 7, of the Local Government Act 2002.

- Create and delegate to any subcommittee any responsibilities that have been delegated by Council to the Committee, and to appoint members onto the subcommittee.
- Make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer on professional development opportunities which will enable members of the Māori Standing Committee to better contribute to its decision-making processes. The Chief Executive Officer will sign off on these in accordance with budget provisions.
- The Chair and one other takiwā representative shall attend every scheduled workshop, ordinary, and extraordinary public meeting of full Council. These representatives will have speaking rights

Ngā Tukunga / Procedures

- Takiwā reports should be submitted electronically to the Governance Team for inclusion in the Agenda. Verbal updates may also be given at a meeting of the MSC.
- Minutes are submitted to Council for receipt
- Recommendations from MSC Meetings are communicated to Council by the Chief Executive / Group Manager to ensure that they are actioned accordingly.
- There will be an appropriate induction for new members of the Committee



MĀORI POLICY



WAIROA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stored:	Hyperlink
Approved by:	Ordinary Council
Department:	External Policy
Date Approved:	
Next Review Date:	July 2029
Reviewed:	April 2026
Revision No:	3
Relevant:	Local Government Act 2002
Legislation related policies:	Significance and Engagement Policy

CONTENTS

TE WAIROA HOPUPU HONENGENENGE MATANGIRAU TE WAIROA TAPOKORAU.....	4
PURPOSE.....	4
SCOPE.....	4
WAIROA CONTEXT.....	4
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	4
PRINCIPLES.....	5
TE TIRITI O WAITANGI.....	5
REPRESENTATION.....	6
CULTURAL PROTOCOLS.....	6
SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT	6
ADVOCACY	6
INTERNAL CAPABILITY AND RESOURCING	7
MONITORING AND REVIEW	7
DEFINITIONS	8
APPENDIX 1 –.....	9
GLOSSARY OF MAORI TERMS.....	9
APPENDIX 2 –.....	10
MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	10

TE WAIROA HOPUPU HONENGENENGE MATANGIRAU TE WAIROA TAPOKORAU

This policy does not prevent any individual, whānau, hapū or iwi from dealing directly with the Council concerning any issue that may affect them.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes how Wairoa District Council (Council) will partner with Māori of Wairoa to ensure meaningful, early and ongoing participation in decision-making and achieve outcomes that reflect the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi across the district.

This policy recognises Wairoa as a district with a significant Māori population and strong cultural identity, where effective partnership is critical to community wellbeing and development.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council elected members, committees and staff and informs all decision-making processes, planning activities and engagement with Māori.

WAIROA CONTEXT

Wairoa District has one of the highest proportions of Māori of any local authority area in New Zealand with approximately 68.5% of the population identifying as Māori (2023 census). This demographic context reinforces the importance of enabling meaningful Māori participation in Council decision-making processes.¹

Council acknowledges:

- The high proportion of Māori within the Wairoa district.
- The role of local iwi and hapū as mana whenua.
- The importance of marae as key community and cultural hubs.
- The strong presence of tikanga Māori in local practices and decision-making.

Council will prioritise place-based, relationship-driven engagement that reflects the unique identity, tikanga and aspirations of Wairoa.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Council recognises its obligations to Māori under the Local Government Act 2002 and a range of other legislation, regulations and statutory instruments that require Council to engage with Māori, provide opportunities for participation in decision-making, recognise and respect Māori interests, and give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi where required.

This includes but is not limited to the following provisions of the Local Government Act 2002:

- Section 4 – The Treaty of Waitangi.
- Section 14 – Principles relating to local authorities.
- Section 77 – Requirements in relation to decisions.
- Section 78 – Community views in relation to decisions.
- Section 81 – Contributions to decision-making processes by Māori.
- Section 82 – Principles of consultation.

¹ [Wairoa, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ](#)

Council also acknowledges that obligations relating to Māori participation, engagement, consultation, partnership and the protection of Māori interests may arise under other legislation relevant to Council's functions and activities, including current and future enactments, amendments and statutory requirements.

These obligations are implemented through the commitments, mechanisms and practices outlined in this Policy. Council is committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in its governance, decision-making and service delivery functions and to giving appropriate consideration to any present or future legislative requirements relating to Māori participation in local government decision-making.

PRINCIPLES

This policy sets a clear expectation that Māori are engaged at the outset of decision-making, ensuring their input informs outcomes from the beginning rather than at an advisory stage. Council will be guided by the below principles that underpin how Council will interact and work with Māori.

- **Kotahitanga** – Mutual respect of the unity of all things tangible and intangible.
- **Manaakitanga** – The mutual elevation of mana in encounters and when engaged in discourse as a means of seeking shared understanding based on the spirit of respect and dignity.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – The duty of Council to recognise and support Māori in fulfilling their duty as kaitiaki of air, land, water and all other taonga tuku iho.
- **Tika/Pono** – A shared commitment to “do the right thing” morally and ethically by making certain that everyone is treated with equal respect and fairness. To ensure informed decision-making is underpinned by and made with honesty, integrity and good faith.
- **Rangatiratanga/Matauranga Māori** – The duty of Council to accept and support Māori in fulfilling their role as mana whenua over lands, resources and other taonga tuku iho within the local authority boundaries.
- **Whakawhanaungatanga** – The commitment to building and nurturing meaningful relationships based on trust, respect and collaboration. It recognises that strong relationships are fundamental to effective engagement, shared understanding and positive outcomes for Māori, Council and the wider community.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand and provides the basis for the relationship between Māori and the Crown. Council acknowledges the enduring significance of Te Tiriti as a living document and is committed to upholding its principles through its governance, decision-making, policy development, service delivery and engagement practices.

Council recognises its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and other relevant legislation to facilitate Māori participation in local decision-making processes and to foster positive and enduring relationships with iwi, hapū and Māori. In giving effect to this commitment, Council will work in partnership with Māori, actively seek and consider Māori perspectives and support opportunities for Māori to contribute to matters.

REPRESENTATION

Council recognises the importance of effective representation mechanisms to enable Māori participation in decision-making. Representation may occur through multiple mechanisms, including committees, advisory groups and direct engagement with iwi and hapū and must consider all of the principles outlined above and the diversity of Māori in the district.

Council will periodically review the effectiveness of representation arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate and inclusive of the diversity of Māori.

CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Council will ensure that tikanga Māori is appropriately recognised and incorporated into Council activities and events. This includes ensuring appropriate cultural for formal occasions, including pōwhiri, hui and tangihanga.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy enables both Council and the community to identify the degree of significance attached to particular decisions, understand when engagement will occur and know how that engagement is likely to take place.

In recognising the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council is committed to ensuring Māori can participate effectively in decision-making processes on matters that affect them.

Council will engage with Māori using the following approaches:

- **Inform** – Sharing accessible, timely and culturally appropriate information.
- **Consult** – Seeking feedback and whakaaro on proposals and initiatives.
- **Involve** – Working directly with Māori in shaping outcomes,
- **Collaborate** – Partnering with Māori in decision-making processes.
- **Empower** – Supporting Māori-led solutions and initiatives where appropriate.
-

Engagement with Māori will:

- Occur early in the decision-making process.
- Recognise and respect mana whenua, tikanga Māori and local kawa.
- Be proportionate to the significance of the decision and its impact on Māori.
- Be undertaken kanohi ki te kanohi wherever practicable.
- Be tailored to iwi, hapū, marae and takiwā structures where appropriate.

For decisions of moderate to high significance affecting Māori, Council will:

- Prepare and implement an engagement plan.
- Document feedback and perspectives received from Māori.
- Demonstrate how Māori views have informed decision-making.

ADVOCACY

- Council acknowledges that some decisions affecting Māori occur outside its jurisdiction.
- Council and the Māori Standing Committee may advocate on matters affecting Māori, provided such advocacy is undertaken with the full knowledge of Council when representing such positions.

- This does not prevent individuals (whether on the Māori Standing Committee or Council) from advocating on behalf of their own hapū or group, as long as there is a declaration that they are not acting on behalf of Council.
- An important role for the Māori Standing Committee is an advocate for Māori perspectives and issues to local, regional and national bodies.

INTERNAL CAPABILITY AND RESOURCING

Underpinning Council's commitment to the effective facilitation of Māori in decision-making is the provision of dedicated staff and other resources. The aim of this is to increase Māori influence in the Council and foster greater understanding of Māori issues. Council will build and maintain capability to effectively engage with Māori by:

- Providing appropriate resourcing for engagement activities.
- Supporting the role of the Māori Relationships Officer.
- Promoting the use of Te Reo Māori in Council communications and operations.
- Providing cultural competency and Te Tiriti o Waitangi training for staff and elected members.

Council has a Māori Relationships Officer as a means of facilitating and enhancing Māori involvement in decision-making. The purpose of the position is to provide advice to and liaise with Council and its Committees, Council staff and the community in respect to their relationship with and impact on Māori.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Council will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Annual reporting to Council and the Māori Standing Committee on engagement activities and outcomes.
- Tracking engagement with Māori on significant decisions.
- Identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required. The Māori Standing Committee will also monitor the policy through an informal annual review to assess its relevance and effectiveness.

DEFINITIONS

Council	Refers to Wairoa District Council elected members and staff.
District	Refers to the territorial authority area of the Wairoa District Council.
Mana Whenua	Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 - <i>means customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area</i>
Māori Standing Committee Member	Refers to members selected by their takiwā, each of whom bears an obligation to faithfully represent the views of their takiwā and collectively as a committee, the interests of all Māori in the district.
Takiwā	Refers to ward areas for the purpose of having a set number of areas and therefore independent members as representatives on the Māori Standing Committee.
Tangata Whenua	Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 - <i>in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area</i>

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF MAORI TERMS

- **Ahi kaa** – The continuous unbroken occupation of land by whānau, hapū or iwi over successive generations.
- **Hapū** – Sub-tribe.
- **Hui** – Gathering/meeting.
- **Iwi** – Tribe.
- **Kaitiaki** – Whānau, hapū or iwi given the responsibility to care, maintain, manage and protect taonga tuku iho (tangible and intangible) within their territorial domain.
- **Karakia** – Incantation, prayer, affirmation.
- **Karakia (Whakanoa)** – Prayer to remove tapu.
- **Karanga** – Ceremonial calling of visitors.
- **Kawa** – The specific protocols and processes that particular hapū or iwi engage to formalise encounters with others. Kawa varies amongst hapū and iwi, however the kawa of the hosts will take precedence and will govern proceedings.
- **Kawenga** – Duties incumbent on someone to fulfil responsibilities.
- **Manaakitanga** – The expression and responsibility inherent to the mana of encounter or engagement as in the reciprocal relationships between host and visitor.
- **Mana whenua** – The acknowledged authority, that a particular whānau, hapū or iwi has over a particular area. This authority affords whānau, hapū or iwi rights as kaitiaki and obligation to manaaki. It also infers the obligation of other groups to negotiate or consult for access rights to land and resources.
- **Manuhiri** – A visitor or guest.
- **Pōwhiri/Pōhiri** – Ritual of encounter.
- **Tangata Whenua** - Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 - *in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.*
- **Tangihanga** – Grieving ritual/process.
- **Taonga** – Tangible resources or treasures.
- **Taonga tuku iho** – Intangible resources or treasures that are important to the cultural heritage of Māori, taura here and the wider community.
- **Tapu** -Sacred restriction.
- **Taura here** – The association of Māori individuals or groups who join together to fulfil a common purpose or goal that share similar aspirations and who live outside their tribal area.
- **Wāhi tapu** – Sacred place.
- **Whaikōrero** – Oratory.
- **Whakapapa** – Related to the genealogy not only of people but all things. It is the relationships to and between all elements, tangible and intangible, such as matter and energy, the universe, the gods, people, mokopuna and other forms of life.
- **Whakawhanaungatanga** – The process of establishing, maintaining and strengthening relationships through shared experiences, mutual respect, trust and understanding.
- **Whenua** – Land.

APPENDIX 2 –
MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

[MSC Maori Standing Committee - Terms of Reference](#)

Terms of Reference

Version: 1.0

Māori Standing Committee

Reports To:	The Council	
Chairperson:	Appointed by the Committee at Inaugural Meeting	
Ngā Mematanga / Membership:	8 Takiwā Representatives (one representative per takiwā) The Mayor Minimum of 3 Councillors	
Te Kōrama / Quorum:	50% of appointed takiwā representatives 1 elected member	(excluding vacancies)
Ngā Wā Hui / Meeting Frequency:	Bi-monthly (Meeting location to include takiwā marae)	

Te Kaupapa / Purpose:

To provide a Māori perspective to guide Council with its responsibilities in the implementation of policies and work programmes to enable effective governance, engagement, and service delivery for all people within the district.

Ngā Kawenga / Responsibilities

- Provide advice to Council on matters relating to wāhi tapu, papakāinga, and other matters regarding whenua Māori
- Advocate on behalf of Māori in the Wairoa District to support Council's objectives at a local, regional, and national level.
- Assist Council in conducting and maintaining effective communications, good faith working relationships with whanau, hapu, and iwi, for the benefit of the community
- Determine actions that Council should take to develop and enhance Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes
- Provide strategic leadership and direction for any projects for the benefit of the whole district, that has a Māori interest
- Promote the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the Wairoa District by recognising, valuing, and leveraging Wairoa's unique natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and community strengths.
- Facilitate and support the growth of kaupapa Māori initiatives that promote partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and advance Māori aspirations across the district
- Strengthen engagement with tangata whenua and support the development of the Māori economy, ensuring alignment with broader economic strategies
- Provide strategic and appropriate tikanga guidance to the Council as requested

Terms of Reference

Version: 1.0

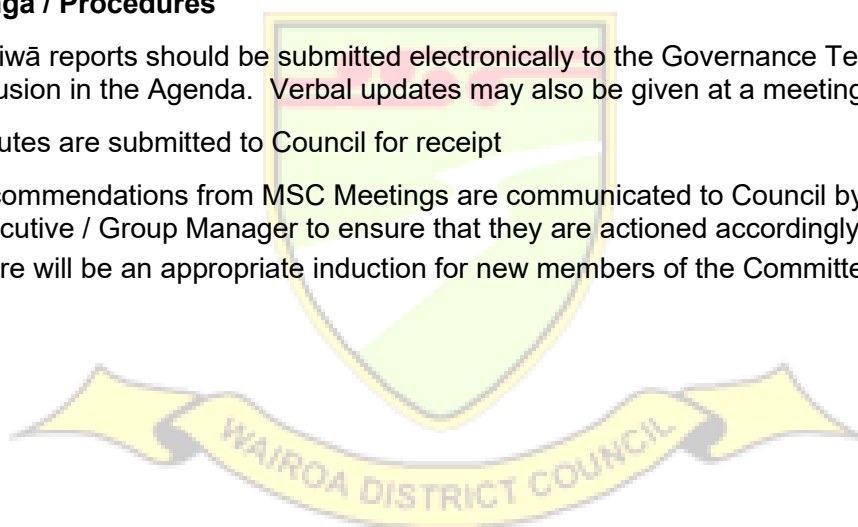
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- The Chair and one other takiwā representative shall attend every scheduled workshop, ordinary, and extraordinary public meeting of full Council. These representatives will have speaking rights

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- Takiwā reports should be submitted electronically to the Governance Team for inclusion in the Agenda. Verbal updates may also be given at a meeting of the MSC.
- Minutes are submitted to Council for receipt
- Recommendations from MSC Meetings are communicated to Council by the Chief Executive / Group Manager to ensure that they are actioned accordingly.
- There will be an appropriate induction for new members of the Committee



8.2 MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE: IWI PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS

Author: Hinetaakoha Viriaere, Pouwhakarae - Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory

Authoriser: Matthew Lawson, Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive

Appendices: Nil

PURPOSE

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWaR) iwi participation arrangements under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), outlines the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe initiations received by Wairoa District Council to date, and provides context regarding the current resource management reform programme and potential implications for Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The Pouwhakarae - Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory RECOMMENDS that Committee receive the report titled “Mana Whakahono ā Rohe – Iwi Participation Arrangements”.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Overview

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWaR) are formal iwi participation arrangements provided for under the *Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)*.

The provisions were introduced through the *Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017* and provide a mechanism for iwi authorities and local authorities to discuss and agree how they will work together on resource management matters.

Broadly, MWaR arrangements are intended to support:

- early and meaningful engagement;
- clearer participation pathways in planning and consenting processes;
- improved understanding of expectations between iwi authorities and councils;
- recognition of Treaty settlement arrangements and iwi planning documents; and
- stronger relationships in relation to resource management and environmental management matters.

Under section 580 of the RMA, iwi authorities may formally initiate a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process with one or more local authorities.

Following initiation, an initial hui must generally be convened within 60 working days unless otherwise agreed between the parties.

The legislation provides flexibility regarding the scope and structure of any agreement. Arrangements are not intended to be “one size fits all” and may vary depending on the aspirations, priorities and geographic interests of participating authorities.

The Resource Management Act 1991 also enables local authorities to initiate Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements directly with iwi authorities or hapū where appropriate.

2.2 Current Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Initiations

Wairoa District Council has recently received formal Mana Whakahono ā Rohe initiations.

These include initiations from:

- Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust;
- Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa Trust
- Te Wairoa Tapokorau Whānui Trust; and
- Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust.

The initiations generally seek to establish strengthened and enduring arrangements between iwi authorities and councils and include matters for discussion including:

- district planning;
- spatial planning;
- resource consenting and notification processes;
- monitoring and compliance;
- mātauranga Māori and cultural values;
- climate adaptation and natural hazards; and
- Treaty settlement implementation.

The initiations also reference the importance of iwi management plans, mātauranga Māori, Treaty settlement arrangements and existing relationship agreements as part of future resource management and planning discussions. The initiations received also acknowledge the significant changes currently occurring within the resource management system and the need to establish enduring relationship frameworks capable of operating within evolving legislative settings.

2.3 Resource Management Reform Context

The current resource management reform environment is highly dynamic and is contributing to increased activity in this area. Central Government has signalled significant reform of the resource management system, including proposed replacement legislation for the Resource Management Act 1991.

At present, councils, PSGE partners, iwi authorities, hapū, and other stakeholders are navigating multiple overlapping reform processes, planning programmes, and strategic initiatives including:

- ongoing National Direction changes;
- freshwater reform implementation;
- spatial planning discussions;
- climate adaptation work;
- Treaty settlement implementation obligations;
- local government reform discussions; and
- uncertainty regarding future planning legislation and governance structures.

The Government has indicated that further announcements and progression of proposed planning legislation is expected later in 2026. Accordingly, many iwi authorities and councils are seeking to proactively establish or strengthen relationship arrangements now, prior to further legislative transition.

There is also increasing recognition nationally that:

- iwi participation arrangements need to function effectively across future planning systems;
- environmental systems and catchments extend beyond territorial boundaries;
- planning processes need to better integrate mātauranga Māori;
- earlier engagement can reduce conflict and uncertainty later in statutory processes.

This also intersects with ongoing discussions regarding spatial planning, regional coordination, climate adaptation and proposed local government reform, including discussions regarding potential future governance and planning structures within Hawke's Bay.

As a result, iwi authorities and councils are increasingly seeking to establish relationship frameworks capable of operating across evolving planning and governance systems.

2.4 Risks and Considerations

2.4.1 Capacity and Resourcing

Both councils and iwi authorities may face capacity and resourcing constraints associated with negotiating, implementing and maintaining Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements, particularly while multiple reform programmes and strategic planning processes are occurring concurrently.

Council will seek to manage these pressures through coordinated engagement planning, prioritisation of key workstreams, and alignment with existing planning and reform programmes where possible. Council will also seek opportunities to support efficient and collaborative processes through technical advice, information sharing, administrative assistance, and collaborative drafting support where appropriate.

2.4.2 Legislative Uncertainty

The current resource management reform programme creates uncertainty regarding how future planning legislation and local government reform may interact with existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements and associated governance structures.

Council will continue monitoring Government reform announcements and seek to ensure any future arrangements remain sufficiently flexible to adapt to evolving legislative settings.

2.4.3 Cross-Boundary Coordination

Some Mana Whakahono ā Rohe initiations involve multiple councils and cross-boundary rohe, which may increase coordination complexity, governance considerations and alignment requirements between participating authorities. Ongoing coordination with neighbouring councils and participating iwi authorities may assist in reducing duplication and supporting more consistent approaches across shared rohe and catchments.

2.4.4 Implementation Considerations

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements are relationship and process-based mechanisms and do not override statutory decision-making responsibilities or legislative requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Early clarification of roles, expectations, processes and communication pathways may assist in supporting effective implementation and relationship management over time.

2.5 Next Steps

Council officers are currently progressing preliminary engagement and coordination discussions with initiating iwi authorities.

Initial hui are expected to focus on:

- confirming participating parties;
- agreeing negotiation processes;
- establishing timeframes and milestones; and
- identifying key priority issues and areas of mutual interest.

Given the broader reform environment, Council considers it important that engagement and relationship discussions occur in a coordinated and strategic manner.

At this stage, no formal agreements have been entered into.

Further reports may be provided to Council and relevant committees as discussions progress and as greater clarity emerges regarding the Government's proposed planning reforms.

2.6 Contribution to Council Vision and Outcomes

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements support strengthened relationships and engagement with tangata whenua in relation to environmental management, planning and regulatory processes.

The arrangements also support collaborative approaches to future planning, resilience and environmental outcomes within the district.

Further Information

- [Ministry for the Environment – Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Guidance](#)
- [Resource Management Act 1991 – Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Provisions](#)
- [Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Guidance Document \(MfE PDF\)](#)

References (to or from other Committees)

Assurance, Risk and Infrastructure Committee 27th May 2026 – Mana Whakahono ā rohe: Iwi Participation Arrangements Report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

8.3 SPATIAL PLANNING - INTRODUCTION AND PROGRESS UPDATE

Author: Hinetaakoha Viriaere, Pouwhakarae - Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory

Authoriser: Matthew Lawson, Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive

Appendices: Nil

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report introduces the Māori Standing Committee to spatial planning for the Wairoa district and provides an update on progress to date, including the legislative context, engagement and current project status.

RECOMMENDATION

The Pouwhakarae - Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager Planning and Regulatory RECOMMENDS that Committee receive the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Spatial planning is a strategic, long-term approach to managing how land and resources are used across a district. It brings together environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations to guide where and how development should occur, while protecting areas of significance to Wairoa including sites of historical and cultural importance and managing natural hazards.
- 2.2 Spatial planning is critical for Wairoa given its coastal environments, rural landscapes, infrastructure limitations and exposure to hazards such as flooding. It supports a proactive, integrated approach to managing growth, resilience and the environment by directing development to suitable areas and ensuring efficient infrastructure investment.
- 2.3 This work will inform the future Regional Combined Plan, improve decision-making, align with regional and local priorities, support climate change responses, and reflect the values of Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs), kāhui, iwi, hapū, marae, external stakeholders and the community.
- 2.4 The Planning Team presented a “Spatial Planning – Wairoa District” workshop to Council and Elected Members on 16 December 2025, covering an introduction to spatial planning, the Resource Management reform context, the new planning framework, and proposed next steps.
- 2.5 To date, work has involved gathering, researching and analysing existing plans, strategies, assessments and reports held by Council. This information is being incorporated into a background report to support evidence-based decision-making.

This is an ongoing process, and where information gaps are identified, further assessments and technical reports will be completed internally or commissioned externally where specialist input is required.

3. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Government is replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) through two new pieces of legislation: the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill. Both Bills were introduced in December 2025, with submissions closing in February 2026. They are currently progressing through the Select Committee stage, with enactment anticipated within 2026. New national direction instruments came into force on 15 January 2026.
- 3.2 The key plans Council will be involved in preparing or giving effect to is shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: RM Reform Framework

Plan / Instrument	Who is responsible	What it does
Regional Spatial Plan	All regional, district and unitary councils in a region, working together.	Sets the long-term strategic direction for growth and infrastructure across the region and enables that direction to be integrated into other plans.
Regional Natural Environment Plan	Regional councils and unitary councils.	Regulates the use and protection of natural resources, such as water, air and land.
District Land Use Plan	District councils and unitary councils (this is where Wairoa District Council's role sits).	Regulates the use and development of land within the district, replacing the current District Plan.

- 3.3 The Regional Spatial Plan sets the big-picture direction for the whole region; the Regional Natural Environment Plan manages natural resources at a regional level; and each district, including Wairoa, prepares a Land Use Plan that must give effect to both the Regional Spatial Plan and national direction. Together, these will form the Regional Combined Plan.
- 3.4 Ongoing review is required of the impacts of resource management reform on spatial planning, hazards, infrastructure, housing and environmental management, and Council will continue to update the Committee as the legislation progresses through Parliament.

4. WAIROA SNAPSHOT

- 4.1 Spatial planning is critical for guiding Wairoa's long-term development in a way that supports community wellbeing, protects the environment, and strengthens growth economic resilience.
- 4.2 As a district with significant natural assets, strong cultural identity and exposure to natural hazards, Wairoa faces both unique challenges and opportunities that require coordinated, place-based planning.
- 4.3 Effective spatial planning provides a framework to align land use, infrastructure, transport, housing and environmental management decisions across the district. Rather than responding to growth or change reactively, spatial planning enables Council, PSGEs, kāhui, iwi, hapū, marae, communities and agencies to work towards a shared vision for how Wairoa should develop over time, and where different activities are best located.
- 4.4 A clear spatial framework also supports economic development by identifying appropriate locations for industrial, rural, tourism and commercial activities, supported by fit-for-purpose infrastructure.

- 4.5 Spatial planning provides an important opportunity to reflect Māori aspirations, mātauranga Māori and the cultural significance of places across the district. Embedding these values early in the process supports more inclusive decision-making and stronger relationships with PSGEs, kāhui, iwi, hapū and marae.

5. WAIROA SNAPSHOT

- 5.1 Spatial planning for Wairoa, led by Wairoa, enables local priorities, aspirations and challenges to shape future growth and investment, and ensures these are clearly articulated early so they are reflected in wider regional planning and investment decisions.
- 5.2 Wairoa District Council wants to ensure a strong partnership with local Māori communities in the development of spatial planning for the district. This is essential in a district with a high Māori population, to support intergenerational planning that reflects cultural values and aspirations. Early engagement with PSGEs, kāhui, iwi, hapū and marae will be undertaken on this basis.
- 5.3 A number of practical matters will need to be worked through with PSGEs and kāhui as engagement begins, including how each group wishes to be involved, preferred representatives and points of contact, meeting frequency and format (including whether engagement is combined or held individually given the number of groups involved), preferred communication channels, and how mātauranga Māori or other sensitive information should be handled.

6. BACKGROUND REPORT

- 6.1 Significant progress has been made on the evidence-based background report for the Spatial Plan. This report gathers and analyses demographic, socioeconomic, environmental, infrastructure, hazard, climate and land use information to establish an evidence base for long-term planning.

7. PROJECT STATUS

- 7.1 The spatial planning project requires a range of key outputs. Table 2 below sets out the status of key tasks.

Table 2: Status of Key Tasks

Topic	Description	Status
Partnership Engagement	Partnership with Māori – engage with PSGEs, kāhui, iwi and hapū regarding the engagement framework for spatial planning.	Spatial Planning Hui scheduled for June 2026.
Targeted Engagement	Vision and outcomes workshops with partners, stakeholders and the wider community.	Process to start after initial engagement conversations are complete.
Demographic Data	Review of population and economic trends.	Stats NZ data compared against the 2017 Growth Directions Report to build an analysis of demographic data and change.
Environmental	Assessment of natural resources, climate, land use and environmental issues.	Some data is outdated. Community input needed. Initial analysis complete; will require review once all information is collected.
Natural Hazards	Identification of risks – earthquake, flood, tsunami, volcanic activity, landslide, erosion and coastal hazard.	Gaps remain in hazard information specific to Wairoa District, with Council awaiting updated modelling from the Regional Council.
Roading Infrastructure	Understanding network use, issues and key freight routes.	Roading usage data has been collected. Further work to follow on mitigation options.
Waters Infrastructure	Assessment of network capacity, performance and condition.	Gaps identified; access to modelling and further assessment needed.

8. KEY DIRECTION

8.1 The evidence base gathered so far points to the following key directions:

- Spatial planning aims to support economic development and improve investor confidence in the district.
- Growth must be hazard-informed and infrastructure-aligned, to protect communities and manage costs.
- Housing delivery must prioritise affordability, resilience and regeneration.
- Environmental restoration and biodiversity protection must be integrated into spatial decisions.
- Spatial decisions must reflect cultural values and protect sites of cultural significance
- Isolation risk and transport resilience are critical district-wide issues.
- Updated hazard modelling and improved data are required to support confident, sustainable long-term planning.
- Infrastructure renewal, roading works and land use planning must be proactively integrated

9. OPTIONS

9.1 As this is a progress update with no decision required, no options are presented for the Committee's consideration at this time. The following work is proposed to continue:

- Early engagement with PSGEs, kāhui, iwi, hapū and marae regarding the engagement framework.
- Continued discussions with Hawke's Bay Regional Council and other agencies to obtain hazard, infrastructure and environmental information.
- Commissioning of further technical assessments where information gaps are identified.
- Identification of areas suitable for future growth, based on infrastructure capacity, hazards and access to services.
- Continued progress reporting to Council and relevant committees.

9.2 This work contributes to the following community outcomes:

Cultural Wellbeing	Economic Wellbeing	Social Wellbeing	Environmental Wellbeing
Valued and cherished community.	Strong and prosperous economy.	Safe, supported and well-led community.	Protected and healthy environment.

Further Information

[Better planning for a better New Zealand | Ministry for the Environment](#)

[Planning Bill | New Zealand Legislation](#)

References (to or from other Committees)

Assurance, Risk and Infrastructure Committee 29th April 2026 – Planning and Regulatory Quarterly Report.

8.4 HBRC - MĀORI RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER REPORT

Author: Hinemoa Hubbard, Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer

Authoriser: Juanita Savage, Chief of Operations

Appendices: 1. HBRC Manager - June Update [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information for the Māori Standing Committee on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) Report, authored by Nathan Heath (HBRC Māori Relationship Manager - Northern Hawke's Bay). No decisions are required by the Committee at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

The Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receive the report.



Northern Hawke's Bay – HBRC Māori Relationship Manager update

17 June 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa

This update provides a summary of key HBRC matters relevant to Northern HB Mana Whenua, with a particular emphasis on Central Government Reform, local staffing changes, Mana Whakahono a Rohe requests and current Wairoa Catchment issues.

Simplifying Local Government / Natural Environment and National Planning Bills

Local Councils are working through an agreed MoU to negotiate a proposal for the Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway. Proposals are due 9 August 2026.

RMA Reforms are at Select Committee, with a report following submissions due ~ 26 June. Central Government remains committed to passing the Bills into law before elections.

Current reform proposals indicate that HBRC in its current form, is expected to be dis-established by 2028. Although this is contingent on what direction Councils take in HB through the Head Start pathway. Indications are that the functions carried out by Regional Council will still need to be delivered at a regional scale. This includes science monitoring, RMA planning, permit applications and monitoring, river control, drainage schemes, flood protection, biosecurity, biodiversity, catchment management and Māori relationship obligations,

Both reforms are working on tight timeframes and will result in significant change to how the Taiao is managed. The proposed timeframes and process settings will reduce opportunities for meaningful community and mana whenua consultation and participation for Wairoa.

- Most existing consents are being extended to December 2027, and then further extended to 2031. Councils will need to transition to a new permitting system with higher thresholds for notification (activity effects and those affected). This reduces the opportunity for mana whenua to participate in the consenting process.
- Planning requirements – Regional Spatial Plan needs to be notified 15 months after the Bills have passed and Natural Environment Plan and Land Use Plan are to be notified nine months after the Regional Spatial Plan decision have been made. These plans requiring local limit setting and allocation systems for each management unit for air, indigenous biodiversity, coastal environment, freshwater and soil.
- There are pathways for local participation and influence in the proposed planning process but it will need to be done quickly and with a lot more emphasis on considering the implication of deviating from National Standards, on private land owners.
- Action plans need to be developed where environmental limits are breached or at risk of crossing thresholds, with fewer policy levers available to achieve them. However these Action Plans will require meaningful engagement locally across all of those contributing to the issue and solution.
- Treaty settlement obligations are required at the same or equivalent effect. HBRC and all HB Councils have multiple obligations with PSGE's and Iwi entities, across a wide range of mechanisms including Settlement Acts, Statutory obligations and operational relationships.
- Sites of significance protection within the proposed National Environment Plan is a narrower approach to sections 6 and 7 in the existing RMA. With wāhi tapu in the current drafting of the bill is instead categorised as "historic heritage".
- Providing greater protection for our special sites and or unique areas in the new planning approach will have to consider where the impact of a rule change is significant on property rights.

If it is it will require some form of relief mechanism, which could include, development rights, rates relief, access to grants, land swaps etc, so future planning decisions have a much greater cost on the community requiring careful consideration.

Wairoa Office Staff update

We said farewell to Alice Wilson last week who has left to go on maternity leave. We also said farewell to Bryan McCavana and Abby Miller all of whom have spent up to 7 years working in the district supporting landowners reduce soil erosion on farm. Our office whānau have been passionate about their work in the district, they have supported the planting of thousands of trees and protected hundreds of hectares of land. They have also participated in the community beyond their job descriptions, through emergency responses and community and school events. We wish them all well in the future.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreements and Iwi Hapū Management Plans

Following on from the Fast Track Approvals Act (2024) and the preservation of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements (and those initiated) under the new Bills, there has been significant interest by PSGE's and Iwi Entities in initiating a MWHaR with HBRC. No new MWHaR agreements can be initiated once the Bills are signed into law. This could be within the next few months.

To date across Hawkes Bay 8 MWHaR agreements have been received by HBRC, with Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa, Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust and Te Wairoa Tapokorau Whānui Trust all having initiated recently. There is uncertainty still as to what effect these agreements will have in the reformed system.

Waiatai Valley Tuna Mortality event

There has been significant time and effort spent in the Waiatai Valley investigating what caused the Tuna mortality event on 12 January 2026. Water analysis, on-going monitoring, site investigations and engagement with the community have identified that the source of the problem originated in the large Hikanui wetland.

Linked to the weather leading up to the event – low rainfall, high temperatures and subsequent high rainfall storm events, resulted in the mobilisation of large quantities of organic material into the wetland. The breakdown of this organic material led to an almost complete drop in oxygen levels in stream, a lowering of pH and an increase in the toxicity of several trace elements. This flowed into the Waiatai stream leading to the death of many tuna below the meeting of the Hikanui and Waiatai streams.

A community meeting was held on 21 April 2026, to discuss the results of investigations and monitoring and to consider the next steps for reducing the event happening again. Just recently funding has been approved for a wider Waiatai Valley catchment investigation.

GDC Southern Catchments Plan

Gisborne District Council has been progressing the Freshwater Management Plan for their “Southern Catchments” which includes the headwaters of the Ruakituri, Nuhaka and Kōpuawhara catchments and all of the Hangaroa and Mangapoike Catchments. What regulations are in place and how these areas are managed in the future has implications for what impact they may have downstream. The Hangaroa and Mangapoike catchments for example contribute the first and third greatest volume of sediment to the total Wairoa sediment load and were flowing 300% above their normal flow during Cyclone Gabrielle.

<https://www.gdc.govt.nz/environment/rivers,-water-and-wetlands/our-rivers/catchment-plans/Southern-Catchment-Plan>

GDC is proposing to not notify the plan until after the Governments Plan Stop legislation has passed or new direction is given.

A meeting has been planned for Iwitea Marae on 24th June to further discuss the direction of the plan and cross-border issues identified at a recent Mana Whenua hui.

HBRC Māori Committee

The inaugural meeting of the HBRC Māori Committee for this triennium was held on 3 June 2026. This committee has been meeting for 36 years and plays a crucial role in representing Mana Whenua issues around the Council tables. The Committee representatives from Wairoa include, Katarina Kawana (Co-Chair), Adrian Manuel and Paul Kelly.

The agenda for the meeting can be found via the link below -

<https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/meetings/>

HBRC Māori Partnerships

HBRC has recently undertaken a restructure across several groups. Within this change process, the former Māori Partnerships Group has formally expanded to become Tū Hono Rau – Community and Partnerships, reporting to Te Pou Whakarae – Te Wairama Munro. Within this group Māori Partnerships resourcing has not changed and a Manager, Māori Partnerships has been introduced (currently out to market). The group also brings together the Communications, Engagement, Creative and Marketing, and Environmental Education functions recognising a need for an integrated and consistent approach to community engagement and partnerships.

Within this process there has been a change to my current role as Māori Relationship Manager – Northern Hawke’s Bay. The role will be broadened to support both mana whenua and communities of the northern Hawke’s Bay with local issues. The role will continue to report directly to Te Pou Whakarae, rather than within the Māori Partnerships team.

Ngā mihi



Nathan Heath
HBRC Māori Relationship Manager – Northern HB

8.5 TAKIWĀ UPDATE - TE WAIROA MATANGIRAU

Author: Hinemoa Hubbard, Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer

Authoriser: Juanita Savage, Chief of Operations

Appendices:

1. **Whaakirangi Marae Update** [↓](#)
2. **Whakaki Marae Update** [↓](#)
3. **Iwitea Marae Update** [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information for the Māori Standing Committee with updates from marae within the Te Wairoa Matangirau Takiwā, as provided by Elizabeth Palmer, the Committee member representing the Te Wairoa Matangirau Takiwā.

No decisions are required by Committee at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

The Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receive the report.

Whaakirangi Marae Report

17 June 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Below are some highlights from Whaakirangi Marae during the 2024–2025 reporting period. A further update covering the 2025–2026 period will be presented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting next month.

Community Support

Following the June 2024 flood event, Whaakirangi Marae provided support to whānau and community members affected by the flooding. The marae opened its doors as emergency accommodation and continued to support recovery efforts within the community.

Governance

The Trust completed a governance update process through the Māori Land Court, ensuring trustee records are kept current and positioning the marae to meet future governance requirements.

Flood Protection Planning

The marae participated in stakeholder discussions relating to the Wairoa Flood Protection Plan. Although the formal stakeholder group has disbanded this kaupapa remains active.

Cultural Impact Assessment

The marae supported the completion of a Cultural Impact Assessment in response to the proposed Wairoa Airport runway extension. This work documented culturally significant sites within the Paeroa area and contributed to the preservation of important cultural and historical information for future generations.

Environmental Kaupapa

Whānau participated in an environmental wānanga focused on freshwater health, Te Mana o te Wai principles and kaitiakitanga as a response to environmental impacts from the Paeroa drainage scheme. We buried dead tuna and learned the process for tuna retrieval and release. The wānanga strengthened connections to our waterways and reinforced the importance of protecting our taiao and how we can strengthen future engagements with local government.

Marae Development

Work progressed on plans to improve marae facilities and strengthen the marae's ability to support whānau during emergencies and community events. Cyclone Recovery Appeal fund supported the replacement of our existing ablution block. The upgrade has enhanced the marae's ability to support both everyday activities and emergency response situations within the community and includes an accessible bathroom. Although we are aware of the current changes to Oranga Marae and other Lottery funds our aspiration remains focussed on completing a Marae Development Plan (MDP).

Looking Ahead

Building resilience remains a key priority for Whaakirangi marae. Lessons learned from Cyclone Gabrielle and the June 2024 flood have highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness. Our marae is interested in exploring options such for rainwater harvesting, water storage and solar power solutions to strengthen the marae's ability to support whānau and the wider community during future climate change.

Kia tāruatia aku mihi
Lace

Whakaki Marae - MSC report - June 2026.docx

Whakakī Marae MSC report – June 2026

Kia ora e ngā rangatira. Ānei rā te pūrongo ā te marae nei ko Te Whakakī.
Kia ora everyone. Below are some highlights to share with you all from events and happenings at Whakakī Marae over the past three months.

Fundraising

After the success of our Golf and Fishing competitions earlier this year, we are now planning for our next fundraiser, which will be a Trivia Quiz night, planned for Saturday July 11th.

They'll be some great prizes on the night along with the whanaungatanga, so encourage everyone to come along.

Whanaungatanga

We had an ope of about 50 people from Rongomaipapa Marae (Horohoro, near Rotorua) visit us March. Our manuhiri were descendants of a group of people who moved to Horohoro in the 1930s from Wairoa and its surrounding areas, including Whakakī. The descendants were undertaking a haerenga back to Wairoa to reconnect with their whānau here and visit their Marae. Amongst those visiting were members of our Wilson and Walker whānau.

We once again held an ANZAC Day service at Whakakī Marae to commemorate our servicemen and servicewomen who have served overseas. We had over 40 people attend the event.

Whakakī Marae will host the next WDC Māori Standing Committee hui to be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 Attendance is open to the public, and all are welcome.

Upgrading marae facilities

We've submitted our funding application to Oranga Marae for the detailed design of a new ablution block by the wharekai. We'll find out shortly whether this is successful or not.

Very sad to hear that this Government is doing away with specific funding for marae development (i.e. the Oranga Marae program), and that this funding will return to the general funding pool. Marae will now have to compete against every other organisation in Aotearoa for funding.

Marae Centenary – 2026

Planning is underway to organise a celebration for the marae's 100th birthday. Activities are planned for the week of Labour Weekend (21st-25th October 2026).

The marae will be given a spruce up prior to this through a series of weekend activities, the first of which is scheduled for Saturday June 6th.

In July, work will also start on building a waharoa outside the front of our whareniui.

Whakaki Marae - MSC report - June 2026.docx

Taiao related activities

It has been quiet over the summer period, but planning will kick in soon for the Whakakī Lake Trust planting day, where the marae is used as a base for activities. This is a great day for young and old, and is an opportunity for whānau to connect with our whenua and our people.

Pae Tapu - Pae Rangatira

This is an initiative being run by Tātau Tātau to develop ways to increase the number of, and enhance the skills and abilities of our kaikaranga and kaiwhaikorero. A kick-off hui was held at Pūtahi marae in December last year, and a follow up hui at Tuahuru marae in February.

Planning is underway for a kaikaranga wānanga, potentially to be hosted at Whakakī Marae in July.

Māori Standing Committee Report
For Matangirau Takiwa
23 June 2026, 11.30 – 3pm @ Whakaki Marae

Iwitea Marae

Past:

- Held series of Tohorā wānanga, led by Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Trust (TToTWT)
- Held AGM and General hui on May 17th, 2026
- Wānanga for a Review of Marae Charter
- Introduction from HookMade for Trustee training
- Invited Chair of TToTWT for an update on activities
- Good season this year for Duck Shooting
- Wairoa Taiwhenua initiative - Starlink at Iwitea Marae free for two years
- Held our ANZAC memorial at Marae
- Repairs & Maintenance are on-going

Present:

- Working on draft Marae Strategic Plan – Organising a wānanga
- Organising a crew to name new catering equipment received through funding last year
- Planning for Matariki celebrations at Marae in July – (any koha welcome WDC)
- Dealing with clean-up of papakāinga in the village
- Liasing with TToTWT for Kāhui Pods to come

Future:

- Matariki celebrations the weekend of Matariki holiday along with wānanga
- Wānanga with Hapū to create a Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreement under the umbrella of TToTWT by end of July
- Wānanga for Marae Strategic Plan
- Wānanga for Hapū Taiao plan
- Need to discuss current Rapid Numbers in village – CEO
- Discuss Rates for past papakāinga lessees – CEO

Ngā mihi mahana

Liz Palmer

Chair Iwitea Marae
Matangirau Takiwa Rep

8.6 TAKIWĀ UPDATE - TE WAIROA HŌPŪPŪ

Author: Hinemoa Hubbard, Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer

Authoriser: Juanita Savage, Chief of Operations

Appendices: 1. Te Wairoa Hōpūpū Takiwā Update [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report provides information for the Māori Standing Committee with an update for the Te Wairoa Hōpūpū Takiwā, as provided by Marino Harker-Smith, the Committee member representing the Te Wairoa Hōpūpū Takiwā.

No decisions are required by Committee at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

The Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receive the report.

Tākiwa report for Te Wairoa Hōpūpū**By Marino Harker-Smith, Te Wairoa Hōpūpū representative**

Te Wairoa Hōpūpū represents seven marae mostly based at or near Frasertown – Pūtahi, Whetū Marama Mākoro, Hineterā, Pākowhai, Aranui, Te Arimāwha, and Rangiāhua. Listed are some events coming up for these marae and highlight of some of the key issues raised in regards to Wairoa District Council at present.

Pākōwhai Marae AGM

Pākōwhai Marae has its AGM coming on Saturday 8 August and they are also looking forward to hosting one of the Council's local government reforms community hui on Monday 29 June.

Update on rec/Frasertown hall plans

Members of the takiwā and hapori have been promoting the date of the upcoming Local Reforms community hui within marae networks and hoping it has as good a turnout as the previous community hui at Pākōwhai Marae earlier this year discussing plans for the former Frasertown "rec" hall.

There is interest in an update on how those plans are going for the rec as well as the Frasertown community plan in general.

Local government reforms community hui

The current political climate around local council's is a particular concern for members in my takiwā. The strong-arm tactics of the government in forcing amalgamation is a significant concern that it will leave real world consequences on how Wairoa District Council forms, shapes, amends and implements its own policies with regard to Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The planned community hui next week is a good start for hapori to have input into the options that are being considered and how the Council plans to proceed on a preferred option.

Māori Policy review

Concern was expressed about the timing of the Māori Policy review given the current political climate. This is especially important in relation to the Central Government's recent announcement of plans to deny voting rights to unelected appointees on council committees unless they are part of statutory or Treaty settlement-based arrangements [Local Government (System Improvements) Bill]

I understand that Council's perspective was that the policy has not been reviewed since 2017 and was therefore overdue for a review according to Council's schedule. Given the bill currently going through Central Government, it would be essential for any amendments or

updates to the policy would seek to strengthen not weaken the relationships between the Council and Māori in the Wairoa District as well as involvement of the Māori hapori in the process.

8.7 TAKIWĀ UPDATE - TE WAIROA HŌNENGENENGE

Author: Hinemoa Hubbard, Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer

Authoriser: Juanita Savage, Chief of Operations

Appendices: 1. Te Wairoa Hōnengenenge Update [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information for the Māori Standing Committee with an update for the Te Wairoa Hōnengenenge Takiwā, as provided by Whai-ora Maindonald, the Committee member representing the Te Wairoa Hōnengenenge Takiwā.

No decisions are required by Committee at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

The Kaiurungi Mana Arahi | Governance Officer RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receive the report.

Te Wairoa Hōnengenenge Report

Kia ora koutou,

It's good to be back on the marae engaging with our extended whānau.

I've just spoken with the Deputy Chair of **Takitimu Marae** and they are looking forward to the rebuild and restoration of their marae. They're still hiring out the marae but only to small groups. She is also looking at organising a wananga for the young whanau who want to learn how to prepare the marae for tangihanga.

Hinemihi Marae is working on maintenance work, never ending.

No feedback on **Tawhiti A Maru Marae** rebuild as yet.

Very disappointing to see that people are still fly dumping on the corner of Kaimoana and Airport Rd. This has been going on for quite some time. Cleaning this mess up cost the ratepayers a considerable amount of money. Camera's need to be installed to catch the offenders.

Ngā mihi,

Whai-ora Maindonald