

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ AIRPORT AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TAUPŌ AIRPORT, ANZAC MEMORIAL DRIVE, TAUPŌ
ON MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1.30PM**

PRESENT: Mr Chris Johnston (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Yvonne Westerman

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), General Manager Airport (W Wootton), Airport Safety Manager (S Petersen), Finance Business Partner (D Klue), Communications Specialist (A Taylor), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Two members of the public

1 KARAKIA

The General Manager Strategy and Environment opened the meeting by reciting a karakia.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TAA202509/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Mr Chris Johnston

That the apologies received from Mayor David Trewavas and Mr Chris Grace be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 TAUPŌ AIRPORT AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING - 23 JUNE 2025

TAA202509/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the minutes of the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting held on Monday 23 June 2025 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Item withdrawn

5.2 OPERATIONS UPDATE

The General Manager Airport summarised the report and the following points were explained:

- The asphalt on the southern apron was roughly 22mm thick and it should be 50mm.
- The two-yearly full emergency exercise had been held which was based on an unruly passenger in the airport terminal. All airport staff complied with the procedures for such an event and an Air New Zealand staff member did very well to defuse the situation. There had been three previous events of unruly passengers in the past year so this was an important topic to be used for the exercise.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- The southern apron had been installed a long time ago.
- The leak in the old water tank had not been repaired previously as the plan had been to decommission and remove the tank in 2030, however once it became a serious concern then action was required.
- Different scenarios had been used for previous emergency exit exercise including a hijacking. Officers tried to hold the exercises based on scenarios they had identified as current issues.
- The scenario was conducted after the Air New Zealand flight had left but with some public still in the terminal.

TAA202509/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Airport operations update.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/03 above.

5.3 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The Finance Business Partner summarised the report and it was explained that the month of August financials were in draft format but positive trend was continuing. It was difficult to cover depreciation due to the large cost, especially with the high depreciation of the new terminal; if a Taupō to Wellington air service was to resume, the additional revenue could help to cover all of the depreciation.

TAA202509/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Taupō Airport Authority Finance Report for the period ended 31 July 2025.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/04 above.

5.4 ADOPTION OF THE 2025 TAUPŌ AIRPORT AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT

The Finance Business Partner explained that the report had the tax impact, a change from audit and a bill for the previous year's audit.

TAA202509/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee adopts the 2025 Taupō Airport Authority Annual Report.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/05 above.

5.5 TAUPŌ AIRPORT AUTHORITY CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The General Manager Airport summarised the report.

TAA202509/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the capital projects update.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/06 above.

5.6 DISTRICT PLAN NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT AND PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE

The General Manager Airport summarised the report. In answer to a question, it was explained that while 5G cell phone towers had an element of priority, once the controls for the airport were in place, they would not be allowed to be built close to the airport.

TAA202509/07 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the District Plan Notice of Requirement and Private Plan Change update.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/07 above.

5.7 NEW ZEALAND AIRPORTS

The General Manager Airport summarised the report.

TAA202509/08 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Duncan Campbell

Seconded: Mr Chris Johnston

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the New Zealand Airports information.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/08 above.

5.8 JOINT VENTURE AIRPORTS

The General Manager Airport summarised the report and explained that in other countries, governments would subsidise seats on planes to help establish connectivity with regional ports. The General Manager Strategy and Environment explained he had a meeting with Member of Parliament Mr Shane Jones who explained that airlines like Sounds Air and Originair would be eligible for the loan referred to in the report.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- The \$30 million was a loan specifically for airline maintenance and capital expenditure and not for airports or passenger seat subsidies.
- The General Manager Airport was trying to work with the Ministry of Transport (MoT) regarding funding for airports.
- Airlines would need to pay the loan back to the Government.

Members thanked the General Manager Airport for building a stronger relationship with MoT.

TAA202509/09 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Joint Venture airport information.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/09 above.

5.9 FIXED BASED OPERATOR (FBO)

The General Manager Airport summarised the report.

TAA202509/10 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Fixed Based Operator information.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/10 above.

5.10 LAND TO THE WEST OF THE AIRPORT

The General Manager Airport summarised the report.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- Some of the trees appeared to be dying and were in danger of falling into an adjoining property.
- All of the trees in the area would be removed, not just the trees that were of a concern.
- The tallest trees were about 35 to 40 metres tall.
- It was believed that it would not be difficult to remove the trees. The contractor would come from the airport side to get to the trees.
- The trees were on Council land.
- The work was scheduled to be completed in the new year.

It was suggested to remove the trees in the middle of the airport landside area adjacent Anzac Memorial Drive at the same time.

TAA202509/11 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the land to the west of the airport information.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/11 above.

5.11 TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL OLD WATER TANK SITE

The General Manager Airport summarised the report. In answer to a question, it was explained that they were not aware of any issues with asbestos for the removal of the water tank. The committee suggested that once the tank had been removed and before granting a lease to new tenants, the suitability of the site from an operational safety point of view, should go through the Taupō Airport Authority Safety committee for discussion.

TAA202509/12 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Taupō District Council old water tank site update.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/12 above.

5.12 TAUPŌ AIRPORT AUTHORITY ACHIEVEMENTS

The General Manager Airport explained this report showed what had been achieved over the triennium.

Members acknowledged the tough business environment over the past three years and acknowledged the hard work the airport team had done to cut costs and find new income streams.

Chair Mr Chris Johnston thanked the Airport team and fellow committee members.

It was suggested to hold a tour of the airport with the next Taupō Airport Authority Committee.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- The airport carpark was paying for itself.
- The structure of the committee was being looked at for the new triennium and it could be beneficial to have a MoT observer as part of the committee.

TAA202509/13 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the Taupō Authority Airport achievements update.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/13 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

TAA202509/14 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Mr Chris Johnston

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48[1] of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
Agenda Item No: 6.1 Confirmation of Confidential Portion of Taupō Airport Authority Committee Minutes - 23 June 2025			
Agenda Item No: 6.2 Release of Resolutions from Confidence	Section 7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons Section 7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	The Committee will consider these resolutions still retained in confidence from previous meetings and determine if they should be released.

	or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied Section 7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest Section 7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable [the Council] to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities Section 7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable [the Council] to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)		
Agenda Item No: 6.3 Silk Audit - Report to Governance 2025	Section 7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	Report to governance from the auditors for the committee to provide comments on. To be released from confidence once finalised.

	information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied Section 7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest		
Agenda Item No: 6.4 Leases and contracts	Section 7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable [the Council] to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	It is necessary to exclude the public to enable the Committee to receive information relating to Taupō Airport ground leases, including rental costs.
Agenda Item No: 6.5 Business Development Airside	Section 7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable [the Council] to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	It is necessary to exclude the public for consideration of this item, as the report contains commercially sensitive information provided by businesses considering development opportunities at Taupō Airport
Agenda Item No: 6.6 Land Development	Section 7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable [the Council] to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	It is necessary to exclude the public to enable the Committee to receive information relating to Taupō Airport land development.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/14 above.

Note: The following resolution was made with the public excluded but was released after the meeting so can therefore appear in the public part of the minutes.

TAA202509/C15 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee

1. Releases the resolutions from confidence as recommended in the table below; and

Date of meeting	Resolution No	Subject
30 September 2024	TAA202409/C06	Silk Audit - Report to Governance 2024
02 December 2024	TAA202412/C07	Regional Connectivity
23 June 2025	TAA202506/C05	Business Development Airside

2. Releases this resolution from confidence immediately.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202509/C02 above.

Note: The following historical resolutions were made with the public excluded but were released at this meeting so can therefore appear in the public part of the minutes.

6.1 SILK AUDIT - REPORT TO GOVERNANCE 2024

TAA202409/C16 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Duncan Campbell

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee:

1. Receives the 2024 Report to Governance from Silks Audit, and
2. Releases the 2024 Report to Governance from Silks Audit from confidence once it has been finalised.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202409/C01 above.

6.3 REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

TAA202412/C17 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Mr Chris Grace

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee receives the regional connectivity information and instructs management to continue discussions with Originair for the trialling of a Taupō – Wellington air service from February 2025.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202412/C03 above.

6.5 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AIRSIDE

TAA202506/C18 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Chris Johnston

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Taupō Airport Authority Committee agrees:

1. That the Taupō Airport user group be informed about proposals to develop the airside area to the north of the apron; and
2. For management to continue to investigate options for alterations to the existing fence line and the realignment of the northwest taxiway.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution TAA202506/C05 above.

The meeting closed at 2.54pm with the General Manager Strategy and Environment reciting the closing karakia.

The minutes of this meeting were approved and adopted as a true and correct record by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive in accordance with Standing Order 28.4.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

.....
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

.....
DATE