

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO. CL23-13
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1484 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST 2023 AT 9.30AM EXTRAORDINARY**

1 KARAKIA

Matua John Te Kira Toma opened the meeting with a karakia and waiata.

2 PRESENT

Mayor J Denyer (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Cr T Coxhead, Cr R Crawford, Cr G Dally, Cr M Grainger, Cr A Henry, Cr R Joyce, Cr M Murray-Benge, Cr D Thwaites and Cr A Wichers

VIA ZOOM

Cr A Sole

3 IN ATTENDANCE

J Holyoake (Chief Executive Officer), R Davie (Deputy CEO/General Manager Strategy and Community), A Henderson (General Manager Corporate Services), A Curtis (General Manager Regulatory Services), C Crowe (GM Infrastructure Services), E Watton (Strategic Policy and Planning Programme Director), C Nepia (Strategic Kaupapa Māori Manager), G Golding (Governance Manager), L Balvert (Communications Manager), M Leighton (Policy and Planning Manager), J Rickard (Community and Strategic Relationships Manager), C Nepia (Planning Coordinator), L Carroll (Āpiha Whenua Māori (Māori Land Specialist), B Urbanc (Kaupapa Māori Specialist - Kaiārahi Hōnonga), P Osborne (Senior Governance Advisor), J Osborne (Governance Advisor), R Leahy (Governance Advisor) and C Irvin (Senior Governance Advisor).

VIA ZOOM

A Ali (Chief Financial Officer), S Bedford (Finance Manager), G Benn (Research and Monitoring Analyst), C Steiner (Senior Policy Analyst) and T Price (Executive Assistant Corporate Services).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Three members of the press.

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Nil

8 PUBLIC FORUM

A. Mabel Wharekawa-Burt

- Mrs Wharekawa-Burt introduced herself, acknowledged the families in Maui/Hawaii suffering from the fire events and provided an apology for Shaan Kingi.
- She was here unequivocally in full support of Māori Wards.
- The first attempt by Māori to look at Māori wards provided the realisation that there were many issues to deal with.
- Council was asked today to open their minds and be reminded that 95% of Māori lived a bicultural life, and spoke two languages. How could Council say they knew what was best for Māori, or have a feeling of what was going on, without appropriate connection to Māori and the right Māori representation?
- At the moment it was an 'us and them' situation but this was not the way it should be. It was time to 'take a chance', change the situation and ignite relationships for the future.

B. Andy Gowland-Douglas - CEO of Tapuika Iwi Authority

- Ms Gowland-Douglas was here today in full support of Māori Wards.
- This was a mechanism that allowed Māori voices to be heard, and to enable them to make decisions for future generations.
- There was a lot of misinformation around the country at the moment about Māori Wards, but this was about facts, social justice, leading with the heart, moving forward together and making the right decision today.

C. Bronwyn Hokianga

- Ms Hokianga was here today in support of Māori Wards, and acknowledged the work done to date by iwi/hapū and Council.

- It was critical to consider factors such as levels of inclusion and diversity, partnership and Ti Tiriti o Waitangi, cultural understanding and sensitivity, empowerment and self determination, amongst other things.
- Ultimately, decision making needed to effectively and appropriately address the aspirations and needs of all, including the Māori community.

D. Keith Hay – Katikati Waihi Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association (KWBRRA)

- KWBRRA was opposed to the establishment of Māori Wards because they felt they were not representative of democracy.
- In 2017 KWBRRA was active in forcing a referendum after Council voted to introduce Māori Wards, resulting in a 78% against result.
- Based on previous pole results, KWBRRA would not be supporting Māori Wards.

E. Garry Webber – Ōmokoroa Resident

- Mr Webber was here today in support of Māori Wards.
- In recent years legislation had been amended to fully align the processes for the creation of Māori Wards with the creation of general wards.
- Nowhere in New Zealand legislation or local Government guidelines did it say that a decision could be delayed in the hope of a law change.
- There was no need for any further consultation on the creation of a Māori Ward. It was time to do what was 'tika', what was right.

9 REPORTS

9.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF MĀORI WARDS 2023

Council considered a report dated 17 August 2023 from the Strategic Kaupapa Māori Manager who took the report as read and welcomed and acknowledged iwi and all others in attendance today.

The Deputy CEO/General Manager Strategy and Community responded to a question as follows:

- The costs associated with holding an election that established Māori Wards would be included within budgeted expenditure for the ordinary local body election, which was budgeted for and transparently included in Council's Long Term Plan.

RESOLUTION CL23-13.1

Moved: Cr R Joyce

Seconded: Cr M Grainger

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1. That the Strategic Kaupapa Māori Manager's report dated 17 August 2023 titled 'Establishment of Māori Wards 2023' be received.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CL23-13.2

Moved: Cr M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr A Henry

2. That the reports relates to an issue that is considered to be of medium significance in terms of Council's Significance and engagement Policy.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CL23-13.3

Moved: Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

Seconded: Cr A Wichers

3. That, in accordance with the discretion conferred by section 19z of the Local Electoral Act 2001, Māori Ward(s) shall be established for the next two triennial elections in 2025 and 2028.

CARRIED

A division was called a recorded as follows:

In Favour: Mayor J Denyer, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Crs R Crawford, G Dally, M Grainger, A Henry, R Joyce, D Thwaites and A Wichers

Against: Crs T Coxhead, M Murray-Benge and A Sole

CARRIED 9/3

10 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT

Nil

11 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

Matua John Te Kira Toma closed the meeting with a karakia waiata.

The Meeting closed at 11:23am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record at the Council meeting held 3 October 2023.

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Mayor J Denyer
CHAIRPERSON / MAYOR

unconfirmed