

MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL NO. CO25-3
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1484 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025 AT 9.30AM

1 KARAKIA

Whakatau mai te wairua	Settle the spirit
Whakawātea mai te hinengaro	Clear the mind
Whakarite mai te tinana	Prepare the body
Kia ea ai ngā mahi	To achieve what needs to be achieved.
Āe	Yes

2 PRESENT – NGĀ MEMA KEI KONEI

Mayor J Denyer, Cr G Dally, Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge, Cr R Joyce, Cr D Dinsdale, Cr L Rae, Cr A Sole, Cr S Beech and Cr G Elvin

VIA ZOOM

Cr T Coxhead

3 IN ATTENDANCE – I TAE AKE

M Taris (Interim Chief Executive), A Curtis (General Manager Regulatory Services), B Singh (General Manager Infrastructure Services), E Watton (Acting General Manager Strategy and Community), M Potton (Acting General Manager Corporate Services), J Fearn (Chief Financial Officer), J Rickard (Community and Strategic Relationships Manager), A Price (Principal Planner), C McLean (Director Transportation), A Badenhorst (Infrastructure Growth and Delivery Manager), A King (Programme Manager – Water Organisation Establishment), A Henderson (Programme Director – Water Organisation Establishment), K Little (Operations Manager), P Watson (Reserves and Facilities Manager), R Garrett (Governance Manager), T Miller (Strategic Advisor Resource Management), L Balvert (Communications Manager), B Chambers (Arts and Culture Programme Lead), D Barnard (Network Operations and Maintenance Manager), E Wentzel (Chief Engineer), H Wi Repa (Governance Systems Advisor) and P Osborne (Senior Governance Advisor).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

BOPLASS

Stephen Boyle (Chief Executive Officer)

Tourism Bay of Plenty (TBOP)

Oscar Nathan (General Manager)

Richard Faire (Head of Strategy & Insights)

Russ Browne (Trustee – Chair)

Ōmokoroa – Kaimai Community Board

Member Chris Dever (Chairperson)

Member Murray Marshall

4 APOLOGIES – NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION CO25-3.1

Moved: Cr S Beech

Seconded: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

That the apologies for lateness from Cr Coxhead and Cr Joyce be accepted.

CARRIED

9.32am Cr Joyce entered the hui.

5 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS – NGĀ TAKE TŪMURI

Nil

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NGĀ TUKITUKINGA

Nil

7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS – NGĀ TAKE TAPU

Nil

8 PUBLIC FORUM – WĀHANGA TŪMATANUI

8.1 ALISON BADGER – LIZARD ROCK – ŌMOKOROA

Ms Badger was in attendance to speak on behalf of Ōmokoroa Public Arts Incorporated in relation to the replacement of the Ōmokoroa Rock that stood at the entrance of Ōmokoroa prior to the urbanisation project. She noted that Councillors had already been provided with a written copy of her concerns, therefore she read a letter of support from the Environmental Coordinator for Whakamārama and Ōmokoroa.

8.2 BRIAN LEACH – MOWING IN TE PUKE

Mr Leach, Te Puke resident, was in attendance to speak to Council regarding the Levels of Service for mowing in the Te Puke area, specifically the need to provide for 12 mows annually. He also requested that Council consider a footpath from the end of No.1 Road to the town boundary due to health and safety concerns.

9 COUNCIL – COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION – TE WHAKATAU I NGĀ MENETI Ā TE KAUNIHERA, Ā TE KOMITI**9.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2025**

RESOLUTION CO25-3.2

Moved: Mayor J Denyer
Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

1. That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record and the recommendations therein be adopted, with the following amendment:
 - Removal of Deputy Mayor Margaret Murray-Benge from the 'Present' list.
2. That the Chairperson's electronic signature be inserted into the confirmed minutes.

CARRIED

10 REPORTS – NGĀ PŪRONGO**10.1 BAY OF PLENTY LOCAL AUTHORITY SHARED SERVICES LIMITED (BOPLASS) ANNUAL REPORT 30 JUNE 2025**

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Financial Analyst.

Stephen Boyle, BOPLASS Chief Executive Officer, was in attendance to provide an overview of the BOPLASS Annual Report through PowerPoint Presentation 1 and responded to pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.3

Moved: Cr D Dinsdale
Seconded: Cr A Sole

1. That the Financial Analyst's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited (BOPLASS) Annual Report 30 June 2025' be received.
2. That Council receives Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services Limited's (BOPLASS) Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025, included as **Attachment 1** of this report, to be published on Council's website.

CARRIED

10.2 TOURISM BAY OF PLENTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Community and Strategic Relationships Manager.

Oscar Nathan, General Manager, Richard Faire, Head of Strategy & Insights, and Russ Browne, Trustee – Chair, were in attendance to provide an overview of the Tourism Bay of Plenty Annual Report. They spoke to PowerPoint Presentation 2 and responded to pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.4

Moved: Cr G Elvin

Seconded: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

1. That the Community and Strategic Relationships Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Tourism Bay of Plenty Annual Report 2025' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council receives the Tourism Bay of Plenty Annual Report 2024-2025, included as **Attachment 1** to this report, to be published on Council's website.

CARRIED

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor requested that the next item of business be item 10.5 'Financial Contribution Waiver for one additional dwelling on Māori Land – 9 Waipa Road, Te Puna', in order to release external attendees from the hui.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.5

Moved: Cr R Joyce
Seconded: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

That in accordance with Standing Order 9.4 the order of business be changed and that item 10.5 be dealt with as the next item of business.

CARRIED

10.3 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION WAIVER FOR ONE ADDITIONAL DWELLING ON MĀORI LAND – 9 WAIPA ROAD, TE PUNA

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Principal Planner. The General Manager Regulatory Services provided some background on the Financial Contributions (FinCos) Policy. The Principal Planner took the report as read, noting the below point:

- The applicants came to Council in 2024 prior to making their application for resource consent.
- They were provided with advice from staff that the waiver would apply for the one dwelling that they were seeking.
- There was an opportunity for the wording in the policy to be reviewed through the next Annual Plan to ensure clarity in the future.

The applicants Kerewai and Dwayne Hammond were in attendance to speak to their application, providing an overview of the advice provided by staff to date.

The Strategic Kaupapa Māori Manager provided the below context to the advice that staff provided:

- At present the policy provided for a waiver of nine FinCos for a payment of one.
- When staff went through the process of putting together the policy, it was noted that the ideal situation was that there would be a papakāinga development that provided for ten houses straightaway, allowing the policy to be implemented perfectly.
- It was clarified that it was never the intention for this to be the only situation where the waiver applied, due to acknowledging that not all papakāinga development happened perfectly with ten houses immediately.
- The policy wording would need to be reviewed in order to avoid any future confusion or constraints for applicants.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.6

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge
Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

1. That the Principal Planner's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Financial Contribution Waiver for one additional dwelling on Māori Land – 9 Waipa Road, Te Puna', be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council approves:
 - A) Option A for a waiver of financial contributions for one additional dwelling on Māori land for Resource Consent Application at 9 Waipa Road (RC14852L).
4. That Council, in accordance with s80 of the Local Government Act 2002, identifies that this decision is inconsistent with Council's adopted 2025/2026 Fees and Charges FINCO Reduction Policy as currently worded as this decision applies to a single dwelling; and notes that the reason for this inconsistency is to provide an equitable outcome for the applicant and that the provisions around financial contribution waivers in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule will be reviewed.

CARRIED

11.14am The hui adjourned.

11.30am The hui reconvened.

10.4 WAIKATO LOCAL AUTHORITY SHARED SERVICES LTD (CO-LAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Financial Analyst. The Acting General Manager Corporate Services took the report as read and responded to pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.7

Moved: Cr A Sole

Seconded: Cr G Elvin

1. That the Financial Analyst's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (Co-Lab) Annual Report 2024-2025' be received.
2. That Council receives the Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (Co-Lab) Annual Report 2024-2025, included as **Attachment 1** to this report, to be published on Council's website.

CARRIED

10.5 NEW ZEALAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AGENCY LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Financial Analyst. The Acting General Manager Corporate Services took the report as read and responded to pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.8

Moved: Mayor J Denyer
Seconded: Cr R Joyce

1. That the Financial Analyst's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited Annual Report 2024-2025' be received.
2. That Council receives the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited Annual Report 2024-2025, included as **Attachment 1** of this report, to be published on Council's website.

CARRIED

10.6 DISTRICT WIDE ROADSIDE MOWING

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Director Transportation, who was supported by the General Manager Infrastructure Services in providing an overview of the report and recommendations therein. They responded to pātai as required, and clarified the below points:

- The information requested by the Councillors in the workshop, which related to what implications there would be for other projects due to increasing the mowing budget, was not provided through the report.
- The rationale for this was that Council had received additional funding from NZTA Waka Kotahi on Friday 12 December 2025. Staff were still working through what this meant for Council in terms of projects. For this reason staff would aim to bring an Issues and Options paper to Council at their workshop on the Annual Plan scheduled 17 December 2025.
- The money received from Waka Kotahi NZTA could not be used on environmental maintenance (which included mowing).
- This topic was complicated, as there were a number of factors that contributed to the drop in levels of service for mowing. The reduced funding that came through from Waka Kotahi NZTA played a part, as well as implications from the previous contract and the decisions made in trying to manage that contract.

12.07pm Cr Coxhead entered the meeting via Zoom.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.9

Moved: Cr R Joyce

Seconded: Cr A Sole

1. That the Director Transportation's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'District wide roadside mowing' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of medium significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council approves the levels of service for roadside mowing for the remainder of 2025/26, as detailed below, noting that this is an increased level of service compared to the last six months.

Classification		Proposed LoS (Option A)		
Urban/Rural	ONRC	Freq	Total Cost	
Urban	Arterial	12	\$ 431,069	
	Primary Collector	12	\$ 94,373	
	Secondary Collector	12	\$ 130,935	
	Access	8	\$ 420,893	
	Low Volume	8	\$ 61,709	
Urban Total			\$ 1,138,979	
Rural	Arterial	5	\$ 17,873	
	Primary & Secondary Collector	4	\$ 365,797	
	Access & Low Volume	1	\$ 94,752	
Rural Total			\$ 478,422	
TOTAL			\$ 1,617,401	

*Annualised frequencies.

CARRIED

10.7 ŌMOKOROA USE/RE-LOCATION OF 'THE ROCK'

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Infrastructure Growth and Delivery Manager, who was supported by the General Manager Infrastructure Services, in providing an overview of the report, recommendations therein, and responding to pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.10

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr T Coxhead

1. That the Infrastructure Growth and Delivery Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Ōmokoroa use/re-location of 'The Rock", be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council receives the Safe System Assessment (**Attachment 1** of this report) report and endorses its findings that neither the SH2/Ōmokoroa Road Roundabout or the Industrial Road Roundabout are practicable re-location options.
4. That Council delegates to Officers and the Ōmokoroa-Kaimai Community Board to work with key stakeholders, including the Ōmokoroa Public Art Inc, the community and iwi, to determine the preferred final location of "The Rock".
5. That Council notes that any approved relocation costs will be met by the State Highway 2 Roundabout Project Team.

CARRIED

10.8 WATER ORGANISATION ESTABLISHMENT UPDATE

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Programme Manager – Water Organisation Establishment. The Programme Director provided an overview of the report and recommendations therein.

The Programme Director provided the following amendments to Attachment 2, being the Joint Terms of Reference:

Background

- 1.1 *Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOP) are working towards the establishment of a joint Water Organisation (WO) under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (Project); and*

Joint Governance Group Purpose and Decision Making

- 2.2 *Recommendations will be made on the following basis.*

It was noted that recommendation 3a was approved by the working group, and Tauranga City Council.

The Programme Director clarified that Council would be brought on the journey, as the joint working group would only be making recommendations to the Councils, which would then be asked to make a final decision.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.11

Moved: Cr R Joyce

Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

1. That the Programme Manager – Water Organisation Establishment's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Water Organisation Establishment Update' be received.
2. That the recommendations are considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.12

Moved: Mayor J Denyer

Seconded: Cr R Joyce

3. That Council:

- a. Agrees to the appointment of a Water Organisation Establishment Chief Executive Officer, with recruitment to commence now, so that a recommendation can be made subject to Council's final decision to proceed with the Water Organisation on 2nd April 2026 (with a likely start date circa 1 July 2026).

A Division was called and recorded as follows:

For: Cr Dinsdale, Cr Elvin, Cr Dally, Cr Joyce and Mayor Denyer

Against: Cr Rae, Cr Coxhead, Cr Murray-Benge, Cr Beech and Cr Sole

The Mayor exercised his right for a casting vote and voted for the motion. The motion was declared carried.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.13

Moved: Cr R Joyce

Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

4. That Council endorses the appointment of the following Tangata Whenua representatives to the Joint Working Group:

- Kylie Smallman
- Hakopa Tapiata
- Shadrach Rolleston
- Rohario Murray
- Kiritapu Allan
- Roana Bennett

A Division was called and recorded as follows:

For: Cr Dinsdale, Cr Elvin, Cr Dally, Cr Joyce and Mayor Denyer
Against: Cr Rae, Cr Coxhead, Cr Murray-Benge, Cr Beech and Cr Sole

The Mayor exercised his right for a casting vote and voted for the motion. The motion was declared carried.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.14

Moved: Cr D Dinsdale

Seconded: Cr R Joyce

5. That Council approves the variation to the Commitment Agreement to reflect the establishment of the Joint Working Group and delegates authority to make minor changes to the Programme Director - Water Organisation Establishment: (see **Attachment 1**).

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.15

Moved: Mayor J Denyer

Seconded: Cr G Elvin

6. That Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Joint Governance Group (**Attachment 2**), with the following amendments, noting that these have been endorsed at the Joint Governance Meeting of 8 December 2025.

- Background - 1.1 Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOP) are working towards the establishment of a joint Water Organisation (WO) under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (Project); and
- Joint Governance Group Purpose and Decision Making - 2.2 Recommendations will be made on the following basis.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.16

Moved: Cr G Dally

Seconded: Cr G Elvin

7. That Council endorses the Commercial Terms Sheet (**Attachment 3**).

CARRIED

RESOLUTION CO25-3.17

Moved: Mayor J Denyer
Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

8. That Council receives the Multi Council Water Organisation Project Update dated 5 December 2025 (**Attachment 5**).
9. That Council delegates the Chief Executive to make changes to the Terms of Reference, Commitment Agreement and Commercial Terms to reflect Council's agreed direction.

CARRIED

1.25pm The hui adjourned.

1.48pm The hui reconvened.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**RESOLUTION CO25-3.18**

Moved: Cr D Dinsdale
Seconded: Cr R Joyce

That the order of business be changed under Standing Order 9.4 to commence with item 12.1 (confidential items) in order to release external presenters from the hui.

CARRIED

11 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC – WHAKATAU KI TE PORO I TE MAREA**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION CO25-3.19**

Moved: Mayor J Denyer
Seconded: Cr A Sole

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting with the exception of Chris Law and Dominic Foote for Item 12.1, Kevin Lavery, Richard Lennox and Cathy Davidson for Item 12.2, and Timothy Allan and Chris Joblin for Item 12.3 whose specialist knowledge will assist the Council to make decisions in relation to their relevant reports.

The general subject matter 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 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 for the passing of this resolution
<p>11.1 – Financial Contribution Reduction for New Zealand Housing Foundation – 75 Kaylene Place, Ōmokoroa</p>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(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 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</p>	<p>s48(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 6 or section 7</p>
<p>11.2 – Local Waters Done Well – Approval of Digital Business Case and Memorandum of Understanding</p>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or</p>	<p>s48(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 6 or section 7</p>

	who is the subject of the information s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	
11.3 - City and Regional Deals - Approval of the Terms in Principle	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(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 6 or section 7
CARRIED		

NOTE: Recommendations CO25-3.20 – CO25-3.22 were dealt with in the confidential agenda.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.23

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr S Beech

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council

CARRIED

3.24pm The hui adjourned.

3.24pm Cr Coxhead left the hui via Zoom.

3.24pm Cr Sole left the hui.

3.32pm The hui reconvened.

MEETING DURATION

RESOLUTION CO25-3.24

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr G Elvin

That in accordance with Standing Order 4.2, Council confirms to continue with the remaining business of the meeting, noting that the meeting duration is longer than six hours.

CARRIED

12 REPORTS – NGĀ PŪRONGO

12.1 PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AND SALE OF 294 BEACH ROAD, KATIKATI

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Operations Manager. The General Manager Infrastructure Services took the report as read.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.24

Moved: Cr R Joyce

Seconded: Mayor J Denyer

1. That the Operations Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Proposed Subdivision and Sale of 294 Beach Road, Katikati', be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council approves the subdivision and subsequent sale of approximately 1,689m² of the property at 294 Beach Road, Katikati.

CARRIED

12.2 ŌMOKOROA STORAGE FACILITY – BUSINESS OPERATION MODEL

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Operations Manager, who took the report as read.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.25

Moved: Mayor J Denyer

Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

1. That the Operations Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Ōmokoroa Storage Facility – Business Operation Model', be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. That Council approves that Council run the storage facility with existing staff within the Property team at Western Bay of Plenty District Council. This would include tenancy management of the two residential dwellings on the property.

CARRIED

Cr Joyce voted against the motion and requested for his vote against to be recorded.

12.3 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET ALIGNMENT

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Reserves and Facilities Manager who, supported by the General Manager Infrastructure Services, provided an overview of the report, recommendations therein and responded to pātai as required.

3.41pm Cr Sole entered the hui.

It was clarified that coastal renewals related to Council's Coastal Marine Assets, for example seawalls, boat ramps and jetties. Council undertook annual inspections with a qualified coastal engineer, who would make recommendations for the following year's programme.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.26

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr S Beech

1. That the Reserves and Facilities Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Recreation and Open Space Capital Projects Budget Alignment' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That for Coastal Renewals project 321101, Council:
 - a. Agrees to bring forward \$1,250,000 from the 2026/27 financial year to the 2025/26 financial year to complete the coastal renewals work programme.
4. That for the Ōmokoroa Active Reserve (345401) and General Reserve Acquisition (244912) projects, Council:
 - a. Agrees to bring forward \$2,790,656 from project 345401 and \$58,770 from project 244912 in the 2026/27 financial year to the 2025/26 financial year to cover the current deficit in the reserve's financial contributions account.

CARRIED

12.4 2026 COUNCIL, COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Governance Manager, who provided an overview of the report, recommendations therein and responded to relevant pātai as required.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.27

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Mayor J Denyer

1. That the Governance Manager's report dated 16 December 2025 titled '2026 Council, Committee and Community Board Meeting Schedule' be received.
2. That the report relates to an issue that is of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
3. That Council adopts the 2026 Meeting Schedule (**Attachment 1** of this report), as the meeting programme for 2026, noting that this programme is subject to change depending on legislative requirements and changing business needs of Council.
4. That Council delegates authority to the Governance Manager to make amendments to the meeting schedule should Council business require such amendment throughout the year, subject to appropriate notification to both elected members and the public.

CARRIED

12.5 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council considered a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Mayor, who provided an overview of his report and the recommendations therein.

The Mayor responded to pātai as follows:

- The Mayor understood that NZTA had met with residents of Wrights Road and that it had been a productive meeting.
- The Nathan York meeting was in relation to the Bluehaven development, noting that there had been on-going discussions with neighbouring councils on how this could work.

The General Manager Infrastructure Services suggested that this was a "political hot topic" for Waka Kotahi NZTA, due to the request to remove the median barriers going against their wider decision. There could be a fear that removing median barriers from sections of road could be precedent setting.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.28

Moved: Mayor J Denyer
Seconded: Cr G Dally

1. That the Mayor's report dated 16 December 2025 titled 'Mayor's Report to Council' be received.
2. That Council endorses the letter dated 6 October 2025, sent from Lyall Thurston as Chair of the Regional Transport Committee to Simon Bridges as Chair of NZTA, seeking the reinstatement of SH2 right-hand turn access at Wright Road, Aongatete, Western Bay of Plenty. (**Attachment 1**)
3. That Council requests NZTA to utilise the latest data in relation to accidents and traffic volumes at the junctions of SH2 with Morton Road, Matahui/Lockington Roads, and Wright Road, both prior to and post the installation of the median barrier, to inform future works in this corridor.
4. That Council encourages senior NZTA officials to meet in person with the residents of Wright Road to consider and discuss their concerns.
5. That Council notes that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has re-established its Public Transport Committee, notes that the Terms of Reference (**Attachment 2**) of the Committee provide for a representative from Western Bay of Plenty District Council, and acknowledges the appointment to the Public Transport Committee of Mayor Denyer as the primary member and Councillor Rae as the alternate member.

CARRIED

13 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT – KŌRERO TE WHIWHIA**13.1 SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**

Council received a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, who took the report as read.

13.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 OCTOBER 2025

Council received a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, who took the report as read, providing the below clarification.

- The red notations were purely timing issues, however it was noted that this was a different format than what had previously been presented. The red now signalled a positive or a negative variance, and required commentary from staff on the variance.

13.3 NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY - WAKA KOTAHİ - ACQUISITION OF LAND AT 491 ŌMOKOROA ROAD

Council received a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Operation Manager, who provided an overview of the report, clarifying that the measurements should be reflected in hectares rather than square metres as the report states.

RESOLUTION CO25-3.29

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Murray-Benge

Seconded: Cr D Dinsdale

That the Operation Manager's report dated 16 December 2025, titled 'New Zealand Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi - Acquisition of Land at 491 Ōmokoroa Road', be received.

CARRIED

13.4 WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON FAST-TRACK APPROVALS AMENDMENT BILL

Council received a report dated 16 December 2025 from the Resource Management Strategic Advisor. The Acting General Manager Strategy and Community took the report as read.

The Meeting closed at 3.59pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record at the Council meeting held 26 February 2026.

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Mayor J Denyer
CHAIRPERSON / MAYOR