

Minutes

Council meeting
held Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9:30 am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tapsell (Chair)
Cr Kai Fong (Deputy Chair), Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Kereopa, Cr Lee,
Cr O'Brien, Cr Paterson, Cr Wang, Cr Waru

APOLOGIES: Cr Maxwell

Staff Present: A Moraes, Chief Executive;
T Collé, Group Manager, Organisational Performance & Innovation;
J-P Gaston, Group Manager, Destination Development;
S Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets;
P Warbrick, Manahautū Te Arawa Hourua;
D Jensen, Chief Financial Officer;
M Overbeek, Director of Finance;
G Kieck, Manager - Governance, Strategy & Compliance;
R George, Director - Infrastructure and Environment;
I Tiriana, Communications Manager;
D Cossar, Governance and Democracy Lead;
N Michael, Executive of Communications – Mayor's Office;
A Geraghty, Strategic Policy Advisor;
G Konara, Governance & Democracy Advisor.

The meeting opened at 9.31am.

The Mayor welcomed elected members, media, staff and members of the public.

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Mayor Tapsell opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES
RESOLVED C 25/06-115 Moved: Cr Barker Seconded: Cr Lee 1. That the apologies from Cr Maxwell be accepted. CARRIED

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE – URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Nil

Attendance: Cr Paterson joined the meeting at 9.32am.

Acknowledgement

Cr Lee acknowledged Laura Smith for her work during the past three years as a local democracy reporter for Rotorua Daily Post.

Mayor Tapsell acknowledged and wished Laura all the best.

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2025
RESOLVED C 25/06-116 Moved: Cr Kai Fong Seconded: Cr Barker 1. That the minutes of the Council Meeting held 11 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record. CARRIED

6 TE PAPA KŌRERO MŌ TE TŪMATAWHĀNUI – PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

7 HE PUKA INOI TŪMATAWHĀNUI – PUBLIC PETITIONS

Nil

8 NGĀ WHAKAMŌHIOTANGA MŌTINI – NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CR KAI FONG
RESOLVED C 25/06-117 Moved: Cr Kai Fong Seconded: Cr O'Brien 1. The Chief Executive be directed to stop all further work on the Waikawau Hannahs Bay reserve project. CARRIED

Attendance: Cr Waru joined the meeting at 9.35am.

8.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - MAYOR TAPSELL
MOTION 1. That Council instructs the Chief Executive to seek further external funding during the financial year commencing 1 July 2025 to alleviate the overall financial cost for Lake Tarawera ratepayers who are required to connect to the Tarawera Sewerage reticulation which should include a request for a grant or more favourable loan conditions to the newly elected Bay of Plenty Regional Council as well as support from Central Government and any other funder.

Mayor Tapsell withdrew the above notice of motion as an update on this matter will be provided at the council meeting on 27 June 2025.

9 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA – PRESENTATIONS

Nil

10 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS**10.1 LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY 2025 ADOPTION****RESOLVED C 25/06-118**

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Wang

- 1. That the report 'Local Alcohol Policy 2025 Adoption' be received.**

CARRIED

Jean-Paul Gaston and Alexandra Geraghty overviewed the report.

RESOLVED C 25/06-119

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Barker

- 2. That the Council adopt the Local Alcohol Policy 2025.**

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Lee, Cr O'Brien, Cr Paterson, Cr Wang and Cr Waru

Against: Cr Kereopa

Abstained: Cr Brown

CARRIED 8/1

The Chair ruled to consider item 10.7 next.

10.7 OUR PLAN FOR OUR WATER - LOCAL WATER DONE WELL DELIBERATIONS**RESOLVED C 25/06-120**

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Brown

- 1. That the report 'Our Plan for Our Water - Local Water Done Well Deliberations' be received.**

CARRIED

Stavros Michael and Russell George overviewed the report.

- 2. That the Council resolves that water services be delivered for the duration of the plan via:**
- a. An inhouse business unit;**
- OR**
- b. An inhouse business unit until 1 July 2028 and then transitioning to a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO).**

Mayor Tapsell moved option 2(b) and Cr Kai Fong seconded.

RESOLVED C 25/06-121

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

- 2. That the Council resolves that water services be delivered for the duration of the plan via an inhouse business unit until 1 July 2028 and then transitioning to a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO).**

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Kereopa, Cr Wang and Cr Waru

Against: Cr Lee, Cr O'Brien and Cr Paterson

CARRIED 7/3

- 3. Should 2(b) be adopted, the priority structure of the WSCCO be:**
- a. A Multi-Council WSCCO;**
- OR**
- b. RLC only WSCCO.**

Mayor Tapsell moved option 3 (a) and Cr Kai Fong seconded.

RESOLVED C 25/06-122

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

- 3. The priority structure of the WSCCO be a Multi-Council WSCCO.**

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Kereopa, Cr Wang and Cr Waru
Against: Cr Lee, Cr O'Brien and Cr Paterson

CARRIED 7/3

4. Should 3(a) be adopted, That Council resolves:

- a. To set up a working group (Waters Working Group) consisting of appointed elected members of Rotorua Lakes Council to engage with elected members of Kawerau, Whakatane, and Opotiki District Councils over the timeframe from October 2025 to February 2027, with a purpose of evaluating and delivering a working model of a Multi-Council Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WSCCO);
- b. To welcome Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Taupo District Council, and other interested Councils to also join the discussions;
- c. To direct the Chief Executive to provide technical and financial advice to the Waters Working Group, and to report back to Council on a quarterly basis;
- d. That upon the conclusion of the Waters Working Group final report in 2027, Council will make a final decision on whether to participate in the multi-Council WSCCO;
- e. To note that the public will be progressively informed about the work of the Waters Working Group as they conduct their work over the next triennium.

RESOLVED C 25/06-123

Moved: Cr Brown

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

4. That Council resolves:

- a. To set up a working group (Waters Working Group) consisting of appointed elected members of Rotorua Lakes Council to engage with elected members of Kawerau, Whakatane, and Opotiki District Councils over the timeframe from October 2025 to February 2027, with a purpose of evaluating and delivering a working model of a Multi-Council Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WSCCO);
- b. To welcome Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Taupo District Council, and other interested Councils to also join the discussions;
- c. To direct the Chief Executive to provide technical and financial advice to the Waters Working Group, and to report back to Council on a quarterly basis;

- d. That upon the conclusion of the Waters Working Group final report in 2027, Council will make a final decision on whether to participate in the multi-Council WSCCO;
- e. To note that the public will be progressively informed about the work of the Waters Working Group as they conduct their work over the next triennium.

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Kereopa, Cr O'Brien, Cr Wang and Cr Waru

Against: Cr Paterson

Abstained: Cr Lee

CARRIED 8/1

- 5. That should a future Council decision be to not join the Multi-Council WSCCO:
 - a. RLC's fall-back option is to set up a Rotorua-only single Council WSCCO;
 - OR
 - b. RLC's fall-back option is an in-house business unit.

Mayor Tapsell moved option 5(b) and Cr O'Brien seconded.

RESOLVED C 25/06-124

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr O'Brien

- 5. That should a future Council decision be to not join the Multi-Council WSCCO, RLC's fall-back option is an in-house business unit.

CARRIED

RESOLVED C 25/06-125

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

- 6. Council notes that the Draft Water Services Delivery Plan will be presented to Council for approval in July prior to submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

CARRIED

Action Point

- Cr Barker requested an update on Rotoehu scheme and the Chair asked an update to be circulated to councillors by email.

The meeting adjourned at 11.04am and resumed at 11.22am

10.2 DRAFT STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL INNER-CITY SAFETY BYLAW AND POLICY REVIEW**RESOLVED C 25/06-126**

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Paterson

1. **That the report 'Draft Statement of Proposal Inner-City Safety Bylaw and Policy Review' be received.**

CARRIED

Jean-Paul Gaston and Alexandra Geraghty overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled " Draft Statement of Proposal - Inner City Safety Bylaw and Policy Review" (ECM - 21372587).

RESOLVED C 25/06-127

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Wang

2. **That the proposed 'Draft Statement of Proposal Inner-City Safety Bylaw and Policy Review be adopted for consultation.**
3. **That the Council approve the recommended options proposed in SOP, as outlined in Appendix 1.**
4. **That draft copies of the amended bylaws and policies be received and approved for publishing alongside the SOP during consultation, namely:**
 - (i) **Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025 (name change from Solid Waste Bylaw 2016)**
 - (ii) **Traffic Bylaw 2018**
 - (iii) **General Bylaw 2017**
 - (iv) **Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2025**

5. That the Council approve public consultation on the proposed 'Draft Statement of Proposal Inner-City Safety Bylaw and Policy Review' to commence on Tuesday 1st July to Friday 1st August 2025 via special consultative procedure subject to minor edits.

CARRIED

10.3 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL GOVERNANCE POLICIES

RESOLVED C 25/06-128

Moved: Cr Barker

Seconded: Cr Wang

1. That the report 'Adoption of Council Governance Policies' be received.

CARRIED

Debbie Cossar and Alexandra Geraghty overviewed the report.

RESOLVED C 25/06-129

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Waru

2. That the Council adopt the 'International Relations Policy'.
3. That the Council adopt the 'Conference Attendance for Elected Members Policy'.
4. That the Council adopt the 'Elected Members Membership of Other Entities Policy'.

CARRIED

10.4 REMITS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLVED C 25/06-130

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Waru

1. That the report 'Remits to Local Government New Zealand 2025 Annual General Meeting' be received.

CARRIED

The Chair noted that the full set of remits proposed to be discussed at the next Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) AGM has been received. These remits will be submitted to the next Rotorua Lakes Council meeting to decide whether to support or not support by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor at the AGM.

2. That the Council notes the following remits are proposed:

- **Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance – Tauranga City Council.**

3. That the Council support/not support the proposed remits at the Local Government New Zealand 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Cr Lee moved the option to not support the remit and Cr Brown seconded.

RESOLVED C 25/06-131

Moved: Cr Lee

Seconded: Cr Brown

2. That the Council notes the following remits are proposed:

- **Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance – Tauranga City Council.**

3. That the Council not support the proposed remits at the Local Government New Zealand 2025 Annual General Meeting.

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr O'Brien, Cr Wang and Cr Waru

Against: Cr Kereopa

Abstained: Cr Paterson

CARRIED 8/1

10.5 FINANCIAL UPDATE - MAY 2025**RESOLVED C 25/06-132**

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Barker

1. That the report 'Financial Update - May 2025' be received.

CARRIED

David Jensen and Michelle Overbeek overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled "Financial Update – May 2025" (ECM -21373161).

10.6 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO BE RELEASED FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2024 - MAY 2025**RESOLVED C 25/06-133**

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Waru

1. That the report 'Confidential Items to be Released for the period September 2024 - May 2025 be received.

CARRIED

Greg Kieck overviewed the report.

11 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Paterson closed the meeting with a Karakia.

The Meeting closed at 12.53pm

Confirmed at the Council meeting on 23 July 2025.



Chair

Note: -Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council