



Agenda

Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) Meeting

**Sunday 21 June 2026
10.00am**

**Waitomo District Council Chambers
15 Queen Street
Te Kuiti**

Waitomo District Council is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is open, transparent and facilitates accountability and public participation. Any member(s) of the public wishing to address the Council at a Meeting or Workshop are asked to make arrangements through the Mayor's Office at least three clear working days before the scheduled Meeting or Workshop.

All attendees at this meeting are advised that the meeting will be electronically recorded (audio and video) for the purpose of webcasting to the Council 's website. Every care will be taken to maintain individuals' privacy; however, attendees are advised they may be recorded as part of the general meeting proceedings.



NOTICE OF MEETING

A MEETING OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE RAANGAI WHAKAKAUPAPA KOORERO (MĀORI RELATIONS COMMITTEE) IS TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 15 QUEEN STREET, TE KUITI ON SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026 AT 10.00AM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor Eady Manawaiti (Chair)

Mayor John Robertson

Councillor Dan Tasker

Councillor Isaiah Wallace

WHARE

Whare

Whare Contact(s)

Te Whare ki Tokanganui a Noho:

Ray Kilgour, Shannon Manawaiti

Te Whare ki Ngā Tai o Kāwhia:

Dion Ormsby

Te Whare ki Rereahu:

Mary Tapu

Te Whare o Waiwaiā:

Mellissa Gage, Wikitōria Tāne

Te Whare ki Tuhua Hikurangi:

Donna Tuwhangai

Te Whare ki Mōkau ki Runga:

Andrew McCarthy, Kim Hancy

Te Whare Hauāuru ki Uta:

Pat Stafford

Ngāti Mahuta:

Melaina Huaki

OTHER INVITEES

Rōpū Whakahaere o Rereamanu Marae on behalf of

Ngā Marae o Te Whare Hauāuru ki Uta:
(Hangatiki Roundabout Concerns)

Maude Green, Dawn Magna, Nikki Koroheke, Reo
Piki Takerei, Aroha Te Aretoa

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Waikato/Bay of Plenty:
(Hangatiki Roundabout)

Andrew Corkill - Director Regional Relationships
Brian Nicholas - Pou Ārahi
Jeena Paul – Executive Assistant

Civil Defence and Emergency Management:
(Marae Emergency Preparedness Plans)

Cathie Shaw – Emergency Management Coordinator
Kristen Pari, Senior Advisor, Te Nehenehenui
Mark Bang, Waitomo Local Controller/Recovery Manager

Oparure Village (Welcome Sign Work Group):

Ata Te Kanawa

Ōtorohanga District Mayor:

Rodney Dow

Ōtorohanga District Council - Chief Executive:

Tanya Winter

ORDER PAPER

Item of Business

Note: This meeting will adjourn for lunch at approximately midday

1.0	Karakia Tūwhera	
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5.4	Oparure Village – Welcome Sign Concept	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Ata Te Kanawa on behalf of the Oparure Village Sign Work Group</i>	
5.5	Civil Defence and Emergency Management – Marae Emergency Preparedness Plans	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Cathie Shaw, Emergency Management Co-ordinator, Western Waikato</i><i>Kristen Pari, Senior Advisor, Te Nehenehenui</i><i>Mark Bang, Waitomo Local Controller and Recovery Manager</i>	
5.6	Waitomo District Council Long Term Plan 2027-2037 Development – PowerPoint Presentation	24
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IMPORTANT NOTE

- The business papers attached to this Order Paper set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions **DO NOT** represent Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by Council resolution.
- This Order Paper may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items.
- This Meeting will be **webcast** live to the Waitomo District Council website and will also be available for viewing on demand as soon as reasonably practicable following the meeting.

Document No: 976971

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026

Subject: Temporary Suspension of Standing Orders for the Whare Roopu Forum

Type: Decision Required

Author(s): Michelle Higgie
Manager – Governance Support

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is for the Committee to consider the temporary suspension of relevant Standing Orders relating to the Whare Roopu Forum portion of the meeting.

2 Suggested Resolutions

- 2.1 The following are suggested resolutions only and do not represent Council policy until such time as they are adopted by formal resolution.
- 1 The business paper on Temporary Suspension of Standing Orders for the Whare Roopu Forum be received.
 - 2 Standing Order **15.1 "Time limits/Ngā tepenga wā"** be temporarily suspended for the duration of the Whare Roopu Forum so as not to limit the length of time required for the Forum or restrict the length of time individual speakers may speak. This Standing Order will be deemed reinstated at the conclusion of the Whare Roopu Forum portion of this meeting.

3 Background

- 3.1 It is mandatory that all local authorities adopt Standing Orders for the conduct of their meetings.
- 3.2 Standing Orders apply to all meetings of the local authority, its committees, subcommittees and subordinate decision-making bodies.
- 3.3 Standing Orders have been designed specifically for local authorities, their committees, subcommittees, subordinate decision-making bodies, and local and community boards to meet the requirements regarding the conduct of meetings under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

4 Commentary

- 4.1 To meet the intent of Committee in hosting a Whare Roopu Forum as part of its meeting, it is necessary to remove time limit restrictions on both the length of the Forum and the time individual speakers may speak.
- 4.2 Standing Order 3.5 Temporary suspension of standing orders/Te tārewa taupua i ngā tikanga whakahaere hui provides for temporary suspension of specified Standing Orders at a meeting. To pass a motion it must be supported by at least 75 per cent of the members present and voting, must identify the specific Standing Orders to be suspended and include the reason for suspension.

Please Note: In the event of suspension, any Standing Orders prescribed in statute will continue to apply, such as the quorum requirements.

5 Analysis of Options

5.1 The Committee has two options relating to the application of Standing Orders for the Whare Roopu Forum portion of the meeting –

5.2 Option One

5.3 Temporarily Suspend Standing Order 15.1 "Time limits/Ngā tepenga wā to remove time limit restrictions for both the length of time of the Forum and the speaking time of individual speakers.

5.4 Option Two

5.5 Not suspend Standing Orders which will limit the Whare Roopu Forum to a maximum of 30 minutes and limit individual speakers to a speaking time of a maximum of 5 minutes each.

6 Considerations

6.1 RISK

6.2 There is no risk in temporarily suspending Standing Order 15.1 to remove time limits for the Whare Roopu Forum and the benefits of enabling all invitees to speak without time limitation at the Whare Roopu Forum meets the intent of the Committee in hosting the Forum as part of its meeting.

6.3 CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING PLANS AND POLICIES

6.4 The temporary suspension of standing orders is provided for within Council's adopted Standing Orders.

6.5 SIGNIFICANCE AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

6.6 The temporary suspension of Standing Orders does not have a negative affect on any parties and is not significant in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Document No: 976888

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026
Subject: **Simplifying Local Government Briefing**
Type: Information Only
Author(s): Ben Smit
 Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to provide a high level briefing on the Simplifying Local Government Process and the Waitomo District Council's decision to develop a 'Head Start' proposal with Otorohanga District Council for submission to Central Government by 9 August 2026.

2 Commentary

- 3.1 On 5 May 2026 the Minister of Local Government (Hon Simon Watts) and the Minister Responsible for the Resource Management Act Reform (Hon Chris Bishop) outlined the Government's approach to the Simplification of Local Government. A copy of the Government's Head Start pathway document is enclosed for further information (**Separate Enclosure 1**).
- 3.2 To summarise, Central Government have advised –

We will introduce a streamlined Head Start pathway for councils that are ready to develop and progress reorganisation proposals, with the aim of creating unitary authorities within a region through bespoke legislation.

We will legislate for councils not progressing through Head Start to enter a compulsory backstop process after the 2028 local elections.

We will replace regional councillors at the 2028 local elections with an interim body (for example, a board of mayors, Crown commissioners, or a combination of both). The precise model will be confirmed later. Retaining regional councillors until the 2028 local elections will provide capacity during a period of substantial change.

3.3 These goals are to be achieved by the amalgamation and reorganisation of two or more councils together and these new councils are to take on the functions formerly provided by regional councils, therefore becoming unitary authorities.

3.4 UNITARY AUTHORITIES

3.5 A unitary authority is a territorial authority (district or city council) that also has the responsibilities, duties and powers of a regional council.

3.6 There are currently six unitary authorities in New Zealand:

- 1 Auckland Council
- 2 Gisborne District Council
- 3 Chatham Islands Council
- 4 Nelson City Council
- 5 Marlborough District Council
- 6 Tasman District Council.

3.7 The Simplifying Local Government policy proposes that legislation will be passed removing regional councillors at the 2028 local elections with the aim of moving all regional council functions to the newly formed unitary authorities.

3.8 OPTIONS

3.9 There are only two options available to council's which are–

Option One: Participate in the 'Head Start' process

Option Two: Do nothing and await the 'Backstop' process following the 2028 local elections

3.10 HEAD START PROCESS

3.11 The Head Start process is optional and requires 'outline' proposals to be submitted by 9 August 2026.

3.12 The 'outline' proposal is a high level proposal and only if approved in principle by Central Government will Council time, resource and funding be committed to completing a detailed design of the proposal.

3.13 A brief description of the 'Head Start' Pathway is as follows:

Who can submit a proposal?

Proposals must be submitted by groups of councils, not individual councils acting alone.

To be eligible:

- A proposal must come from two or more territorial authorities (city or district councils).
- The group must either:
 - represent a majority of the territorial authorities directly affected, or
 - represent a majority of the population in the affected area.
- Regional councils cannot submit proposals.
- Existing unitary authorities (except Auckland Council) can be part of a proposal.

Proposals can:

- Cover all or part of a region.
- Include neighbouring councils from different regions (where it makes sense).
- Result in one or more unitary authorities (generally one, but in some cases two or three per region).

What is a proposal expected to do?

Proposals should focus on creating unitary authorities.

This means:

- Combining regional and local council functions into a single organisation.
- Reducing duplication and simplifying decision-making.
- Creating a structure that works better at a regional or subregional level.

What criteria will proposals be assessed against?

All proposals will be assessed by officials against clear criteria before decisions are made by Cabinet.

Proposals must show:

Deliverability

- The proposal is realistic and can be implemented in a timely way.
- It can be in place by, or soon after, the 2028 local elections.

Supports the new planning system

- It will help councils deliver the new planning system.
- It avoids disrupting important work like spatial planning, environmental planning, and infrastructure delivery.

Simpler local governance

- It reduces duplication and complexity.
- It improves how decisions are made across the region.

Economies of scale

- It enables more efficient delivery of services.
- It supports better infrastructure planning and investment.
- It enables effective delivery of key functions like transport, catchment management.

Maintains a strong local voice

- Communities continue to be represented fairly.
- Local decision-making is preserved where it matters.
- Urban and rural interests are balanced.

What happens next?

- Councils have three months to develop and submit outline proposals.
- Officials will carry out a rapid assessment of proposals.
- Ministers will recommend which proposals should proceed.
- Cabinet will agree in principle which proposals move forward to detailed design.
- Final decisions are expected in 2027, with changes implemented ahead of the 2028 local elections.

3.14 BACKSTOP PROCESS

3.15 A brief overview of the Backstop process should a council not participate in the Head Start process is as follows:

What if a council doesn't take part?

- If councils choose not to use the Head Start pathway, or aren't ready to, the Government will step in to ensure reform still happens through a backstop process.
- Under the backstop, the Government will set a standard approach to reorganising local government.
- It is likely to include simplifying structures and reducing duplication, similar to the goals of the Head Start pathway.
- There will be transitional governance arrangements (such as a board of mayors or other interim body) while changes are put in place.

- The backstop process will be finalised in 2027, with changes expected to take effect from the 2028 local elections.
- The aim is to ensure every part of the country benefits from a simpler, more effective local government system, whether councils choose to lead reform themselves or not.

3.16 WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CURRENT POSITION

- 3.17 Recent discussions between Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils have resulted in a willingness to put together a Head Start proposal to form a unitary authority consisting of the two councils and also governing the local government activities undertaken for this area by the current Waikato Regional Council.
- 3.18 It is important to note that the decision taken by Council to work with Otorohanga is a starting point and does not prevent either Council from working with other council(s) before or after an outline proposal is lodged with Central Government.

3.19 Consultation

- 3.20 There is very little time for consultation by Council with its communities.
- Change to local government is coming – there is no choice
 - There are significant time pressures to meet the required three month deadline for submitting Head Start online proposals
 - All Head Start online proposals must get Central Government approval in principle before they will consider any fully detailed design proposal
 - There is no guarantee the ODC/WDC Head Start online proposal to amalgamate will be approved by Central Government
 - If the ODC/WDC Head Start proposal is approved in principle by Central Government, then a more comprehensive consultation process will be undertaken as part of developing a detailed proposal for submission to Government by March 2027.
- 3.21 Community engagement planned:
- King Country Future webpage developed
 - Te Kuiti Public meeting 5.30 to 7pm Les Munro Centre 22 June 2026
 - This hui with our Whare partners.

3.22 Summary of Options

- 3.23 By opting to participate in the Head Start process, this opens up other options i.e. a joint proposal with Otorohanga District Council and/or working with other councils. A summary of these Options including advantages and disadvantages for each is set out below.

ODC = Otorohanga District Council
WDC = Waitomo District Council

	Option 1 Otorohanga/Waitomo Online Proposal	Option 2 Working with Other Councils	Option 3 Do Nothing
Summary	Develop a joint ODC/WDC 'Head Start' online proposal for submission to Central Government by 9 August 2026.	Consider working with other councils or parts of councils to develop a 'Head Start' online proposal by 9 August 2026. <i>This will remain an option before and after an ODC/WDC 'Head Start' online proposal is approved (or otherwise) by Central Government.</i>	Do nothing and be required to enter a compulsory 'Backstop' process into an unknown amalgamation to be determined by Central Government.
Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enables influence to the future structure and governance of local government affecting ODC and WDC. 2. Builds on existing discussions between ODC and WDC, allowing progress within tight timeframes. 3. Provides a practical and achievable pathway to meet Government deadlines. 4. Positions ODC and WDC to shape outcomes rather than react to them. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides opportunity to explore broader or alternative structural arrangements. 2. May identify options that deliver greater long-term efficiencies or alignment across a wider area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No immediate resource commitment to proposal development. 2. Avoids short-term workload associated with preparing a submission.
Disadvantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited time available to develop a robust proposal. 2. May constrain consideration of wider regional options. 3. Does not guarantee that the proposal will be accepted by Central Government. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of not meeting the 9 August 2026 deadline due to complexity of engaging additional councils. 2. High level of uncertainty and resource demand to establish new relationships and proposal scope. 3. May delay or undermine current progress between ODC and WDC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of ability to influence future governance structures and service delivery arrangements. 2. Increased likelihood of externally imposed amalgamation outcomes that may not align with community needs or ODC/WDC priorities. 3. Reduced local input into decision-making processes. 4. Potential for greater long-term disruption and uncertainty.

3 Attachments/Separate Enclosures

Separate Enclosure:

- 1 Head Start pathway – Simplifying Local Government

Head Start pathway

Simplifying Local Government



Ministerial foreword

Local government plays a central role in shaping how New Zealand grows and develops. Councils understand their communities and regions, and they are key partners with central government in delivering housing, infrastructure, and environmental management.

The Government knows councils are managing significant change, with multiple reforms happening at once. Alongside implementing a new planning system, councils told us through submissions on the [Simplifying Local Government proposal](#) that they wanted greater flexibility, including the ability to shape future governance arrangements themselves and, where they are ready, to move more quickly.

The Head Start pathway is a direct response to that feedback. It provides a voluntary, streamlined option for councils that want to lead the transition early, while continuing to deliver the new planning system. Head Start enables locally led solutions, so councils can set their own direction and pace rather than waiting for wider reform settings to apply.

The Government has been clear that regional governance needs to be simpler and more effective over time. Head Start is voluntary. Councils that do not opt in will not face mandatory change until after the 2028 local elections, giving them space to focus on delivering the first generation of plans under the new planning system.

Together, the Head Start pathway and the backstop approach provide certainty and confidence, supporting councils to lead where they are ready, while setting the system up to work better for the long term and delivering the new planning system.



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform



Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

The Simplifying Local Government proposal

In November we consulted on a draft proposal to establish regional boards of mayors, replacing regional councillors, to lead the development of reorganisation plans for a region. The proposal can be found at dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government#Proposal.

What we heard

Consultation on this proposal resulted in more than 1,150 submissions, including around 70 from councils and local government sector bodies, and around 60 from iwi/Māori organisations. Submitters generally agreed with the need for reform but raised issues with the specific proposal.

There was more support for regional reorganisation plans than combined territories boards (CTBs). Many submitters had concerns about council capacity to progress these reforms at the same time as other government initiatives. Some suggested changes to the timing, membership, or remit of CTBs.

Many submitters supported keeping regional councillors in place until the 2028 local elections – as a practical measure to support mayors and maintain democratic legitimacy.

Submissions highlighted the important relationships regional councils have with iwi Māori, and the Treaty settlement redress arrangements that relate to regional council functions.

Other issues raised in submissions included:

- preserving and supporting local democracy, including balancing urban and rural interests, with some support for Crown observers
- retention of regional service delivery, particularly environmental management and river catchment management
- mayoral workloads and adopting a regional perspective; and
- funding and process concerns.

Councils told us they wanted greater flexibility to take locally led approaches to reform. Some councils and mayors have been clear that they are ready to move faster, building on existing regional arrangements such as mayoral forums rather than establishing a board of the region's mayors.

The Head Start pathway responds directly to that feedback, giving councils that are ready the opportunity to take the lead, shape their own regional solutions, and progress at pace.

What we are doing

We have listened to feedback and refined our approach.

We will introduce a streamlined Head Start pathway for councils that are ready to develop and progress reorganisation proposals, with the aim of creating unitary authorities within a region through bespoke legislation.

We will legislate for councils not progressing through Head Start to enter a compulsory backstop process after the 2028 local elections.

We will replace regional councillors at the 2028 local elections with an interim body (for example, a board of mayors, Crown commissioners, or a combination of both). The precise model will be confirmed later. Retaining regional councillors until the 2028 local elections will provide capacity during a period of substantial change.

How this fits with the new planning system

We know councils are navigating significant change, with multiple reforms happening at once.

The Head Start pathway gives councils that are ready to move early the confidence to get on with delivering the new planning system now, while they shape the governance arrangements ahead of the 2028 local elections.

By progressively aligning governance with how the new planning system is designed to work, Head Start enables councils to lead the transition on their own terms, rather than waiting for wider reform to commence.

Delivering the new planning system remains core business for all councils and continues in parallel, whichever pathway councils choose.

Head Start pathway

From 5 May 2026, two or more territorial and/or unitary authorities can submit an outline proposal to establish a new unitary authority covering part or all of a region. Proposals will need to be submitted by 9 August 2026.

A unitary authority combines the functions of a regional council and a city or district council into a single organisation. This can simplify governance, reduce duplication, and improve regional coordination.

Councils participating in the Head Start pathway will continue implementing the new planning system alongside any reorganisation activity.

Who can submit an outline proposal?

Any two or more territorial and/or unitary authorities (except for Auckland) including cross-boundary groupings, may submit if they represent a majority of either the:

- directly affected territorial authorities, or
- population across directly affected areas.

Proposals cannot be submitted by minority groupings, individual territorial authorities or unitary authorities, regional councils, individuals or other organisations.

Eligibility criteria

Proposals must be submitted by two or more territorial authorities that together represent a majority of either directly affected territorial authorities or a majority of the population across directly affected districts. The following examples illustrate how this may work.

What types of reorganisation can be proposed?

Outline proposals must provide for the establishment of new unitary authorities. The most straightforward approach is for all councils in a region to combine to form a single unitary authority.

We will also consider outline proposals for subregional unitary authorities and potential cross-boundary proposals, where:

- existing territorial authorities are combined and regional council functions are transferred
- the proposed arrangements would result in fewer local authorities overall
- the proposed arrangements would deliver clearer accountability and effective delivery of key functions, including regional planning, transport, and catchment management.

More than one unitary authority in a region is only likely to be approved if:

- the region is large and has more complex issues
- the proposal clearly meets the criteria and doesn't lead to the fragmentation of key regional functions where collaboration is required, such as catchment management.

Working with iwi/Māori

Treaty settlement arrangements will continue to be provided for. We will work with applicants and iwi/Māori affected by the Head Start pathway to support the continuation of effective relationships and uphold settlement redress.

Councils will be expected to engage with relevant post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) to demonstrate how existing Treaty settlement arrangements could be transferred to new unitary authorities with equivalent effect. The Government will also work with PSGEs directly on proposed arrangements. Councils will have an opportunity to further engage with Māori as they continue to develop outline proposals ahead of final decisions in 2027.

Example 1: Majority of directly affected councils

A region contains three territorial authorities: Council A, Council B and Council C. Council A and Council B jointly submit a proposal that affects Council C.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because Councils A and B form a majority of the directly affected territorial authorities, regardless of population size.

Example 2: Majority of population

A region contains four territorial authorities: Councils A to D. Councils A and B jointly submit a proposal that also impacts Councils C and D. Councils A and B together represent more than 50% of the population of the directly affected area, even though Council C and Council D are larger in land area.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because the proposing councils represent a majority of the population, even if they do not represent all councils.

Example 3: Minority of directly affected councils

A region contains five territorial authorities: Councils A to E. Council A and Council B jointly submit a proposal that also affects Councils C, D and E. Councils A and B together do not represent more than 50% of the population or the majority of affected councils of the directly affected area.

- ✗ This proposal would not be eligible for consideration because, while it involves two councils, it does not represent a majority of councils or population.

Example 4: Subregional unitary authorities

A region contains five territorial authorities: Councils A to E. Council A, Council B, Council C and Council D jointly submit a proposal for two unitaries for the region affecting Council E.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because the proposing councils are a majority of the directly affected territorial authorities, regardless of population of the directly affected areas.

Example 5: Subregional proposal - part of region

A region contains seven territorial authorities: Councils A to F. Council A, Council B and Council C jointly submit a proposal for a unitary for the three councils within their part of the region. The other four councils are unaffected.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because there are more than two territorial authorities proposing amalgamation and the majority of territorial authorities and population affected by the proposal are in favour of the proposal. Reorganisation plans for the remainder of the region (Councils D to F) will be required after the 2028 local body elections.

Note: eligibility is not acceptance, and eligible proposals will still need to pass the assessment.

How will outline proposals be assessed?

Five criteria will be used to assess the proposals:



Deliverability: Proposals are realistic and demonstrate how new arrangements can be implemented in a timely manner.



Supports the new planning system: Shows clear support for implementing the new planning system – including progress on spatial and natural environment plan development – and avoids or minimises disruption to that work.



Simplifies local governance: Proposes more efficient regional governance arrangements, consolidating decision-making and improving alignment between a region's councils.



Economies of scale: Supports regional strategic planning and effective delivery of key regional functions (such as transport and catchment management), and demonstrates responsible and affordable asset management, infrastructure investment, and service delivery.



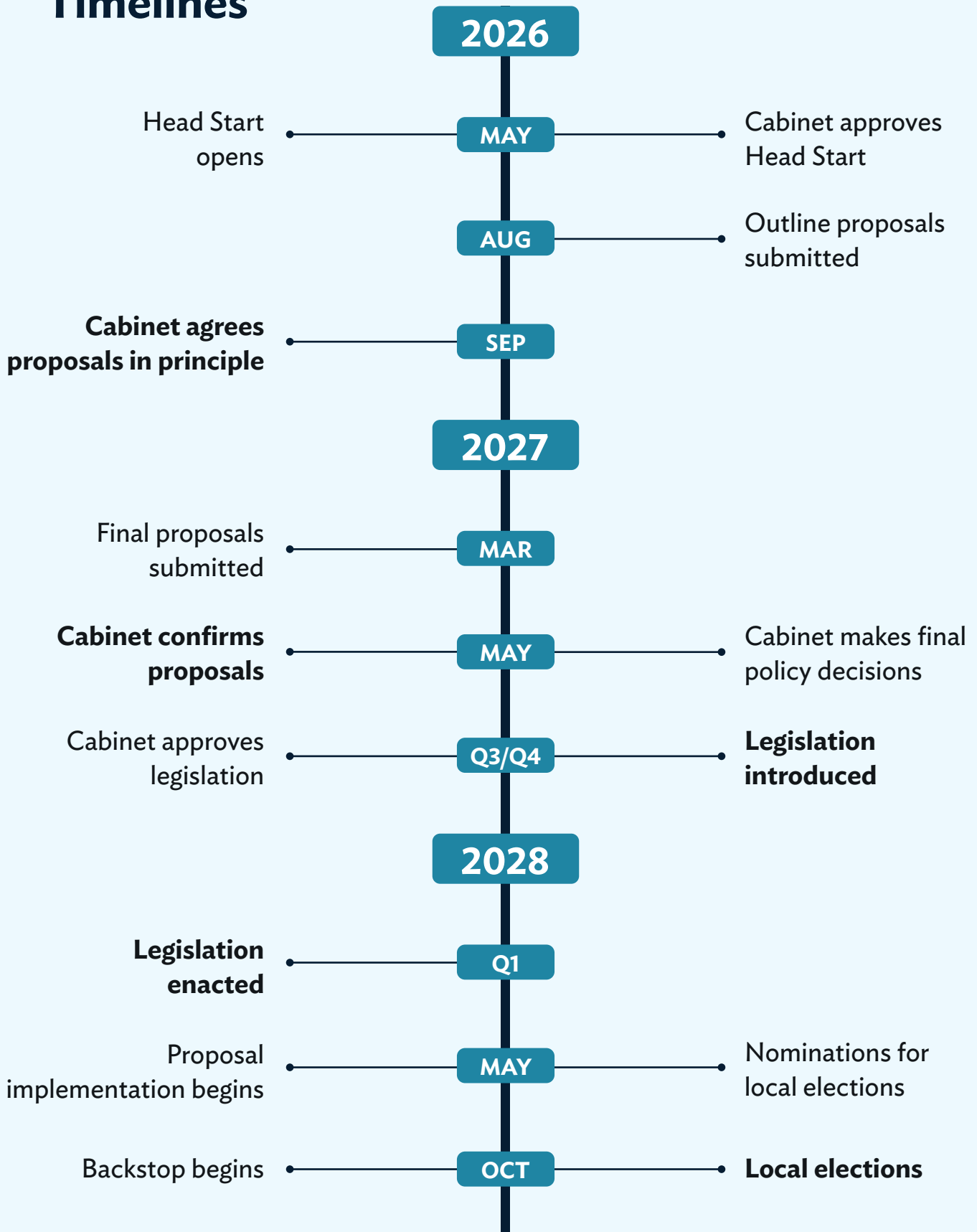
Maintains local voice: Demonstrates fair and effective representation for communities of interest and how decisions will be made at the local level, balancing urban and rural interests.

Next steps for Head Start

Once outline proposals have been assessed, Cabinet will decide which proposals are accepted into the detailed design phase of the Head Start pathway.

Once agreed in principle, any support required to develop detailed reorganisation proposals will be determined with submitters and agreed by Cabinet.

Timelines



Status of regional councillors

We previously proposed replacing regional councillors with boards of mayors.

Submitters suggested that retaining regional councillors until the end of their current elected periods would:

- support the transition to the new planning regime, including the first generation of spatial and natural environment plans
- retain institutional knowledge needed to make the transition
- provide additional governance capacity and capability during a period of substantial change.

It is our intention that regional councillors will not be elected at the 2028 local elections. They will be replaced by an interim body, for example a board of mayors, Crown commissioners, or a hybrid model. We will confirm the exact model in 2027, when successful Head Start proposals are approved.

Current regional councillors will stay on through to the end of the 2028 term to lead regional councils in their roles in the new planning system, particularly regional spatial plans.

Backstop legislation

Progress through the Head Start pathway will help inform the design of backstop arrangements for other regions.

Councils that do not progress through Head Start will continue to focus on delivering the new planning system, including development of the first generation of plans. Reform for those councils will not occur until after the 2028 local elections, through the compulsory backstop process.

This approach gives councils more time to concentrate on planning system implementation before any mandatory governance changes take effect, while still providing a strong indication of when and where future reform will occur.

Regions and councils not progressing through the Head Start pathway will be subject to a backstop process. During the transition, regional council governance would be exercised by an interim body, with the precise model to be confirmed in 2027. Legislation for the backstop will be enacted before nominations open for the 2028 local elections. This will ensure candidates understand any new roles and responsibilities, and electors can vote with clarity.

The final models of governance will be informed by lessons from the Head Start, feedback from consultation on the Simplifying Local Government proposal, and further advice from officials.

Rapid review update

A rapid review of regional council functions was completed to help guide councils during reorganisation planning. It was intended to identify functions that could potentially be centralised or ceased.

The review found that the key opportunities for centralisation are already being considered through existing government work programmes. For example, a national regulator for compliance and enforcement is being considered as part of the new planning system.

The RMA Expert Advisory Group recommended that, in the new planning system, compliance and enforcement functions should be transferred to a national regulator with regional compliance hubs. Policy work on this proposal is expected to be progressed after the Planning and Natural Environment Bills pass. The Government then expects to engage with local authorities and others to discuss the merits of different approaches.

The review concluded that other functions are still best delivered at a regional or local scale. In general, centralisation would involve high transition costs, be disproportionate to the problem identified, and is unlikely to materially improve regional or system outcomes. In some cases, the status quo is functioning effectively or could benefit from targeted modification rather than substantial change.

Transport is one key regional function that requires further consideration as a part of Head Start proposals. Transport responsibilities are currently split across central (NZ Transport Agency) and local government, with territorial authorities responsible for local roading while regional councils are responsible for network planning and public transport.

Outline proposals do not need to resolve all issues relating to any transfer of regional functions. However, proposals should:

- address the need to consolidate regional transport functions (such as in a regional unitary authority, regional joint committee or regional council controlled organisation)
- propose interim arrangements with respect to the new planning system compliance and enforcement functions, until Government decisions have been made
- explain how effective river catchment management can be maintained.

Resources

For further information, including guidance and how to engage with officials and access support, see dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government

Published by the New Zealand Government
in May 2026



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Document No: 976813

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026

Subject: **Hangatiki Roundabout Concerns**

Type: Information Only

Author(s): Ben Smit
Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to advise that representatives of Rōpū Whakahaere o Rereamanu Marae on behalf of Ngā Marae o Te Whare Hauāuru ki Uta will brief the hui on concerns regarding the roundabout at Hangatiki at the intersection of State Highways 3 and 37.
- 1.2 A representation from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will attend the hui on-line to assist with questions and answers.

2 Background

- 2.1 For many years the intersection of State Highways 3 and 37, being the gateway to the world-famous Waitomo Caves, was a high crash area with several serious crashes, including two fatal accidents in 2012 involving foreign tourists.
- 2.2 While maintenance of the roundabout at this intersection is not the responsibility of WDC (being an intersection of two state highways responsibility it is with NZTA) safety at the intersection is of high importance to WDC to ensure both locals and visitors can safely travel to their destinations.
- 2.3 Following the two fatal accidents in 2012, in 2013 NZTA worked with WDC, NZ Police and other road safety partners and local property owners to identify opportunities to improve the intersection. NZTA also undertook a public consultation process on the matter seeking feedback.
- 2.4 The outcome of that process was NZTA designing and constructing the roundabout. The roundabout was chosen for the site as roundabouts are viewed internationally as being a more forgiving form of intersection that require travellers to significantly reduce speed, in turn reducing serious accidents.
- 2.5 Traffic volumes through the roundabout are estimated as follows:
 - SH3: 8,124 vehicles/day (up from 6,500), 20% heavy — est. 25/12/2024
 - SH37 (Waitomo Caves Rd): 1,463 vehicles/day (up from 1,300), 11% heavy — est. 25/12/2024
 - Mangarino Road: 344 vehicles/day (down from 450), 31% heavy — est. 13/06/2025
- 2.6 The roundabout is located approximately 60 metres north of the original intersection on SH3 and SH37 was realigned to improve the link. A new right-hand turn bay was also added on SH3 for Mangarino Road.
- 2.7 Construction of the roundabout started in January 2015 and was finished in early June 2015 with a blessing ceremony held onsite on 24 June 2015 attended by around 30 people.
- 2.8 The blessing ceremony was led by Maniapoto Kaumatua Pat Stafford with Rev Barney Winikerei giving the blessing. Other attendees were key stakeholders who were involved in the project including Higgins Construction, Transfield Services, consultants Bloxam Burnett & Olliver Ltd,

Waitomo District Council and members of the community. A crew from the Otorohanga Fire Brigade were also in attendance representing the frontline emergency services who were often called to serious accidents at the intersection.

- 2.9 Rōpū Whakahaere o Rereamanu Marae on behalf of Ngā Marae o Te Whare Hauāuru ki Uta has asked for an opportunity to discuss their concerns and aspirations for the roundabout at this hui.

Document No: 977556

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026

Subject: **Waitomo District Council Long Term Plan 2027-2037 Development**

Type: Information Only

Author(s): Ben Smit
Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to advise that the Chief Executive will provide a brief on the process and timeline for development of Waitomo District Council's 2027-2037 Long Term Plan (LTP) by way of PowerPoint Presentation.
- 1.2 It is Council's intention to keep Whare fully informed of the process and timeline and to obtain feedback from the very early stages of development of the LTP document.

2 Attachments/Separate Enclosures

Attachment:

- 1 PowerPoint Presentation: Waitomo District Council Long term Plan 2027-2037 Development (Doc # 977555)

Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee)

Development of Long Term Plan 2027-2037

21 June 2026

Purpose

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- To inform Whare of the Long Term Plan (LTP) development process and timeline
- To involve Whare early in developing the “draft” LTP document

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Timeline Key Dates²⁷

Council Touchpoint	Key Milestones	Date
LTP Workshop 1	Project Structure and Timeframes	10 March 2026
Council Meeting	Endorsement of process and anticipated timeframes	24 March 2026
LTP Workshops 2 - 3		April – May 2026
Council Meeting	Adopt Vision, Community Outcomes, Priorities	26 May 2026
LTP Workshops 4 - 12		June 2026 – Feb 2027
Council Meeting	Adopt Draft Documents for Audit	4 March 2027
	AUDIT	8-12 March
	AUDIT (hot review)	15-17 March 2027
Council Meeting	Adopt Draft Documents for public consultation	30 March 2027
Public Notification		2 April 2027
Consultation Period		2 April – 3 May 2027
Council Hearing	Hearing of Submitters LTP	11 May 2027
Council Meeting	Deliberation of Submissions LTP	25 May 2027
Council Meeting	Adoption LTP	29 June 2027

- The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires that every 3 years all councils must produce a Long Term Plan that covers 10 financial years.
- The LTP is the primary plan that sets up Council's direction and the community outcomes we are striving to deliver.



Overview

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LTP is required to:

- Describe the **activities** of Council.
- Describe the **community outcomes** of the district.
- Provide **integrated decision-making** and **co-ordination of the resources** of Council.
- Provide a **long-term focus** for the decisions and activities of Council.
- Provide a basis for **accountability** of Council to the community.

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Overview

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Strategic Direction:

The LTP sets out the Council's vision, key priorities, and work plan for the community.

Financial Strategy:

It includes the financial strategy and budget for the 10-year period, including forecasts for rates increases, Council's approach to debt.

Also a 30-year infrastructure which historically covered roading and waters. Water and wastewater now with Waikato Waters Limited.

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Community Consultation:

Councils engage with the community and iwi to get feedback on the proposed LTP, presented with Councils preferred options asking for submissions that feed into the final decision-making process.

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Service Delivery:

- Details essential services and infrastructure across the 8 activities (will exclude water and wastewater activities)
- Balance level of service against affordability

Long-term Issues:

An LTP addresses significant issues such as infrastructure renewal and resilience, affordability and delivery into the future.

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Audit:

The LTP is audited by the Auditor-General's office to ensure it is robust and meets the requirements of the LGA.

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Te hanga tahi tō tātou Takiwā

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Community Outcomes (1)³⁵

A prosperous district.

We support a thriving and sustainable economy through delivering our core services to create greater benefits for everyone.

Community Outcomes (2)

A district for all people.

Our district is a great place to live because it is accessible, safe, affordable, and inclusive. We promote health, wellbeing, and participation.

Community Outcomes (3)³⁷

A district that cares for its environment.

We ensure the wise use and management of land and natural resources we oversee, now and for future generations.

Community Outcomes (4)³⁸

A district that values culture.

We value the whakapapa of our district, and we promote cultural, creative, and recreational activities where traditions, heritage, and arts are celebrated.

Council's Priorities³⁹

- There are a range of challenges and constraints to be faced to achieve outcomes -
 - Proposed rate capping
 - Affordability considerations
 - Increasing legislative requirements to comply with
 - Reform considerations
- A dynamic and constantly changing operating environment.

Council's Priorities⁴⁰

- The LTP will focus on core activities and cost restraint so not looking at large projects with the possible exception of the revitalisation of the Les Munro Centre and the further upgrade of our stormwater network.
- We recognise that this LTP is likely to be superseded in the medium term by Local Government amalgamation.

Council's Priorities⁴¹

1 Strengthening Relationships

We will grow our local and regional relationships with all our community, iwi, and mana whenua groups to build partnerships that will benefit the district

Council's Priorities⁴²

2 Preparing for the future

We will ensure we are prepared for the future and continue to deliver our services at a local level. We demonstrate great leadership and adaptability to support our communities through global and national change.

Council's Priorities⁴³

3 Effective management of resources

We manage all of our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to our community. We keep sustainability and affordability at the forefront of what we do.

Document No: 976814

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026

Subject: **Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero – Terms of Reference**

Type: Information Only

Author(s): Michelle Higgie
Manager – Governance Support

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to present to Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) (TRWK) for information, the Terms of Reference adopted by Council on 25 November 2025 following establishment of TRWK for the 2025-2028 Triennium.

2 Suggested Resolutions

- 2.1 The following are suggested resolutions only and do not represent Council policy until such time as they are adopted by formal resolution.
- 1 The business paper on Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) – Terms of Reference be received.
 - 2 The Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) Terms of Reference be noted.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Waitomo District Council first established TRWK at a meeting on 29 November 2022 following the October 2022 Triennial Elections and at that same meeting considered and adopted a Terms of Reference for TRWK.
- 3.2 At the last meeting of TRWK for the 2022-2025 Triennium, a review of the Terms of Reference was undertaken and the following recommendations were made for consideration by the incoming Council following the October 2025 Triennial Electionsto:

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

4 Commentary

- 4.1 Council at its meeting on 25 November 2023, in considering its Committee structure for the 2025-2028 triennium, re-established TRWK and adopted the Terms of Reference including the amendments recommended by TRWK members of the last triennium.
- 4.2 A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached for information.

5 Attachments/Separate Enclosures

Attachment:

- 1 Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) Terms of Reference (Doc # 915159)

Waitomo District Council

Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
Māori Relations Committee

Terms of Reference

First Adopted:	29 November 2022
Review History:	Amended 30 May 2023 Amended 28 November 2023 Amended 25 November 2025
Date of Next Review:	November 2028
Responsibility:	Manager – Governance Support
Adopted by:	Council

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Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Waitomo District Council Māori Relations Committee)

Terms of Reference

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Committee is to provide guidance, assistance, and support to Waitomo District Council (WDC) on matters specific to Iwi and Mana Whenua relationships.

Note: References to "Iwi" in this Terms of Reference do not relate to the Te Nehenehenui Post-Settlement Governance Entity.

- 1.2 The Committee may also be a place where deputations occur on matters which are of particular interest to Māori.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 This agreement does not alter or override any of WDCs obligations in the Joint Management Agreement that was developed as part of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012, or any Joint Management Agreement developed as part of the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 To be the Committee who works with Mana Whenua to develop a model of representation that enhances relationships between Council and Mana Whenua and provides a platform to discuss and advance issues that are of interest to Māori.
- 2.2 To be the Committee where matters specific to the Maniapoto Settlement are canvassed:
- a. Motakiora
 - b. Mangaokewa Reserve
 - c. Others that are yet to be advised.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 To be the Committee that supports Council with advice on matters like:
- a. Māori Wards
 - b. Cultural awareness and understanding of staff and elected members (Te Ao Māori, Tiriti, Te Reo).
 - c. General relationships with iwi and mana whenua.
 - d. Workplace practices and protocols.
- 2.5 To be the Committee that assists Council reflect cultural values in terms of strategy, policy, and the written content of Plans.

3. DELEGATIONS

- 3.1 The Council delegates to the Committee the following powers and duties:
- a. Recommend changes to its Terms of Reference to the Council for adoption.
 - b. Receive and consider staff reports.
 - c. Make recommendations to Council with respect to any of the matters listed as Responsibilities in Section 2 above.

4. MEETINGS

- 4.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Model Standing Orders for Meetings of the Waitomo District Council.
- 4.2 The Committee will meet on an as required basis.
- 4.3 All minutes and recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the Council.

5. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 5.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the Council no later than the November following every triennial election.

Document No: 976812

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026
Subject: **Activity Report: June 2026**
Type: Information Only
Author(s): Michelle Higgie
 Manager – Governance Support

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to document, for recording and transparency purposes, the activities of Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (Māori Relations Committee) members during the period October 2025 (post local elections) to May 2026.

2 Suggested Resolutions

- 2.1 The following are suggested resolutions only and do not represent Council policy until such time as they are adopted by formal resolution.
- 1 The Activity Report – June 2026 be received.

3 Background

- 3.1 The workload of TRWK members in carrying out the responsibilities delegated by Council and documented in the Terms of Reference are unachievable solely through the convening of formal meetings of TRWK.
- 3.2 This is due to a number of reasons including, but not limited to –
- Public notification requirements in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) i.e. all meetings of Council (which includes its Committees) to be publicly notified, not more than 14 days and not less than 5 days before the end of the month that is prior to month in which the meeting is to be held.
 - The need to prepare formal Agendas and associated taking of Minutes.
 - All Council meetings (including Committees) are to be run in accordance with WDC's Standing Orders for Meetings.
- 3.3 The TRWK Terms of Reference reflects this by providing that TRWK can meet on an "as required" basis, however the restrictions of the legislative requirements of LGOIMA and Standing Orders cannot be changed.
- 3.4 Much of the workload carried out by TRWK members is completed outside of formal Committee meetings i.e. hui with Te Nehenehenui, Whare, Hapū, and other stakeholder groups and interested parties at various locations around the Waitomo District.
- 3.5 Therefore, for recording and transparency purposes the activities undertaken by TRWK between formal meetings is reported by way of an Activity Report.

4 Commentary

- 4.1 Frequently members of the TRWK attend meetings/events where the subject of the meeting/event falls within the responsibilities of TRWK as documented in the Terms of Reference. In these situations, other than the Mayor, members have two roles – one as a Waitomo District Councillor and the other as a TRWK Committee member.
- 4.2 Set out below are details of various activities/events/hui TRWK members have attended in the period October 2025 to May 2026:

Date	Activity
28 October 2025	Powhiri for new Council at Te Kūiti Pa
28 November 2025	Te Kirikiri Site Blessing and Sod Turning Ceremony
21 January 2026	Te Kūiti Resilience Project Site Blessing and Sod Turning Ceremony
26 February 2026	Ōpārure Marae - Speed Limit Consultation
20 March 2026	Mangaokewa Walkway – Unveiling and Blessing of Cultural Storyboards
27 March 2026	Tuariri Road Blessing (Te Kumi Station Road renamed Tuariri Road)
29 March 2026	Poukai (Te Kūiti Pa)
24 April 2026	Te Kooraha Hui
25 April 2026	ANZAC Dawn Service at Te Kūiti Pa

Document No: 976815

**Report To: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero
(Māori Relations Committee)**



Meeting Date: 21 June 2026

Subject: Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero – Work Plan

Type: Information Only

Author(s): Ben Smit
Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to provide an update on progress against the Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero Work Plan.

2 Suggested Resolutions

- 2.1 The following are suggested resolutions only and do not represent Council policy until such time as they are adopted by formal resolution.

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

3 Commentary

- 3.1 Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero (TRWK) was originally formed as part of Council's committee structure introduced after the 2022 Election for the purpose of providing guidance, assistance, and support to Waitomo District Council (WDC) on matters specific to Iwi and Mana Whenua relationships.
- 3.2 In the 2022-2025 triennium, TRWK took the lead for Council on the Representation Review for Māori Representation for the Waitomo District Council and then with the development of an appropriate model of engagement working directly with the Whare who have a presence in our District.
- 3.3 TRWK adopted a Work Plan and following re-establishment of TRWK by the new Council elected for the 2025-2028 triennium, that Work Plan has been carried over into the current triennium and is set out in Section 6 below, together with Progress commentary.

4 Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Not having a defined Work Plan results in a lack of clarity about what TRWK does as the majority of the TRWK work is done outside of formal meetings.
- 4.2 The Work Plan also provides TRWK with a clear direction, including the setting of goals and enabling adequate resourcing is made available moving forward.

5 Considerations

5.1 RISK

5.2 As above in Section 4.1.

5.3 CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING PLANS AND POLICIES

5.4 Having a Work Plan is consistent with Council policies.

5.5 SIGNIFICANCE AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

5.6 Adopting and monitoring against the TRWK poses no significance or engagement issues.

6 Work Plan – Report on Progress

Activity	Timeframe	Progress – December 2024	Progress – October 2025	Progress – June 2026
TRWK Work Plan				
1. Implement the engagement model with Māori developed at the joint Whare hui on 10 November 2024.	March - October 2025	Refer to the business paper "Options for New Model of Māori Representation" contained elsewhere in this Agenda for this update.	Hui with whare roopu have occurred with agreement on how the whare roopu and TRWK would work together. Very good positive progress. See outcomes of 10 November 2024 hui below. The next hui is planned for the New Year	Terms of reference of committee and the operations of the hui have been refined. Strong agenda items are coming forward for discussion. It is believed that this model for Maori representation through Whare is firmly in place.
2. Support with whanau with their historical concerns with the Hetet water reservoir and surrounding land.	Ongoing		Ongoing.	Ongoing
3. Support the development of a model to improve the understanding of staff (and potentially Elected Members) of Te Reo, Te Ao Māori and Tiriti.	Model developed and is in place for staff for 2025	A program has been developed to assist Waitomo District Council in fulfilling its cultural responsibilities by building upon the existing cultural capabilities of all staff members. The launch for this occurred at a staff hui on 19 November 2024 and will be implemented in 12 sessions over 2025 (15-20 staff per group)	The program has been implemented with monthly training hui with staff all through the 2025 calendar year. Success can be gaged by the staff satisfaction survey results which indicate a significant increase in understanding of Māori culture with specific reference to understanding of Maniapoto history.	Program very successfully implemented in 2025. Continuing sessions planned for 2026. Staff satisfaction survey showed a large increase in satisfaction in this area. Model in place
4. Kiritehere Cemetery/Urupa. Ashes wall development	December 2024 to April 2025	A request was received from Kiritehere whanau in relation to the potential reopening of the Kiritehere Cemetery for interments in the form of the development of a wall. Community engagement is planned during the Christmas period to see what level of interest and what the requirements there are for an Ashes Wall.	Approval to reopen the Kiritehere Cemetery has been granted by the Ministry of Health and planning is underway to build an ashes wall.	Wall contracted to be built and work expected to start shortly.
5. Motakiora / Brook Park - Kaitiaki Agreement with Ngāti Rora	Ongoing	Staff, through their regular hui with Ngāti Rora have raised the potential for a Kaitiaki Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding between WDC and Ngāti Rora regarding the cultural significance of parts or all of Brook Park. Ngāti Rora have indicated they are developing a legal entity that could be used as the Kaitiaki Agreement partner with WDC. The other consideration is what parts of Brook Park would Ngāti Rora want to have as part of the Kaitiaki Agreement. This is also being considered by them. Progress on both of these components is being discussed with staff. TRWK will be kept informed of progress. Ngāti Rora has been invited to attend this hui to discuss.	This project is awaiting further input from Ngati Rora.	This project is awaiting further input from Ngati Rora.
Whare Hui 10 November 2024 - Summary of Concepts				
6. Improving the relationship between Council and whare is a good concept that should be developed. A great way to see Māori have a voice into Council. This will improve the familiarity with Council and should encourage more Māori to vote and put themselves forward to be elected to Council.	Ongoing		All these items, in the table below, will be confirmed, or not, by the Whare Roopu and TRWK members at a hui on 8 October 2025. Whare will, by then, have had engagement with their respective marae.	Ongoing
7. Important that the whare roopu is developed as separate from TRWK and that there is a partnership between the two entities.		Approve / not approve		Agreed. Council is suspend 'stand orders' for the TRWK hui to allow full, engaged korero with Whare representatives at these hui.

Activity	Timeframe	Progress – December 2024	Progress – October 2025	Progress – June 2026
8. The membership of the whare roopu should be flexible i.e. not restricted to, say two people. This will make the group more inclusive and allow people with particular thoughts to share that at hui. The membership of the whare roopu would therefore be up to the whare.		Approve / not approve		Agreed
9. Early involvement in discussions on points where mana whenua could be interested is important.	Ongoing			Agreed and ongoing.
10. Relationship between Te Nehenehenui, whare, marae and hapu is complex and needs to be recognised that this is still evolving.	Ongoing			Agreed and ongoing.
11. Involvement with rangatahi is important to get their input and allow them to develop as leaders.	Ongoing			Agreed
12. Any potential structure needs to be drawn up so that this can be discussed by whare with marae.		Whare to distribute minutes to marae for approval.		Structure of TRWK and relationship with Whare detailed and agreed.
13. The ability for marae to have direct contact with TRWK to have the ability for TRWK to visit marae is important.	Ongoing			Agreed
14. Whare members should be part of the roopu only for a set term.		Approve / not approve	Was considered again at the 6 April 2025 Hui and requires further discussion.	Further discussion required.
15. Relationships take time to develop – don't rush this.	Ongoing			Ongoing and positive
Whare Hui 10 November 2024 - Concerns / Questions				
16. Will this roopu and TRWK still exist past the next local government election?		Best way to ensure the continuity of this is to make this successful over the next year so very difficult to remove.		Ongoing
17. What happens if Council does not support TRWK recommendation.		Probably rare that a council would not support the recommendation of a Mayor and a committee like this.		Ongoing
18. Should the whare roopu involve Ngāti Mahuta as part of the district?		Approve / not approve		Ngati Mahuta to be invited and part of this roopu
19. Joint Whare / TRWK hui timing – every six months.		Dealt with in separate paper		Agree. Plan for two hui per year