

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE RAANGAI WHAKAKAUPAPA KOORERO (MĀORI RELATIONS COMMITTEE) HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, QUEEN STREET, TE KUITI ON WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2025 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Eady Manawaiti (Chair)
Mayor John Robertson
Dan Tasker

IN ATTENDANCE: Gavin Todd, WDC Councillor
Janette Osborne, WDC Councillor
Dawn Magner, Deputy Chair Te Whare Hau-ā-uru ki Uta
Aroha Te Aretoa, Rereamanu Marae Representative – Te Whare Hau-ā-uru ki Uta
Maardi Mulligan-Green, Whanau Representative
Mary Tapu, Te Whare ki Rereahu
Ronald Takarei, Mirimiru Paa ki Marokopa
Maryann Morgan, Te Korapatu Marae
Grant Morgan, Te Whare Hau-ā-uru ki Uta
Kauri Calvert, Independent Observer
Lisa Hill, Waitomo Rates & Residents Collective
Ata Te Kanawa, Independent

ONLINE Melaina Huaki, Te Runanga o Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hau-ā-uru

STAFF: Chief Executive, Ben Smit
Manager – Governance Support, Michelle Higgie

1.	Karakia Tuwhera
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2.	Apologies
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No apologies.

3.	Declarations of Member Conflicts of Interest
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No declarations made.

4.	Suspension of Standing Orders
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The Chair briefed members on the advantage of suspending Standing Orders for the Whare Roopu Forum to enable uninterrupted discussion and in particular no restrictions on speaking times or the number of times and attendee may speak.

Resolution

The Standing Orders for Meetings be suspended for the duration of the Whare Roopu Forum.

Tasker/Robertson

Carried

5. Whare Roopu Forum

A high level summary of the Forum is set out below.

- 1 The Mayor gave a briefing on what the Council proposed the purpose of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) would be when the Committee was originally established by the Council in November 2022.
- 2 The Committee Chair advised the inspiration for the name Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero and how it originated, stating that the name did not originate from within the Council, but was approved by Council upon presentation. The Chair defined the meaning as follows:

Raangai - A collective/ group

Whakakaupapa - To institute, to formulate or to show logic

Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero - A collective brought together to formulate koorero.

Ko te whakakaupapa koorero ... o te Kaunihera o Waitomo ... o ngaa whaanau, hapu, iwi o teenei rohe.

A space to initiate / formulate koorero / to demonstrate logical koorero ... for the Waitomo District Council ... for the whaanau, hapu and iwi throughout the District.
- 3 Further discussions took place on the implementation of an engagement model with Māori. The Chair reiterated that it is up to Whare/Roopu to bring what works for them to the Committee, it is not Council's role to decide how engagement will work/or to design the model of representation.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11.35am.

The meeting reconvened 11.48am

Kauri Calvert and Maadi Mulligan-Green left the meeting at 11.49am.

There were varying views on an engagement model around the table and there was general consensus that this would be ongoing into the next triennium, but it was agreed that engagement was improving.

Note: At the recommendation of the Chief Executive, Standing Orders remained suspended.

6. Confirmation of Minutes: 10 December 2024

Resolution

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) meeting of 10 December 2024 be received.

Tasker/Robertson

Carried

7. Receipt of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero/Whare Hui Minutes – 6 April 2025

Dawn Magner requested that her role under the heading of "In Attendance" be corrected to read: Deputy Chair Te Whare Hau-ā-uru ki Uta and Pohatuiri Representative

Resolution

The Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero/Whare Hui Minutes of 6 April 2025 be received.

Tasker/Robertson

Carried

8. Activity Report: October 2025

The Committee considered a business paper documenting, for recording and transparency purposes, the activities of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) during the period January to October 2025 as follows:

Meetings with Whare 2025	
6 April 2025	TRWK Hui with Whare, Marae, and whanau representatives at Waitomo District Council Chambers

Meetings with Hapu and Whanau over issues 2025	
13 March 2025	Discussion with WDC Chief Executive and TRWK members on finalising agenda and attendees for 6 April 2025 TRWK/Whare hui
3 September 2025	Meeting with Mayor Robertson on agenda and attendees for upcoming TRWK hui at Council in October
4 September 2025	Follow up hui with Grant Morgan re – Road Renaming Proposal

Meetings of TRWK 2025	
8 October 2025	

Ronald Takarei advised that should Ngāti Mahuta be invited to have representation at these meetings that Mirimiru Paa ki Marokopa would support this as there are no Joint Management Agreements in place, and they have Marae within the area of interest so there would be benefit in them having representation.

Resolution

The Activity Report – October 2025 be received.

Tasker/Robertson

Carried

9. Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero – Work Plan

The Committee considered a business paper providing an update on progress against the Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero Work Plan adopted on 10 December 2024.

The Chief Executive expanded verbally on the business paper and answered Members' questions.

Resolution

The business paper on Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero – Work Plan be received.

Robertson/Tasker

Carried

10. Proposed Road Name Change: Te Kumi Station Road to Tuariri Road
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The Committee considered a business paper providing an opportunity to make a recommendation to Council to approve a proposed Road Naming Application to rename Te Kumi Station Road, Te Kuiti to Tuariri Road in recognition of the history of the adjacent land.

Grant Morgan spoke to the application and the engagement he has undertaken to obtain support of the application and presented the formal Application and Supporting Information to the Mayor.

The Manager – Governance Support explained that now that the Application has been received there is a formal process to be followed and that it would not be able to be considered at the Council meeting tomorrow (9 October).

Resolution

1 The business paper on Proposed Road Name Change – Te Kumi Station Road be received.

- 2 The Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) recommend to Council:

The Road Naming Application received proposing the renaming of Te Kumi Station Road to Tuariri Road, on the basis that all information required to support that application is in order and that the application meets the requirements of the Waitomo District Council's Road Naming Policy 2025, be approved by the Council.

Robertson/Tasker

Carried

11. Terms of Reference Review (including recommendation on the future of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) following the 2025 Triennial Elections)

The Committee considered a business paper providing an opportunity for Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) to make recommendations to the incoming Council of the 2025-2028 triennium on the re-establishment of the Committee and to review the Committee Terms of Reference.

The Chief Executive expanded verbally on the business paper and answered Members questions.

Melaina Huaki expressed concern that there had been no consultation on the Proposed District Plan with Ngāti Mahuta. Grant Morgan advised he was a representative on a Proposed District Plan Work Group and confirmed that there was Ngāti Mahuta representation on that work group. At the request of attendees, the Chief Executive agreed to provide the names of the Ngāti Mahuta representatives on the Proposed District Plan Work Group.

Resolution

- 1 The business paper on Terms of Reference Review (including recommendation on the future of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) following the 2025 Triennial Elections) be received.
- 2 The Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) recommends to the incoming Council of the 2025-2028 triennium that it re-establish Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) on a similar basis to the current Committee.
- 3 The Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) recommends to the incoming Council of the 2025-2028 triennium that it adopt the Terms of Reference with the following amendments:
 - 1 Replace Clause 1.3 with:
This Committee will not replace relationships that WDC has with the Whare through the Proposed District Plan (PDP) process and direct relationships with whanau, hapu or iwi of an operational nature. WDC will continue to work with the Whare through the PDP and other engagement processes.
 - 2 Replace Clause 2.3 with:
To be the Committee where partnership opportunities with Iwi/Mana Whenua for community initiatives are canvassed, including:
 - a. Housing and Papakainga
 - b. Youth Initiatives
 - c. Cultural Hubs
 - d. Education and Health initiatives
 - 3 Include a definition for "Iwi" that defines references to "Iwi" in the Terms of Reference do not relate to the Te Nehenehenui Post-Settlement Governance Entity.

Robertson/Tasker

Carried

12. Reinstatement of Standing Orders

Resolution

- 1 The Standing Orders for Meetings be reinstated.
- 2 The Resolutions passed while Standing Orders were suspended are confirmed.

Robertson/Tasker

Carried

13. Karakia Whakamutunga

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40pm

Dated this day of October 2025

EADY MANAWAITI
CHAIRPERSON

BEN SMIT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE