

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT TE MATAAPUNA, TŪRANGITUKUA PARK, HIRANGI ROAD, TŪRANGI
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 2025 AT 1.30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Sandra Greenslade (in the Chair), Ms Melanie Albert, Cr Karam Fletcher, Ms Ngaire Grainger, Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Parks and Reserves Manager (G Hadley), Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner (M Isherwood), Iwi and Co-Governance Advisor (A Kereopa), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC:

- Notes:
- (i) *The meeting was scheduled to begin at 1.00pm, however it began at 1.30pm due to a previous meeting running over time.*
 - (ii) *Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade opened the meeting and encouraged all present to recite the karakia.*
 - (iii) *Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade advised that Mayor David Trewavas had asked Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor to attend the meeting in his place. The Deputy Mayor could exercise all of the Mayor's powers.*
 - (iv) *Items were considered in the following order: 1, 2, 4.1, 5.3, 5.2, 5.4.*

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TRG202503/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karam Fletcher
Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That apologies from Mr Dave Potaka and Mayor David Trewavas be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202503/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 2 OCTOBER 2024

TRG202503/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Melanie Albert
Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the minutes of the Tongariro Representative Group meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202503/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Item **withdrawn**.

5.2 PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATES

Whiowhio Reserve

The Parks and Reserves Manager explained that a tree plan had been developed which involved a maintenance and removal programme with the worst trees being removed first. In their place, Kahikatea trees would be planted. Council had their own Pekapeka monitoring devices for the native bats and before any work would be conducted these would be hung in the trees to record any activity. This was a requirement under the Wildlife Management Act.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- Accessway on the reserve had been granted to one of the neighbouring houses while building was occurring.
- The toilet located on the reserve might not be required to be there as it was not well used and there were better facilities down the road.

Erosion

The Parks and Reserves Manager explained they were planning to lodge their consent shortly which would include Pukawa and were going through the final meetings with Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board. Taupō District Council did have some reserve land in Pukawa which was in front of the papakāinga housing and officers were working closely with Pukawa Marae regarding this. Planting had been completed and what was required according to the Reserve Management Plan had been completed; the purpose of the consent was to be there if further work was required to be completed in the future. In answer to a question it was explained that when nourishment was completed, it was sloped gradually but the lake could cut it away.

Freedom Camping

The Parks and Reserves Manager explained that there were “no freedom camping” signs going onto lakefront reserves between Tūrangi and Taupō. The signs would be screwed into posts. There were other signs indicating where the nearest toilets were.

In answer to a question, the following was explained:

- Officers had spoken with Destination Great Lake Taupō to update the app regarding where freedom camping could be.
- The compliance team and Senjo had been checking the sites and having conversations regarding freedom camping.

TRG202503/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Ngaire Grainger

Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the progress updates on projects and operations.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202503/03 above.

5.3 TONGARIRO - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOT TOPICS

Community Engagement

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner explained she had reached out to the community champions asking for the feedback and how they found the Long-term Plan process, they appreciated that Council followed up with them.

A location for the Men Shed in Tūrangi was needed and she asked members to get in touch if they knew of an appropriate place.

The celebrations for 2024 Christmas was great and the coloured trees were well received.

Upcoming events for 2025 had been scheduled in with Easter scheduled to be celebrated at Te Mataapuna on 19 April, Matariki on 20 June would be a full day of events followed with the night markets with Ngāti Tūrangitukua involved more and Christmas in the park was set for 13 December.

She explained she had been working alongside the policy team for the Tūrangi Reserve Management Plan. The first engagement with the community had been at the Saturday market with lots of people interested. The public were surprised about the number of reserves in the area. Officers had asked people if they used the reserves and how they used them currently. There was another round of engagement scheduled for the Saturday Markets on 15 March.

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner had been working with the Iwi and Co-Governance Team to understand how they could work more collaboratively together. Work was being completed regarding Māori wards, voting and educating people on why it was important to vote in the upcoming elections this year.

The community gardens were going stronger than ever, community members had been coming through and learning how to grow fruits and vegetables. The Department of Corrections had built more garden beds and these were given to community members after learning so they could grow their own at home.

The previous General Manager People and Community Partnerships had accepted a new job with the Department of Conservation as Operational Manager for the Tongariro District. The whakatau was being held the following Tuesday at 10.00am and she asked members to tell her if they wanted to attend.

TRG202503/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Melanie Albert
Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information contained in the Tongariro – Community Engagement and Hot Topics report.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202503/04 above.

5.4 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following members' reports were received:

Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor

- The road between Tūrangi and Taupō was proposed to be closed for an extended period of time. He had a meeting the following Monday with the Regional Transport Committee and would be talking with the NZTA Waikato Regional Lead about this to see if there was some influence on roading. Bulli point was the main focus for the works.
- There were speed limit reviews which were running through the submission process. A proposed change was to see state highway one near Bulli Point and past the Motutere Campground have a 100km speed limit. The road near the campground was a significant part of the road as it was frequently used by campers.
- A new road between Taupō and Tūrangi could be included in the submission however the focus for Central Government was economic development and growth; developing this road would likely not

have any economic benefits. The cost to build this road which would come in at Hallets Bay and then again south of Motuoapa would be hundreds of millions of dollars.

Cr Sandra Greenslade

- Tūrangi airfield should be okay going forward.
- The Tūrangi/Tongariro Community Grants were open on 3 March 2025 and closed a month later and she encouraged people to apply.
- Acknowledged the passing of Dave Lumley, he worked for 50 years for the Department of Conservation and would be missed terribly.

Ms Melanie Albert

- Was spending a lot of time at Whakapapa which was very busy.
- Acknowledged Ngāti Tūrangitukua, her daughter was an intern over summer and she had come away with confidence and knowledge about different councils and agencies.
- Due to state highway one closures, state highway 47 was a lot busier.
- Tongariro School had a new principal, the school had more structure, a bilingual class had been introduced and there was continuous improvement.

Ms Ngaire Grainger

- She was no longer on the Omori Kuratau Ratepayers Association Committee.
- The Christmas period was busy. The Easter Market was scheduled on Saturday 19 April and a sunset Anzac parade at 5pm on Anzac Day.
- Funding from central government was available for age friendly communities and she wondered if this committee could apply to use the funds towards a bus to go between Taupō and Tūrangi. Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade explained that it was difficult for Councils to get central government funding, she would pass this information to SeniorNet and Tokaanu-Tūrangi RSA.

TRG202503/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Ngaire Grainger

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the reports from members.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202503/05 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 2.13pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Tongariro Representative Group Meeting held on 7 May 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON