

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TE MATAAPUNA, TŪRANGITUKUA PARK, HIRANGI ROAD, TŪRANGI
ON WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2025 AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Karam Fletcher (in the Chair), Ms Melanie Albert, Ms Ngaire Grainger, Mr Dave Potaka

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager People and Community Partnerships (H Tattle), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Community Engagement and Development Manager (T Russell), Parks and Reserves Manager (G Hadley), Senior Project Manager PMO (E May), Team Lead – Development Engineering (N Beacock via MS Teams), Policy Advisor (C Pilkington), Iwi and Co-Governance Advisor (A Kereopa), Iwi Engagement Partner (T W Walker), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: 5 members of the public

1 KARAKIA

The meeting was opened and closed with a karakia by all present.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TRG202506/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Dave Potaka

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That apologies from Mayor David Trewavas and Cr Sandra Greenslade be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202506/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 5 MARCH 2025

TRG202506/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karam Fletcher

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the minutes of the Tongariro Representative Group meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 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 TRG202506/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Item withdrawn

5.2 PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATES

Omori Water Treatment Plant Project

The Infrastructure Project Manager introduced himself and explained he was looking after the Omori water treatment plant project. The build was almost complete and the next step was the internal fit out. The completion date was scheduled for November 2025.

He also provided updates regarding the Motuoapa and Hatepe water treatment plant projects.

He explained that ground improvements had started at Motuoapa. It was a membrane style treatment plant and roughly a \$7-8 million build. The intake would be the same but it would be pumped to the new site which was the same site as the wastewater treatment plant. Although the two plants were on the same site, they were very separate.

Hatepe was in the early stages, Council was working with the Department of Conservation to get a concession. Council had worked with hapū and the village to get land for the site. The site had a low ecological footprint and Council would do regular predator control on the site. Cutting of the track and Geotech work would be completed in the next few months.

Erosion

The Parks and Reserves Manager explained that adaptive work had been completed at Pūkawa. The plans were finalised and the Assessment of Environmental Effects was completed. The resource consent application was near completion. No physical work on site had been completed. He would be in touch with Member Dave Potaka and Pūkawa marae before progressing further.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- Officers were taking an adaptive approach which provided Council a wide range of options of what could be done.
- The scope of the resource consent would include Kuratau and would focus on monitoring and management of the area.

D3 Resource Consent

The Team Lead – Development Engineering explained he was there to answer any questions the members had regarding the resource consent.

Members expressed the following concerns regarding the D3 Resource Consent:

- It has been determined by the contractor Key Solutions that the proposed intersection did not warrant a safety assessment. However Pihanga Road in which the intersection would enter was a road that had significantly increased in traffic since 2011.
- The sighting of the road was a concern because the road was curved and on a hill, cyclists could get a lot of momentum and there was a potential for cars not to see cyclists when coming out of the intersection.
- The issue was not the subdivision but where the proposed intersection was planned to be.

Members suggested that the intersection could come out of Te Waaka Terrace instead as there would be a clear line of vision. The Team Lead – Development Engineering was unsure if this option had been considered and he would speak with Key Solutions to see if there were any design reasons they could not do this. He explained that he did not want to give any approvals that were deemed unsafe. In answer to a question the Environmental Services Manager explained that the resource consent was in the processing stage and while it was not yet confirmed, it might be non-notified with no affected parties.

TRG202506/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karam Fletcher
Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

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

TRG202506/03 above.

5.3 TONGARIRO - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOT TOPICS**Community Engagement**

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner explained Easter was a big event in Tūrangi and was well received despite the rain. Anzac Day was beautifully acknowledged with the town being decorated throughout. The next celebration would be Matariki Day on Friday 20 June 2025. It would begin with a karakia in the town centre hosted by Ngāti Tūrangitukua with a full on day of activities and ending with the night market in the town centre from 6pm-8pm. A huge number of people were registering to have a food stall at the night market. A laser light show would be held at 8.30pm at the fields on Tūrangitukua Park outside of Te Mataapuna.

Interest in the angler had resparked. Tongariro and Lake Taupō Anglers Club (TALTAC) had been keen to take it however they would no longer be doing this. The angler was being stored at Taupō District Council's parks depot. Council did not own the angler but was storing him. If anyone was interested in the angler then they could have him.

A couple of members had stepped away from the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee and she acknowledged Mr Te Takinga New and Mr Christian (Waka) Asher. Two new members had joined which were Mr Te Wharau Walker Junior and Ms Bernice Te Ahuru.

Recently she had completed some work in the Western Bays including a round of engagements at the markets regarding a proposed playground carpark. The Omori Kuratau Ratepayers Association Committee felt the carpark was not needed so officers went to the community to get feedback. Roughly half of the community members who provided feedback wanted the carpark and the other half did not. This information was given back to the committee and officers asked them to advise what they decided to do.

Kevin O'Hara was the head of the Rabbit Committee and he had 120 bait stations ready to go. A member added that the bait was going into the stations today.

Tūrangi Tongariro Community grants were reopening again shortly. Funding had been brought forward this year and applications were opening on 26 June 2025. Applicants could complete applications online.

Annual Plan 2025-26

The General Manager People and Community Partnerships introduced himself. He explained that a Long-term Plan (LTP) was completed every three years and Annual Plans were completed year two and three and the next annual plan for the upcoming year began on 1 July 2025. Officers looked at the LTP to see if anything needed to be changed due to cost increases etc. The initial proposed rates increase was 8.3% but with work being completed over the past three months, due to some key costs increasing, the new proposed rates increase was 8.4%. The annual plan was due to be adopted on 30 June 2025.

District Plan changes

The Policy Advisor introduced herself and her role. Taupō District Council had recently implemented the National Planning Standards which had been set by Central Government, this had implications for the District Plan and how it was structured.

The next bundle of District Plan Changes was a bundle of six including residential zone, open zone, neighbourhood zone, designations, Māori purpose zones and minor changes. There was nothing significant regarding minor changes. Designations had a set process and these were being rolled over. Residential zone previously had residential environment but through the National Planning Standards it has been broken into three zones which were general residential, medium density residential and low density residential. Additional areas of lands were not being rezoned with one exception which was low density as the district

had a shortage of low density housing. Land owners with land that would meet the criteria would be able to put their land up for rezoning which would have a rigorous public consultation. There would be no change to how papakāinga areas were applied. Set changes would come to representative groups first.

All reserves have been pulled out and would be zoned in three categories, these were natural space, open space and sport and recreation zone. Only Taupō District Council and Department of Conservation reserves were being rezoned currently.

The Omori Shops on Omori Road would likely be reassigned and landowners and shop owners would be notified.

Māori purpose zone would be worked through with hapū and it would be at the discretion of hapū to put land forward. Six sites were being put forward with the rest of the bundle in July/August.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- District plan changes was notified in November 2024 and not much feedback was received. The team were hopeful that more feedback would be received through the scheduling process. None of the changes were controversial and more of an update.
- Council was required to select certain zones through the National Policy Statement and one of these was Māori Purpose. This allowed the land to be developed as needed to meet the needs of the hapū who owned the land. The provisions were online.
- Māori land zone might be an area with more high density with access to services or rural. This could become Māori purpose zone or stay as residential zone.
- Papakāinga development would be more accessible.

TRG202506/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Dave Potaka

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

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 TRG202506/04 above.

5.4 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following members reports were received:

Ms Ngaire Grainger

- The sunset service on ANZAC Day was brilliant with roughly 200 people in attendance. Army cadets were present with one cadet giving a speech.
- There were bait and bait stations put out around the Kuratau area for wild rabbits.
- The D3 Resource Consent was a concern.

Ms Melanie Albert

- Whakapapa was an exciting place of change and development with exciting things about to happen.

Mr Dave Potaka

- Wild rabbits was an issue for Pukawa, the marae and papakāinga. They received a letter from Waikato Regional Council saying that it was the responsibility of the property owners. There was a rabbit shooter who patrolled the area. He was writing a letter to Waikato Regional Council asking for more of partnership approach to rabbit control.
- There were sewage ponds that council was planning to remove. He had met with the Asset Manager Water and Waste, and asked him to look at the legal status of the land, and how it became Council and Department of Conservation land to avoid problems further down the track. The Asset Manager

Water and Waste was continuing to complete tests around the area.

- The whenua in front of the papakāinga at Pukawa still had some work in progress and were working with the parks team closely on this.

Cr Karam Fletcher

- He welcomed a baby girl into the world roughly a month ago and this had been his focus.
- Pushing through to the end of the triennium where he would decide what would be best for his whānau.

TRG202506/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Melanie Albert

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

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 TRG202506/05 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 1.59pm with a karakia from everyone present.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Tongariro Representative Group Meeting held on 2 July 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON