

Minutes

Infrastructure Committee meeting
held Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 9.30am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cr Barker (Chair)
Mayor Tapsell (via Zoom), Deputy Mayor Kai Fong, Cr Brown (Deputy Chair),
Cr Paterson, Cr Wang, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Lee, Cr Temara-Benfell,
Cr Maxwell.

APOLOGIES: Cr Sandford.

STAFF PRESENT: S Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets;
S Fellows, Group Manager, Organisational Performance & Innovation;
J-P Gaston, Group Manager, Destination Development;
P Warbrick, Manahautū, Te Arawa Partnerships;
D Jensen, Chief Financial Officer;
H Leef, General Counsel;
R George, Director – Infrastructure & Environment;
M Liddicoat, Capital Delivery Controls Manager;
S Kelly, Development & Partnerships Manager;
E McCarthy, Manager, Capital Delivery;
G Kieck, Manager - Governance, Strategy & Compliance;
B Horne, Civil Defence Readiness Manager;
N Michael, Executive of Communications – Mayor's Office;
P Elliot, Principal Advisor;
D Thorne, Communications & Engagement Partner;
R Griffith, Governance & Democracy Advisor.

The meeting opened at 9.31am.

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

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Lee opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-053

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Cr Brown

1. That the apologies from Cr Sandford be accepted.

CARRIED

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

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

None.

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2026****RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-054**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong

Seconded: Cr Brown

1. That the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held 12 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

None.

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS**7.1 PENSIONER HOUSING UPDATE****RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-055**

Moved: Cr Wang

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong

1. That the report 'Pensioner Housing Update' be received.

CARRIED

Cr Paterson arrived at 9.34am.

Steph Kelly and Peniel Elliot overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled 'Redevelopment of Lucas Place Pensioner Housing & Rental Options' (DOC ID: 23156891).

Action Points:

In response to questions from Cr Raukawa-Tait:

- Councillors to be circulated the Old Person's Poverty Report.
- Councillors to be provided information regarding accountability reporting and measures from Emerge.

7.2 INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS UPDATE**RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-056**

Moved: Cr Raukawa-Tait

Seconded: Cr Wang

1. **That the report 'Infrastructure & Assets Update' be received.**

CARRIED

Stavros Michael overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled 'Infrastructure & Assets Progress Report June, July & August' (DOC ID: 23113238).

Action Point

- The Chair requested that the committee receive oversight reporting of the FOGO project.

Mayor Tapsell left the meeting at 11.03am.

The committee agreed that the meeting would continue beyond two hours without a break.

7.3 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROGRESS UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2026**RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-057**

Moved: Cr Brown

Seconded: Cr Temara-Benfell

1. **That the report 'Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Progress Update for August 2026' be received.**

CARRIED

Stavros Michael and Ian Gray overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation titled 'WWTP Upgrade Progress Update' (DOC ID: 23080742).

**8 HE WHAKATAUNGA KIA HURI ATU TE ARONGA O TE HUI KI TE HUI TŪMATAITI –
RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED (TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT
CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)**

RESOLVED ICCCC 26/09-058

Moved: Deputy Mayor Kai Fong

Seconded: Cr Wang

- 1. That Infrastructure Committee 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
8.1 - Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2026	Please refer to the relevant clause/s in the open meeting minutes.	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a).
8.2 - Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Progress Update for August 2026 - Confidential	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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
8.3 - Linton Park Legal Update	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege	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
8.4 - Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 Completion & Stage 3 Delivery	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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	Making the information public impacts council's commercial position for delivering the projects; and releasing the information could compromise council's legal position in proceedings.	

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

CARRIED

9 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Lee closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Meeting closed at 12.42pm



Confirmed at the Infrastructure Committee meeting on 7 October 2026.

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