

Minutes

**Council meeting
held Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 9:30 am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Tapsell (Chair)
Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Lee, Cr Maxwell, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait,
Cr Sandford, Cr Temara-Benfell, Cr Wang
- APOLOGIES:** Deputy Mayor Kai Fong
- IN ATTENDANCE:** N Brewer, Chief Executive, Rotorua Regional Airport Ltd;
- STAFF PRESENT:** A Moraes, Chief Executive;
S Fellows, Group Manager - Organisational Performance & Innovation;
J-P Gaston, Group Manager, Destination Development;
S Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets;
A Wilson, Group Manager, Community Experience;
P Warbrick, Manahautū Te Arawa Hourua;
D Jensen, Chief Financial Officer;
K Williams, Principal Advisor - Community Safety & Regulatory Services;
W Tapara, Manager, Partnerships and Programmes;
M Overbeek, Manager, Finance & Business Performance;
S Brown, Manager, Museum & Heritage;
J Doherty, Customer Experience & Projects Manager, Museum & Heritage;
R Tickelpenny, Manager, Customer Solutions;
W Bamford, Programme Manager, Rotorua Museum;
G Kieck, Manager - Governance, Strategy & Compliance;
I Tiriana, Communications Manager;
N Michael, Executive of Communications, Mayor's Office;
G Konara, Governance & Democracy Advisor.

The meeting opened at 9.30am.

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

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Barker opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES**RESOLVED C 26/06-091**

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Wang

1. That the apologies from Deputy Mayor Kai Fong 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

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2026****5.1 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2026****RESOLVED C 26/06-092**

Moved: Cr Paterson

Seconded: Cr Barker

1. That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
2. That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held 8 June 2026 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

Nil

9 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA – PRESENTATIONS

Nil

10 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS**10.1 CCO QUARTERLY REPORT - ROTORUA REGIONAL AIRPORT LTD - YTD APRIL 2026****RESOLVED C 26/06-093**

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Maxwell

- 1. That the report 'CCO Quarterly Report - Rotorua Regional Airport Ltd - YTD April 2026' be received.**

CARRIED

Nicole Brewer overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled "Rotorua Airport- FY26 YTD Jan - Performance Update" (ECM - 22836964).

Noted apologies from Kevin Ward, Chair of the Rotorua Regional Airport Limited board.

10.7 HEAD START - CLARIFICATION OF REVIEW MEASURES AND POTENTIAL CONFIGURATIONS**RESOLVED C 26/06-094**

Moved: Cr Wang
Seconded: Cr Brown

1. That the report 'Head Start - Clarification of Review Measures and Potential Configurations' be received.

CARRIED

Sam Fellows overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled " Simplifying Local Government – Head Start Pathway Community Engagement" (ECM – 22841642).

Action Pont

- Cr Lee requested that the Chief Executive's correspondence with both regional councils relating to reorganisation under Part 3 of the Act, be circulated to councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Agrees that the following potential configuration options should continue to be assessed at this stage:
 - (a) A Unitary Authority consisting of all Territorial Authorities in the Bay of Plenty;
 - (b) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua, and Southern Councils (Taupō and / or South Waikato).
 - (c) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Eastern Councils (Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki)
 - (d) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Western Councils (Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga)
 - (e) A Unitary Authority following main catchment and iwi boundaries (consisting of Rotorua and the Kaituna catchment portion of Western Bay of Plenty)
 - (f) Any combination of the above or other configurations that become apparent through the review process.
 3. Notes that no preferred option is identified by this report, and detailed measures will be used to compare options based on the six criteria areas previously approved by Council.
- OR
4. Council directs staff to cease work on investigating whether participation in Head Start is in Rotorua's best interests.

Cr Sandford moved and Cr Wang seconded recommendations 2 & 3.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Sandford

Seconded: Cr Wang

- 2. Agrees that the following potential configuration options should continue to be assessed at this stage:**
 - (a) A Unitary Authority consisting of all Territorial Authorities in the Bay of Plenty;**
 - (b) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua, and Southern Councils (Taupō and / or South Waikato).**
 - (c) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Eastern Councils (Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki)**
 - (d) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Western Councils (Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga)**
 - (e) A Unitary Authority following main catchment and iwi boundaries (consisting of Rotorua and the Kaituna catchment portion of Western Bay of Plenty)**
 - (f) Any combination of the above or other configurations that become apparent through the review process.**
- 3. Notes that no preferred option is identified by this report, and detailed measures will be used to compare options based on the six criteria areas previously approved by Council.**

Cr Paterson indicated to move an amendment to recommendation 3.

The meeting adjourned at 10.33am and resumed at 10.44am.

Cr Paterson's amended motion was seconded by Cr Temara-Benfell as follows:

RESOLVED C 26/06-095

Moved: Cr Paterson

Seconded: Cr Temara-Benfell

- 3. That Council:**
 - a. notes that Council has not received advice regarding the legal status of the outcome of the 2025 Binding Referendum on Māori Wards, in the event that a successor Unitary Authority is established through the Government's Head Start pathway.**

- b. requests the Chief Executive to formally seek clarification from the Minister of Local Government and the Department of Internal Affairs, as to whether the outcome of the 2025 Binding Referendum on Māori Wards:

- (i) continues to apply to any successor Unitary Authority;
- (ii) lapses upon the establishment of a successor Unitary Authority; or
- (iii) becomes a matter for determination through the governance and representation arrangements established for the successor Unitary Authority;

and report that advice back to Council at the earliest opportunity.

In Favour: Mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker, Cr Brown, Cr Maxwell, Cr Paterson, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Sandford, Cr Temara-Benfell and Cr Wang

Against: Cr Lee

CARRIED 9/1

Points of Orders

During the discussion, a point of order was raised under Standing Order 26.2 (c) - Irrelevance. The Chairperson ruled the point of order was sustained.

The original motion with the amendment was then put to vote as below:

RESOLVED C 26/06-096

Moved: Cr Sandford

Seconded: Cr Wang

2. **Agrees that the following potential configuration options should continue to be assessed at this stage:**
- (a) A Unitary Authority consisting of all Territorial Authorities in the Bay of Plenty;
 - (b) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua, and Southern Councils (Taupō and / or South Waikato).
 - (c) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Eastern Councils (Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki)
 - (d) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Western Councils (Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga)
 - (e) A Unitary Authority following main catchment and iwi boundaries (consisting of Rotorua and the Kaituna catchment portion of Western Bay of Plenty)
 - (f) Any combination of the above or other configurations that become apparent through the review process.

3. That Council:

- a. notes that Council has not received advice regarding the legal status of the outcome of the 2025 Binding Referendum on Māori Wards, in the event that a successor Unitary Authority is established through the Government's Head Start pathway.
- b. requests the Chief Executive to formally seek clarification from the Minister of Local Government and the Department of Internal Affairs, as to whether the outcome of the 2025 Binding Referendum on Māori Wards:
 - (i) continues to apply to any successor Unitary Authority;
 - (ii) lapses upon the establishment of a successor Unitary Authority; or
 - (iii) becomes a matter for determination through the governance and representation arrangements established for the successor Unitary Authority;and report that advice back to Council at the earliest opportunity.

CARRIED**10.2 PARKING MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES MINOR AMENDMENTS****RESOLVED C 26/06-097**

Moved: Cr Temara-Benfell

Seconded: Cr Brown

1. The report 'Parking Management Guidelines Minor Amendments' be received.

CARRIED

Kurt Williams overviewed the report.

RESOLVED C 26/06-098

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Sandford

2. That Council adopts the recommended minor amendments to the Parking Management Guidelines.

CARRIED

10.3 COMMUNITY FUNDING IMPACT REPORT**RESOLVED C 26/06-099**

Moved: Cr Paterson

Seconded: Cr Barker

1. That the report 'Community Funding Impact Report' be received.

CARRIED

Alex Wilson and Wiremu Tapara overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled "Community Funding Impact Report 2025-26" (ECM - 22832257).

10.4 FINANCIAL UPDATE - APRIL 2026**RESOLVED C 26/06-100**

Moved: Cr Barker

Seconded: Cr Brown

1. That the report 'Financial Update - April 2026' be received.

CARRIED

David Jensen and Michelle Overbeek overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled "Financial Update - April 2026" (ECM - 22835346).

10.5 COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE DASHBOARD**RESOLVED C 26/06-101**

Moved: Cr Temara-Benfell

Seconded: Cr Wang

1. That the presentation 'Community Experience Dashboard' be received.

CARRIED

Alex Wilson overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled "Community Experience Dashboard" (ECM - 22828029).

10.6 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO BE RELEASED FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2026 - MAY 2026	
RESOLVED C 26/06-102 Moved: Cr Wang Seconded: Cr Brown	
1. That the report 'Confidential Items to be released for the period January 2026 - May 2026' be received.	
CARRIED	

The report was taken as read.

11 HE WHAKATAUNGA KIA HOKI ATU TE ARONGA O TE HUI HAI HUI TŪMATAWHĀNUI – RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED (TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

RESOLVED C 26/06-103 Moved: Cr Brown Seconded: Cr Wang		
1. That Council resolves to exclude the public on the grounds contained in Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:		
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
11.1 - Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 May 2026	Please refer to the relevant clause/s in the open meeting minutes.	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a).
11.2 - Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa Reopening - Update and Progression of Exhibition Project	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	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

	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities 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)	
11.3 - Appointment of a Chairperson for Rotorua Regional Airport Limited (RRAL), A Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	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
Plain English	Withholding of the information is necessary; • because of commercial position • to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage • to carry out commercial and industrial negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage • to protect privacy of a person	

Consideration has been given to public interest in these matters and officers’ advice is that the above reasons for confidentiality outweigh the public interest in these matters.

CARRIED

The meeting moved in to Public Excluded at 11.52am and adjourned.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting moved out of Public Excluded at 1.04pm.

OPEN SESSION

13 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Barker closed the meeting with a Karakia.

The Meeting closed at 1.04pm.

Confirmed at the Council meeting on 29 July 2026.



Chair

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