

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako

Kaupapataka Wātea | Open Agenda



Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: Tuesday 9 June 2026
Wā | Time: 10:00
Wāhi | Venue: Council Chambers
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

Ngā Mema | Membership

NGĀ MEMA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana Chairperson:	Hinerangi Vaimoso	Mema Tūturu Principal Member:	Mema Tautoko Alternate Member:
Ngāti Hauā	Rangitonga Kaukau		Tumohe Clarke
Ngāti Hinerangi	Dianna Vaimoso		Hinerangi Vaimoso
Ngāti Maru	Craig Solomon		Waati Ngamane
Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu	Jill Taylor		Norm Hill
Ngāti Pāoa	Tahauariki Thompson		Glenice Puke
Ngāti Whanaunga	Michael Baker		Gavin Anderson
Raukawa	Leo Whaiapu		Andrea Julian
Ngāti Tamaterā	Arama Ngapo		<i>Vacant</i>
Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Matamata-Piako District Council	Koromatua Mayor: Ash Tanner	Koromatua Tautoko Deputy Mayor: James Sainsbury	Kaunihera ā-Rohe District Councillor: Rewiti Vaimoso

Waea | Phone: 07-884-0060
Wāhitau | Address: PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342
Īmēra | Email: governance@mpdc.govt.nz
Kāinga Ipuranga | Website: www.mpdc.govt.nz

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1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

The Tiamana | Chairperson is to open the meeting.

2 Karakia | Prayer

The karakia is to be performed.

3 Ngā whakapāha/Tono whakawātea | Apologies/Leave of Absence

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

4 Pānui take ohorere | Notification of Urgent Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

5 Whākī pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

6 Whakaaetanga Mēneti | Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes, as circulated, of the ordinary meeting of Te Mana Whenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako, held on 14 April 2026

7 Pūrongo me whakataua | Decision Reports

7.1 Making Good Decisions - Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioner Training

CM No.: 3162389

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for retrospective funding for a Te Manawhenua Forum representative who has undertaken the Making Good Decisions – Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioner Training.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary Te Manawhenua Forum Heads of Agreement states: “Council will pay for a maximum of one representative nominated by the forum in each three yearly election period to undertake training as a Resource Management Act 1991 hearing commissioner to establish a suitable pool of qualified commissioners. Council may ask the forum to nominate further representatives if the need arises.”

The Making Good Decisions Course helps Councillors and independent commissioners make better decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Commissioners must be accredited to sit on RMA hearing panels.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

- 1. The forum approves retrospective funding for Ngāti Tamaterā, Arama Ngapo, who completed the Making Good Decisions - Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioner training on 11 November 2025.**

Horopaki | Background

The Making Good Decisions course is run by WSP Environmental Training Centre on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment. The purpose is to help Councillors, community board members, and independent commissioners make better decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It provides RMA decision-makers with the skills needed to run fair and effective hearings, and to make informed decisions.

The Making Good Decisions course covers 10 modules and is run over two days. There is an e-learning module and pre assessment that needs to be completed prior to attending the course which counts for 20% of the final result. There is also a post assessment on completion of the course which counts for 80% of the final result.

Staff received a nomination from the Ngāti Tamaterā representative, Arama Ngapo, to attend the Making Good Decision - Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioner training. Subsequently, a report was presented to the forum on 14 April 2026 seeking approval of a nomination. At that meeting, it was identified that the training had already been completed in November 2025, and that retrospective funding was being sought. At the same meeting, Ngāti Whanaunga representative Mike Baker also nominated himself to undertake the training.

The resolution from this meeting was

Staff to investigate updated training following resource management reform and retrospective funding, and report back to the next Te Manawhenua Forum meeting (June 2026).

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Updated Training

Following the April meeting staff have confirmed with WSP, the training provider that the Making Good Decisions Course remains the statutory accreditation for Hearing Commissioners and are expected to remain relevant under any new planning system. Core principles such as good decision-making, procedural fairness, and robust hearings practice are anticipated to continue to apply under any future planning system, regardless of the final form reform takes.

Nominations

Following the April meeting Mike Baker withdrew his nomination which leaves Arama Ngapo as the only nomination.

Retrospective Funding





The Heads of Agreement does not expressly prohibit retrospective funding so it is the Forums decision on whether this is granted.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

1. The Forum may choose to retrospectively fund Arama Ngapo; OR
2. The Forum may choose to decline to retrospectively fund Arama Ngapo and nominate one other member to undertake the course during the current term.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

All of the above community outcomes are relevant to this report.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

Any expenditure would be met from the Te Manawhenua Forum budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tamara Kingi Kaiārahi Kāwana Governance Team Leader	
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Approved by	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	
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7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.2 Simplifying Local Government - Head Start Process

CM No.: 3173453

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To provide an outline of the Simplifying Local Government reform initiative and discuss Council's intention to develop a 'Head Start' proposal with neighbouring Councils and/or with other Councils in the Waikato region for submission to Central Government by 9 August 2026.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Matamata-Piako District Council is intending to participate in developing a 'Head Start' proposal with neighbouring Councils and/or with other Councils in the Waikato region for submission to Central Government by 9 August 2026.

Participation enables Council to have a degree of influence/input into the future structure, governance arrangements, and delivery of local government services affecting the district. In contrast, not participating increases the likelihood that changes will be imposed through the Government's 'Back Stop' process, reducing local input and potentially resulting in outcomes that do not reflect community needs or strategic priorities.

The forum are invited to provide feedback on the Simplifying Local Government – Head Start Process.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Forum provide feedback on the Simplifying Local Government - Head Start Process for Matamata-Piako District Council.

Horopaki | Background

On 5 May 2026 the Minister of Local Government and the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform outlined a two-option approach to the Simplification of Local Government. The two options are:

- 1) Head Start
- 2) Back Stop

These two options are briefly outlined in this paper. The Head Start process is optional and requires a proposal to be submitted by 9 August 2026. Further details are available here:

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government#Draft>

Recent discussions between Matamata-Piako and Councils in the Waikato region have indicated a willingness to put together a Head Start proposal in some form. The shape of this is yet to be developed but any proposal would likely be for a unitary authority (that is an entity that combines the functions of territorial authorities and regional councils), potentially consisting of three (or more) Councils.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

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

Proposals can:

- a) Cover all or part of a region
- b) Include neighbouring councils from different regions (where it makes sense).
- c) 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:

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

The Government have expressed aims for the creation of unitary authorities within a region, with regional councillors to be replaced at the 2028 local elections.

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

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

Supports the new planning system

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

Simpler local governance

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

Economies of scale

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

Maintains a strong local voice

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

What happens next?

Councils have until 9 August 2026 to develop and submit outline proposals. The process is as follows:

- a) Officials will carry out a rapid assessment of proposals.
- b) Ministers will recommend which proposals should proceed.
- c) Cabinet will agree in principle which proposals move forward to detailed design.
- d) Final decisions including development of legislation are expected in 2027, with changes implemented ahead of the 2028 local elections.

What if a council doesn't take part?

Matamata-Piako and Councils in the Waikato region have indicated a willingness to put together a Head Start proposal in some form.

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 following the Head Start process in 2027, with changes expected to take effect from the 2028 local elections.

The Government has stated their 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.

Mōrearea | Risk

The risks associated with Matamata-Piako District Council developing a Head Start proposal are considered to be less than 'doing nothing' and later being reformed with little or no opportunity for Council input.

Based on the announcements made, not putting forward a Head Start proposal would mean that the 'Back Stop' process will be implemented which is when the outcome of amalgamation will be led by Central Government.

There is a risk that this process will not be followed through with the next Government post November 2026 elections and there would have been a lot of work put into a proposal by that time, however it is considered that local government reform is highly likely to continue with any new Government.

The timeline involved in this process is tight to form new legislation and implement reforms, there is a risk that milestones may not be met delaying the process.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Option One – Submit a Head Start proposal	
Description of option	
Participate in developing a Head Start proposal with neighbouring Councils and/or with other Councils in the Waikato region for submission to Central Government by 9 August 2026.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables Council to have a degree of influence/input into the future structure and governance of local government affecting the district. • Builds on discussions with neighbouring Councils and others in the broader Waikato region, allowing progress within tight timeframes. • Provides a practical and achievable pathway to meet Government deadlines. Provides opportunity to explore a range of possible future structural arrangements. • Positions Council to in a better position to shape outcomes rather than react to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited time available to develop a robust proposal. • May constrain consideration of wider regional options. • Risk of not meeting the 9 August 2026 deadline due to complexity of engaging with other Councils • Level of uncertainty and resource demand to establish new relationships and proposed scope of work. • Does not guarantee that the proposal will be accepted by Central Government. • Does not allow sufficient time for meaningful engagement.
Option Two – Do nothing (rely on the Backstop process)	
Description of option	
Do nothing and be required to enter a compulsory backstop process into an unknown amalgamation to be determined by Central Government.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No immediate resource commitment to proposal development. • Avoids short-term workload associated with preparing a proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of ability to influence future governance structures and service delivery arrangements. • Increased likelihood of externally imposed amalgamation outcomes that may not align with community needs or Council priorities. • Reduced local input into decision-making processes. • Potential for greater long-term disruption and uncertainty.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not allow sufficient time for meaningful engagement.
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Recommended option

At this stage, Council have indicated a desire to move forward with Option 1. At the time of writing this report a formal decision had not been made.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy consideration

- The Head Start and Back Stop processes are not legislative/statutory requirements – at least not at this stage. There is no legal compulsion for Council to participate in the Head Start process and the requirements for a proposal are not set in law.

Legislation has been signalled to give effect to accepted Head Start proposals and the Backstop process in 2027.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement **Significance and engagement**

Any proposal to amalgamate the Matamata-Piako District with any other territorial authorities would trigger Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#) and would likely generate a broad range of community views. The Head Start process is driven by the Government, but it is unlikely that this mandate overrides the requirements of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy or the Local Government Act 2002.

At this stage, we are assuming the existing requirements of the Local Government Act continue to apply – for example, consideration of the reasonably practicable options available and community views when deciding on this issue.

Direction from Central Government is that consultation would occur during the detailed planning stage once the initial Head Start proposal is approved in September 2026.

Council will need to consider whether it would like to consult/engage with the community, and how it would like to communicate and keep the community updated. It is noted the relatively short timeframes through to the 9 August 2026 deadline for a Head Start proposal will likely shape the nature of any engagement in the short term.

Mana whenua / Māori

Engagement with mana whenua has not yet been undertaken in relation to this proposal, noting the short timeframe for development of the Head Start submission.





The proposal has the potential to significantly impact governance structures, local representation, and service delivery arrangements, which may affect Māori as residents, ratepayers, and partners under Te Tiriti o Waitangi considerations as reflected in section 4 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Council is seeking to update the Forum on the Simplifying Local Government reforms and seeking input from the Forum at this early phase to understand potential impacts and identify opportunities for participation.

It is anticipated that, should a Head Start proposal progress beyond the initial stage, more formal consultation and engagement with iwi and hapū will be required as part of the detailed design process in accordance with legislative requirements and Government direction.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

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All community outcomes are relevant to this report.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
Approved by	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	
	Kelly Reith Hautū Rangatōpū, Tāngata me ngā Hononga Group Manager Corporate, People & Relationships	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 Waitoa Water - Project update

CM No.: 3170579

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako on the Waitoa water consultation project and provide an opportunity for the Forum to provide feedback for Council consideration.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Forum:
 - a) Provide feedback for Council consideration on its proposal to connect the Waitoa Village to the Council water supply via Te Aroha *[to be specified]*; or
 - b) Do not provide feedback on the proposal.

Horopaki | Background

The Waitoa Village water supply has historically been provided by Fonterra. In 2017, Fonterra advised that it will no longer provide drinking water to the community, causing Council to find a long term solution for Waitoa water supply.

Council has worked alongside the Waitoa community, Fonterra, and regulators to investigate options and understand the technical, regulatory, and affordability implications of different approaches.

Ultimately, Council agreed to consult with the wider community on its proposal to connect the Waitoa community to the Council water supply. Council also agreed in principle with all the Waitoa Community Panel recommendations at its [17 December 2025](#) meeting.

Council developed a Change Proposal for consultation and proposed:

Connecting to Council supply via Te Aroha

Based on Council estimates, **the project is expected to cost \$8.2 million**. Council has previously agreed in principle that **Waitoa property owners are liable for 15%** of the project cost and **Council is liable for the remaining 85%**.

Each Waitoa property owner, based on estimates, would pay between \$2,091 and \$4,207 over three to seven years (or a lump sum) and **property owners in the wider district who pay targeted water rates would pay an additional \$34 to \$36 per year over three to seven years from 2027.**

Waikato Waters Ltd

From 1 October 2026, Matamata-Piako Council's water and wastewater services will be transferred to Waikato Waters Ltd. Council will not be responsible for managing or funding this project. Waitoa water has been included as a significant assumption in the Water Services Delivery Plan that has been agreed to by the Department of Internal Affairs.

The actual cost, timing, and rating of this project is subject to Waikato Waters Ltd decisions. However, as a shareholder, Matamata-Piako District Council intends to support this project to ensure Council's decision is upheld.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

A change proposal was developed in line with the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and was provided to public consultation from 30 April to 21 May.

While the public consultation period is closed, the Forum is invited to provide feedback on the proposal for Council consideration at its July meeting. The change proposal has been attached to the report for information.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

The change proposal has been developed according to sections 27 to 33 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and the Local Government Act.

Section 32 of the LGWSA 2025 requires the following:

1. The territorial authority **must**, when consulting on a change proposal, make the following information publicly available:
 - a) the change proposal, an explanation of the change proposal, and the reasons for the change proposal:
 - b) the assessment of other options identified under [section 30](#) and the authority's reasons for not preferring those options:
 - c) how proceeding with the change proposal is likely to affect—
 - i. the authority's rates, debt, and levels of service; and
 - ii. any charges for water services:
 - iii. arrangements and mechanisms for funding, pricing, invoicing, and collecting charges for water services:
 - d) how not proceeding with the change proposal is likely to affect—
 - i. the authority's rates, debt, and levels of service; and
 - ii. any charges for water services:
 - e) the implications of the change proposal for communities throughout—
 - i. the authority's district; and
 - ii. any collective area involved in the change proposal:
 - f) if the change proposal involves transferring ownership or control of a strategic water services asset, a description of how the change proposal is likely to affect the authority's debt in relation to the asset:
 - g) for a change proposal described in [section 27\(1\)\(a\), \(b\), or \(c\)](#), information on the proposed ownership of, and shareholding arrangements for, the water organisation:
 - h) any other relevant implications of the change proposal that the authority considers will be of interest to the public:

- i) how persons who will or may be affected by, or who have an interest in, the change proposal may present their views on the proposal to the authority.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

There has been extensive engagement with the Waitoa community on the future of its water supply.

Following Councils decision not to hold a hearing for this consultation, an information session was held in Waitoa, along with two public drop-in sessions at Te Aroha library for the community to attend and ask questions about the proposal and provide feedback.

The consultation was promoted via the MPDC website, e-newsletters, Antenno and Facebook (MPDC and Mayor Ash pages). All Waitoa village properties received a hard copy of the Change Proposal in their letterboxes. It also received media coverage via the Waikato Times and radio.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Change proposal open for consultation	30 April to 21 May 2026
Community drop-ins during consultation	30 April 2026: Waitoa from 4-7pm 18 May 2026: Te Aroha from 11:30am to 12:30pm and 4:30pm to 5:30pm
Council deliberations	July 2026
Waikato Waters Ltd transition	From 1 October 2026

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). FINAL - Waitoa Water Change Proposal for consultation 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard Kaitohu Kaupapahere Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	
	Andrea Durie Pou Whakapā, Whai Wāhi Communications & Engagement Manager	

Te Wai o Waitoa | Waitoa Water

Te Tūtohu Whakahounga | Change Proposal



Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

The way water is supplied to Waitoa needs to change. For many years, Fonterra Cooperative Group has provided water to around 130 homes in Waitoa.

Fonterra notified Council that it no longer intends to provide water to the Waitoa community, meaning the current arrangement cannot continue.

Council has identified and assessed a range of practicable options for ensuring Waitoa continues to have access to safe drinking water. The two main options considered were:

- Self-supply for individual Waitoa properties
- Connection to the existing Council water supply.

Council is proposing that Waitoa is connected to the existing Council water supply – in-line with the Waitoa Community Panel recommendation.

You can find more information on the options and reasoning for the preferred option in this document.

Why are we consulting the wider district?

Council is proposing to increase the targeted water rate (paid by all property owners connected to Council supply) in the Matamata-Piako District to help fund a new water connection for the Waitoa community.

This consultation is about whether you support the proposed approach, knowing it would mean ensuring the Waitoa village has a long term secure and healthy water supply.

Waitoa community

Waitoa is a small rural settlement in the Matamata-Piako District, located on State Highway 26 approximately 10 kilometres south-west of Te Aroha. It has an estimated population of 300 residents and approximately 120–130 residential properties.

The settlement includes a defined residential area, with nearby industrial activity and surrounding rural land uses typical of small communities in the district. Many residents travel to nearby towns such as Te Aroha or Morrinsville for everyday activities.

Waitoa has a history of manufacturing and food-processing activity, including the Fonterra dairy factory and poultry processing operations in the wider area.

Te Rautaki o nāiane | The current approach

Fonterra has supplied the Waitoa village with high-quality drinking water for several years. Fonterra has notified Council they no longer wish to provide water to the Waitoa community, therefore **maintaining the current approach is not an option.**

Te Tūtohu Whakahounga - Rāpopotanga | The change proposal - summary

Council is proposing that **the Waitoa Community is connected to the Te Aroha Council water supply** – in-line with the recommendation of the Waitoa Community Panel.

Connecting the Waitoa village to the Council water supply means Waitoa would have a reticulated water network, just as our main towns Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha do.

What does this mean for Matamata-Piako ratepayers?

It is not affordable for the 130 residential properties in Waitoa to pay for the full project. The Waitoa Community Panel and Council have agreed in principle that Waitoa property owners would be liable for 15% of the total cost of the project.

Council has also agreed in principle that property owners who pay targeted water rates in the wider Matamata-Piako District would fund 85% of this project.

Sharing costs between small communities and the wider district to maintain affordability for long-term projects is not new and is consistent with past decisions. See examples on page 97 of the 25 September 2024 Council meeting agenda [here](#).

Council is proposing to increase the targeted water rate for all property owners in the district who pay targeted rates.

The estimated costs are below.

Estimated cost: Council supply

The **overall** cost of the project is estimated to be \$8.2 million (based on 2025/26 figures).

Council cost:

Council proposed to fund 85% of the project.

Capital projects like this are typically funded through loans, and the costs to service that loan (payments and interest) are added to rates. Water is charged as a targeted rate to all ratepayers with a water supply across the district.

Waitoa property owner cost:

Council proposed that the Waitoa community would need to contribute 15% of that cost by paying either:

- \$2,091 to \$4,207 per year, or;¹
- A lump sum

District-wide property owners (who pay targeted rates):

An estimated additional \$34 to \$36 per year on top of the targeted water rate.²

From 1 October 2026, Matamata-Piako Council water and wastewater services will be delivered by Waikato Waters Ltd and responsible for setting and charging water and wastewater rates. The proposed increase to targeted water rates for resident in the district is an estimate based on MPDC financial information and is subject to Waikato Water Ltd decisions.

¹ High-level cost assumption depending on repayment period. The following assumptions were applied to calculations: instalments are paid over 3, 5, or 7 years. The works are done over the 2027 FY and operational by 2028. \$8.2m project includes no allowances for any associated land purchases. Expenses not adjusted for inflation. Assume 5% interest rate. Assume assets have useful life of 80 years. Assume 130 Waitoa properties. Figures include GST.

² Estimated additional cost may vary depending on repayment period of 3, 5, or 7 years.

Horopaki | Background

Fonterra formally notified Council it no longer wishes to continue its role of providing water to the Waitoa village, which was magnified by new water regulations introduced in 2021 by central government.

Finding an alternative option for water supply to the Waitoa village is a complex issue that is not just about pipes and water, but also about providing reliable water to the Waitoa community for the long term.

A Waitoa Community Panel reviewed several technical reports, listened to experts (including independent specialists), and investigated the costs and practicalities of two main options: each Waitoa property having self-supplied water (e.g. water tanks) or connecting to the Council water supply.

The Waitoa Community panel also made sub-recommendations that can be found at mpdc.nz/waitoacommunitypanel

Following four workshops over seven weeks, the Panel provided its recommendations to Council at the [17 December 2025 meeting](#). The main recommendation is:

Waitoa is connected to the Council water supply on the understanding that the Waitoa ratepayers are liable for 15% of the total project cost.

Council agreed in principle to all the Panel's recommendations and will make a final decision following district-wide consultation.

From 1 October 2026, Matamata-Piako District Council will no longer provide water and wastewater services, and will transfer these services to a new water entity – Waikato Waters Ltd.

This means that Matamata-Piako District Council is not be responsible for planning, delivering, or financing this project. All the financial information in this proposal is an estimate and does not reflect the actual project cost or proposed targeted rates increase. The final costs will be subject to Waikato Waters Ltd decision-making.

Council intends to make a final decision prior to the transfer of water assets and use its position as a shareholder to advocate for the prioritisation of this project to prevent cost increases and for the wellbeing of Matamata-Piako residents as appropriate.

Reasons for the change proposal

Fonterra have notified Council they wish to withdraw from its role in supplying water to Waitoa, meaning doing nothing is not an option. Council established a Waitoa Community Panel in late 2025 to investigate all practicable options.³

Council is proposing to connect approximately 130 residential properties in the Waitoa village to the Te Aroha water supply following thorough analysis of all practicable options and the recommendation from the Waitoa Community Panel.

Council compared the option for self-supply to connecting Waitoa to the Council supply and following expert advice and the recommendations of the Waitoa Community Panel, agreed to propose that the Waitoa village be connected to the Council water supply. See [Appendix 1](#) for the comparison of options.

Other considerations

Fonterra has offered to contribute \$500,000 towards the 15% contribution from Waitoa property owners. This has not been included in the estimated costs as above and would result in reduced costs to Waitoa ratepayers. This contribution would not impact the estimated district-wide targeted water rates.

Council has agreed in principle to investigate options to use the proceeds from Waitoa Community Hall sale in 2021 to help fund this project.⁴ This would be subject to further discussion with the contributors to the hall and has not been included in the projected cost to ratepayers.

³ See the [background](#) information document provided to the panel with information on the options considered.

⁴ [Minutes of ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council - Wednesday, 17 December 2025](#) page 14

Implications of the change proposal

Implications for:	Matamata-Piako District Council	Matamata-Piako residents	Waitoa residents	Waikato Waters Ltd	Waikato Waters communities in the collective area
Rates and debt	No impact on rates and debt.	Increase targeted water rates for property owners district-wide that pay targeted water rates.	Increase targeted water rates for all Waitoa property owners.	Will take on debt for this project and set water rates for the district – the rates include funding this project.	Funding for Matamata-Piako district water projects is ring-fenced until 1 July 2027 at the latest. This proposal is not expected to impact the collective Waikato Waters area or rates. However, this is subject to Waikato Waters Ltd decisions.
Charges to water services	No impact – MPDC will no longer supply water or wastewater services from 1 October 2026.	Will increase targeted water rates. Estimates show an additional \$34 to \$36 per year for 3 to 7 years.	All Waitoa residents will be charged for water services, with instalments in the short-term. Waitoa property owners connected to Council water supply will be charged ongoing targeted water rates in the long term.	This project is expected to be incorporated in charges to water services in the future. It is not certain when this project will be included in water services charges.	This change proposal is not expected to impact water service charges to communities in the wider Waikato Waters area and is expected to only impact Matamata-Piako district ratepayers. However, this is subject to Waikato Water Ltd decisions.

Implications for:	Matamata-Piako District Council	Matamata-Piako residents	Waitoa residents	Waikato Waters Ltd	Waikato Waters communities in the collective area
Levels of service	May impact growth, which impacts levels of service and rates in the long term. Waitoa connection to the Council supply could impact property values in the long term and support growth. Growth impacts levels of service for other Council activities and services.	Will impact levels of service for water.	Will impact levels of service for water. Waitoa residents will receive water services from Waikato Waters Ltd and ongoing maintenance of the service.	Will impact levels of service for water as Waikato Waters Ltd will need to plan and deliver water connection to the Waitoa village and include the ongoing provision of water to Waitoa in its levels of service planning in the long term.	
Decision-making	Whilst decisions of past Councils do not bind Council, the community could expect consistency from Council. A decision to establish a Council water supply in Waitoa might create a similar expectation in other parts of the district.			Responsible for setting rates and water services and delivery for Matamata-Piako District from 1 October 2026.	
The environment					The connection of the Waitoa village to the Te Aroha Council water supply means water allocation would also need to service Waitoa. The Piako catchment was above

Implications for:	Matamata-Piako District Council	Matamata-Piako residents	Waitoa residents	Waikato Waters Ltd	Waikato Waters communities in the collective area
					its secondary water allocation limit in January and June 2023 according to WRC . Water allocation is solely a regional council activity, but allocation is particularly critical during low flow or drought conditions.

Other options considered:

Self-supply

Self-supply means each Waitoa property would have its own water system. Generally, this means each Waitoa property would have a water tank and each property owner would collect, store, treat, and maintain their own water supply. The most common way to do this is rainwater tanks, but bores may also be a viable option.

Waitoa property owners would need to consider the tank placement, roof shape and layout, and ensure tanks are kept away from any septic tanks. The installation of a rainwater tank has Council requirements including building consents and setback rules.⁵

The Waitoa property owners would be responsible for all maintenance and there is no legal requirement for treatment on domestic self-supply, but there are best practice guidelines. Waitoa property owners would need a plumber to install/connect a tank and assess the best options for each site and pipework.

Estimated cost: self-supply⁶

Council cost:	Waitoa community cost:	District-wide cost to Targeted
This option would not be funded by Council or Waikato Waters Ltd.	Approximately \$25,000–\$35,000 per property to install a rainwater system (including a tank, pump, filtration, and installation). ⁷ Homeowners would need to budget up to \$1,000 per year for maintenance	This would not impact rates for the wider community.

⁵ More information on the rules and consents required are available. [Waitoa Water Background Information.pdf](#) on page 21.

⁶ See Appendix 2 in [Waitoa Water Background Information.pdf](#) for more information

⁷ These numbers are based on retail prices and do not include any bulk discounts, mates rates or any other discounts that may be applied.

Reasons to not choose this option

Self-supply for the Waitoa community is not preferred by Council and was not recommended by the Waitoa Community panel as the set-up cost for individual property owners and ongoing maintenance cost is high. It was also not recommended as there is no guaranteed consistent water supply to properties.

[Appendix 1](#) compares the two options. Connecting to a Council supply provides assurance that water is meeting national regulations, the supply is reliable and is less reliant to rainfall.

Other options considered:

WSP undertook a high-level engineering investigation in 2023 to assess options for a Council supply to the Village.

Connection to Council water supply

- Connection to the Te Aroha supply via State Highway 26
- Connection to the Te Aroha supply via Waiheke and Ngarua Roads
- Connection to the Te Aroha supply via Waiheke and Seddon Roads
- A supply from the Waitoa River, treatment plant, and reservoir

Staff reached several conclusions from this options report:

- Connection to the Te Aroha Water supply is a better option taking into consideration the whole of life costs. This is because there will be no additional treatment costs.
- The Waitoa Village property owners are unlikely to be able to afford to fund any of the options without some external contribution(s).
- Council should consider costs and potential longer term benefits when selecting the best option for a supply. For example, a connection via State Highway 26 could possibly provide a future option for the Waihou community. This might also allow for costs to be shared over more properties. The Waihou Community has not raised any water supply issues with Council in recent times.

For more information on all the options considered, you can go [here](#).

Appendix 1: How the options compare

Aspect	Council Supply (proposed)	Self-Supply (not proposed)
Capital	Between approximately \$2,000 and \$4,000 per Waitoa property owner per year for 3 to 7 years. Additional \$34 to \$36 on top of targeted water rates district-wide for 3 to 7 years.	\$25,000 to \$35,000 per Waitoa property. No cost impact to district wide targeted water rates.
Ongoing cost	Ongoing water rates (as set by Waikato Waters Ltd) for Waitoa residents and wider district.	Up to \$1,000 per year for Waitoa property owners. No ongoing cost for wider district.
Water reliability	Generally high - can be subject to restrictions.	Dependant on rainfall, storage and maintenance.
Safe water	Subject to water standards and regulated.	Owner responsibility to maintain best practice. Building consent for new tanks/plumbing required.
Maintenance	Waikato Water Ltd responsibility.	Waitoa property owner responsibility.
Emergency	Hydrants available in a fire. Water infrastructure is designed, engineered and upgraded to be resilient and available during emergencies.	Owner can add an extra tank. No regulations – guidelines only.
Timeframe	1-2 years (consultation, design and build)	Immediate (dependant on contractor availability)

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.2 Annual Te Manawhenua Forum Survey 2026

CM No.: 3170578

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to circulate the annual Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako (Forum) Survey for members to complete.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Annual Te Manawhenua Forum survey has been circulated to Forum members since 2009. The Forum set a performance measure in the 2024 Long Term Plan where the overall result of one of the survey questions would be reported on in the Annual Report for the life of the Plan (three years).

The survey has been circulated separately electronically and a hard copy is available for members to complete if desired.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

- The annual survey is received and completed by Forum members**

Horopaki | Background

Under Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), Council is required to establish and maintain opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes.

As part of meeting the LGA requirements and the expectation of the Officer of the Auditor General, a quantifiable performance measure was developed in partnership with the Forum as part of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (LTP). The measure is designed to act as an indicator to highlight the ongoing partnership between Council and mana whenua.

The question in the (anonymous) survey is 'How satisfied are you that Tangata Whenua with Mana Whenua status are recognised and have meaningful involvement in decision making?'

Since the 2012 LTP, the Forum and Council have continued to use this survey question result as a performance measure through successive LTPs. The performance measure was reconfirmed by the Forum at the [5 December 2023](#) hui and is required to be reported on for the next three financial years until 2027/28 in the Annual Report. Previous results were collated in 2025 and can be found [here](#), the attachment to the Te Manawhenua Forum report on 1 April 2025.

Following the 2024-2034 LTP, several other Councils have developed similar performance measures that capture Mana Whenua and Tangata Whenua partnership in decision-making processes across the Waikato rohe and wider Aotearoa. The most common measures used are either surveys, or the number of marae/hapū/iwi involved in their equivalent Forums.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The survey has been circulated separately electronically and a hard copy is available for members to complete if desired.

Policy Considerations

1. To the best of the writer's knowledge, this recommendation is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard Kaitohu Kaupapahere Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tima Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.3 Long Term Plan 2027-37 Project Update

CM No.: 3172484

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Forum with an update on the Long Term Plan 2027-37 (LTP) project and seek feedback.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The LTP is Council's ten year plan for the services and projects it will deliver, what they will cost, and how they will be funded. Development of the LTP is well underway. Key dates are outlined within the report.

Staff welcome any feedback from the Forum on

- Elements of the LTP have been completed or are in progress as detailed throughout this report
- Feedback on issues related to rating for Māori freehold land to be considered as part of a review of the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy
- Content for the Māori engagement in decision-making section.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report be received.
2. The Forum provide any feedback on the Long Term Plan 2027-37 project.
3. The Forum provide any feedback on issues related to rating for Māori freehold land to be considered as part of a review of the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy.
4. The Forum provide any feedback on the content for the Māori engagement in decision making section of the Long Term Plan 2027-37.

Horopaki | Background

The LTP is Council's ten year plan for the services and projects it will deliver, what they will cost, and how they will be funded.

Development of the LTP is well underway. Key dates are outlined below:

Task	Dates
LTP development	Jan-Nov 2026
Consultation Document development	Sep 2026 – Feb 2027
Audit of LTP and Consultation Document	Dec 2026 - Mar 2027
Public Consultation	April - May 2027
Final Audit	May-June 2027
Adoption of Final LTP	June 2027
LTP in force	1 July 2027

To date, the following elements of the LTP have been completed or are in progress. Staff would welcome any feedback from the Forum on these items.

Trends and Analysis Report

The Trends and Analysis Report provides an overview of the key issues, trends, and opportunities shaping the future operating environment of MPDC. It is designed to support strategic thinking and decision-making and act as background information for the LTP.

Information relevant to Māori/iwi includes data related to Māori population and demographics, social and economic considerations for Māori, Māori representation, and strategic implications for Council. The report was discussed with the Forum in April.

[Link to Trends and Analysis Report](#)

Population projections

Council received a presentation from demographers at Te Ngira Institute for Population Research and subsequently adopted a high growth population scenario which will be used for the LTP.

[Link to population projections](#)

Council's Vision, Community Outcomes and Priority Areas

The vision, community outcomes and priority areas have been developed through a combination of community engagement, elected member workshops and organisational input. Forum members were invited to share their perspectives by attending the community sessions or completing the online survey.

The community outcomes set the direction for how Council will focus its efforts and make choices for the district into the future. The outcomes include mention of Māori economic development, marae resilience, partnering with iwi, and supporting connected, inclusive communities.

The vision, community outcomes and priority focus areas are attached.

Key drivers

Key drivers are the most significant external factors likely to impact Council over the next ten years and beyond. As such, these factors shape Council's priorities, strategic planning and budget decisions.

Council has discussed drivers including affordability and financial sustainability, legislative change and uncertainty, population and economic change, resilience, and community expectations. As the LTP develops, the most significant of these factors will be determined and used as the key drivers throughout.

Significant forecasting assumptions

It is a prescribed part of the LTP to identify and describe the significant forecasting assumptions most likely to impact Council's planning and service delivery over the period of the LTP, and analyse the risk and uncertainty associated with each of them.

At the time of writing, Council was due to review the draft assumptions, currently grouped under the headings of: affordability and financial sustainability, legislative change, resilience, growth and demand, looking after our assets, and Council services.

Asset Management Plans

Staff and Council workshops have been held for the following Asset Management Plans

Roading – key issues include pressures on maintaining levels of service, the need for additional condition data for bridges to inform investment prioritisation, and meeting the needs of vulnerable road users.

Stormwater – key issues include ongoing refinement, validation and communication of the flood model for the urban areas, ongoing data improvements and identifying cost effective solutions for flood prone sites. Note, due to legislative requirements under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, Stormwater planning will be addressed in a separate Stormwater Services Strategy.

At the time of writing, staff workshops had been held, and Council workshops scheduled for the following Asset Management Plans : Solid Waste, Parks and Reserves, Buildings and Facilities

Infrastructure Strategy and Financial Strategy

Introductory Council workshops have been held on these two key parts of the LTP.

Rating Structure

An LTP cycle provides an opportunity to review how Council charges rates for the services it provides to the community. The process focuses on who pays what share of the total rates Council needs to collect - this is known as a Rating Review. If that balance is considered to be significantly misaligned, Council may decide to undertake a full Rating Review. Where concerns are more limited, it may be possible to address specific areas of unfairness without a full review.

Staff have held one Council workshop on MPDC's rating structure with a follow on workshop scheduled. As part of the first workshop a paper was developed outlining the impacts of legislation and MPDC's rating structure on Māori land. Discussion on the paper noted that the best scope for Council to address issues of rating of Māori freehold land is through the Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy.

The 'Impact of legislation and MPDC's rating structure on Māori land' paper is attached.

MPDC's current Rates Remission and Postponement Policy which will be reviewed as part of the LTP process can be found [here](#).

Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy describes how Council will fund operating expenses and capital expenditure. It is reviewed every three years in line with the LTP. Amongst other things it sets the balance between rates funding and funding from fees and charges for each of Council's activities.

At the time of writing, an introductory Council workshop was due to be held to seek initial direction on activities where the fee/rates split should be reviewed.

Activity Plans, Business Plans, Budgets, Fees and Charges

Managers are currently developing draft Activity Plans – for activities included in the LTP, and Business Plans – for internal support services. Draft budgets and fees and charges are also being prepared. Exec Team and Council review and direction are scheduled over June and July.

LTP Public Consultation

It is a legislative requirement to undertake a month of public consultation on the proposed LTP, with an audited Consultation Document prepared to facilitate this process. Generally, Council holds a formal Hearing after the consultation period has closed to hear from submitters who wish to present their submission orally. For this LTP, Council has provided direction that they would like to take a different approach and will instead look to hold face to face engagement sessions during the consultation period.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The LTP will include a section on Māori engagement in decision-making. It is a legislative requirement for the LTP to set out any steps that Council intends to take to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision making processes of Council.

Staff would welcome the Forum's feedback on content to include. As a starting point, a draft, based on the content from the last LTP has been developed and is detailed below.

Te whai wāhi a te iwi ki ngā whakataunga a te kaunihera | Māori engagement in decision making

The iwi in our district include: Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Hinerangi, Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Tara Tokanui, Ngāti Whanaunga, Raukawa and Waikato-Tainui.

Council's vision and community outcomes includes the goal of better collaboration, visibility of partnerships, inclusive decision-making and acknowledgement of the potential of the Māori economy. To help achieve this goal we have the following governance structures and staff roles.

Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako

Council and forum members established Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako as a formal process of representation for Māori within the district. The forum is a standing committee of Council and the structure was developed through discussions with Māori nominated representatives. The Forum meets bi-monthly.

The purpose of Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako, as outlined in its 'Heads of Agreement', is "to facilitate tangata whenua contribution to Council's decision making." The Forum considers matters to sustainably promote the social, economic, environmental and

cultural wellbeing of Māori communities for today and for the future.

The Forum includes representatives from Council, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu, Raukawa, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Pāoa and Ngāti Hinerangi and Ngāti Tamaterā.

Te Toa Horopū ā Matamata Piako

A Māori Ward – Te Toa Horopū ā Matamata Piako was set up in the district for the 2022 elections. This followed a change to legislation which enabled councils to establish Māori wards without the potential for a binding poll generated by just five per cent of electors.

Manawhenua advocated for Council to make this decision, noting the benefits would include making local decision making more inclusive and fairer for everyone. Its establishment was unanimously supported by the members of the forum.

The inaugural Māori Ward Councillor was subsequently elected in the 2022 Local Government elections.

In 2024, the coalition government signalled changes to Māori Wards. Following legislative change, a binding poll was held alongside the 2025 election with the outcome that a Māori ward role will not be re-elected at the 2028 election in the Matamata-Piako area.

Iwi liaison staff

Over the last three years, the Iwi Liaison team has expanded to include an additional role. The Iwi Liaison team work across Council to support a wide range of initiatives and provide support and guidance to staff, Elected Members and Te Manawhenua Forum. [Add specific examples]

Projects and Advisory Groups

Iwi representatives have been involved in the development of a number of Council projects including Morrinsville Recreation Grounds, Wastewater Consents, Papakāinga District Plan Change and the Climate Resilience Strategy working group. To develop the Climate Resilience Strategy a working group was set up with two Forum representatives, two Council representatives and staff. The working group met regularly to review and feed into the Strategy at critical points in its development. [Add additional examples of how iwi have contributed to decision making]





Spotlight on partnership: Mana whakahono ā rohe

Council is engaging with Manawhenua to establish a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe which is a binding statutory arrangement that intends to establish a structured relationship between Council and iwi authorities under the Resource Management Act.

[Enter more detail on the agreement once this has progressed further.]

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

All of the community outcomes are relevant to this report.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The development of the LTP is funded within the Strategy and Plans activity.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

- [A↓](#) MPDC Vision Community Outcomes and Priority Areas
- [B↓](#) Impact of legislation and MPDC rates structure on Māori land

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Anne Gummer Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.4 Policies, Plans and Bylaws Update June 2026

CM No.: 3170861

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum (Forum) with an update on the consultation and adoption process of the following:

- Fees and Charges 2026/27
- Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy
- Rates Remission and Postponement Policy
- Land Transport Bylaw
- Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw

In addition, the report provides an update on the draft Climate Resilience Strategy, the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan and the draft Annual Plan 2026/27.

A separate report provides an update on the development of the Long Term Plan 2027-37.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Recent Consultation and Decision-Making on Policies and Bylaws

Formal consultation was undertaken on several key documents, with the consultation period running from 16 March to 19 April 2026. A total of 274 submissions were received across all topics. On 13 May 2026, Council held a hearing of submitters to formally consider the feedback received before making decisions and finalising the documents.

The documents that were taken to Council on 13 May were adopted and will come into force on 1 July 2026.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Horopaki | Background

Staff provided updates to the Forum prior to formal consultation taking place, to ensure that the Forum were provided the opportunity to input feedback to be considered. The feedback received from the Forum included:

- The documents now acknowledge the deep cultural connection between tangata whenua and kurī, inclusion of this into the documents will allow for operational consideration when applying the Policy on Dogs and Dog Bylaw.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Fees and Charges 2026/27

Some of the key changes proposed in the Fees and Charges 2026/27 included:

- Increasing cemetery fees to increase cost recovery from service users
- Changes to our Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fee
- Building consent fee changes
- Changes to Community Facility charges
- Introduction of Waikato Waters Ltd on-charged fees.

33 submissions were received on the draft Fees and Charges. Submissions focused primarily on dog registration fees, the user-pays principle, and concerns about affordability. After consideration of the submissions and staff comments, elected members adopted the Fees and Charges without change, with the Development Contributions to be added into the document once the figures on which they are calculated have been made available.

Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy

Council proposed to keep the previous approach to the Policy through the review, that shops across the whole district would be able to open for business on Easter Sunday if they choose. Other amendments included wording clarity, inclusion of Te Reo Māori headings.

61 submissions were received on the draft Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy

Overall feedback received was as follows:

61% of submitters voted to adopt the draft Policy (allowing shops to choose whether to open) - 37 submissions in support. Submissions focused on business choice and flexibility, as well as religious observance, family time, and employee wellbeing.

Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

Council proposed multiple changes throughout the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy, the most significant of which was changes to reflect new legislation for granny flats. Including a new remission so that if no extra refuse or recycling bins are requested for a small additional dwelling, the extra kerbside targeted rate can be removed.

5 submissions were received on the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy, with submissions raising minor clarification points only. After consideration of the submissions and staff comments, elected members adopted the policy without change. The policy will come into force from 1 July 2026.

Land Transport Bylaw

The draft bylaw introduced multiple new clauses to align with neighbouring Council's and previous feedback from the community, gathered through customer request analysis during the initial research phase of the Bylaw review. These new provisions include:

- Objects and Hazards on Roads
- Vegetation and Encroachment
- Activities that Damage Roads
- Boat launching ramps.
- New schedule highlighting shared pathways in the district.

- Enforcement delegations.

Other amendments were made to align the document with new MPDC formatting, including Te Reo translations in headings, explanatory notes, document formatting and appearance.

21 submissions were received on the draft Land Transport Bylaw 2008 (Amended 2026). 47% of submitters supported the adoption of the draft Land Transport Bylaw.

Following consultation and hearing, elected members adopted the Amended Land Transport Bylaw 2008 (Amended 2026), which will come into force from 1 July 2026.

Policy on Dogs and Dog Bylaw

154 submissions were received on the draft Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw, showing broad alignment with the overall direction and support for improved structure, clearer expectations, and dog access rules.

There was general acceptance of allowing dogs in CBD areas and on the Hauraki Rail Trail on-leash, with strong emphasis on signage, waste management and enforcement. Proposed changes to off-leash exercise areas including Centennial Drive and Tom Grant Drive, were the most contested issue.

Following feedback from the Forum, the Policy on Dogs acknowledge the deep cultural connection between tangata whenua and kurī, as follows:

7. Cultural Context

7.1 Council acknowledges the cultural importance of kurī (dogs) to Māori communities. Kurī have traditionally been companions, guardians, and hunting partners, and are part of Māori stories and traditions.

7.2 Council will seek to reflect this connection in its approach to dog management, while working with tangata whenua to ensure practices are respectful and consider tikanga (customs) and culturally significant places (wāhi tapu).

7.3 Council acknowledges that areas of cultural significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu, may have their own tikanga and access protocols. The Owner or any person in charge of any dog are expected to comply with any rules and avoid taking dogs into such areas unless expressly permitted.

After considering submissions and staff comments, elected members adopted the Policy on Dogs without change and the Dog Control Bylaw with minor amendments, including retention of the existing off-leash areas at Centennial Drive and Tom Grant Drive. The Bylaw also enables dogs to be allowed in CBD areas and on sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail on-leash, with these changes to be implemented on a six-month trial to assess how they work in practice. Both documents will come into force from 1 July 2026

Draft Climate Resilience Strategy

The draft Climate Resilience Strategy was reviewed by Elected Members at a workshop in April, with the review centred on the actions in the three Focus Areas of the Strategy.

The feedback received was incorporated into the draft and circulated to Elected Members and Forum members for any additional comment on the Focus Areas or the other sections of the Strategy.

Additional feedback was subsequently received from Elected Members on the Introduction, Climate impacts and Responding to climate impacts sections of the Strategy. This feedback was discussed at a Council workshop on 27 May with most of the suggested changes confirmed for inclusion in the draft. In addition, direction was confirmed to remove the appendices and to bring the draft Strategy back to the June Council meeting for adoption for consultation, likely alongside the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.

Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP)

Council's WMMP is due to be updated, and several initial preparatory steps are already underway. A waste assessment has been completed and is currently with the Ministry of Health for endorsement.

Once endorsed, it is anticipated that a series of Council workshops on the WMMP will commence in late June. These workshops will focus on setting strategic direction, testing assumptions, and refining priorities, with the aim of having a draft WMMP ready for public consultation in late July or early August.

In parallel, discussions on future options for Council's management of its waste services will also progress. Work on these options is expected to run concurrently with the WMMP development, with early engagement likely to occur within a similar timeframe. This approach is intended to ensure alignment between strategic direction, policy development, and upcoming Long Term Plan budget considerations.

Given the tight timeframes across both workstreams, engagement with the Forum will be constrained during the early stages. However, there will be a clear opportunity for the Forum to provide formal input through a submission once the WMMP is released for consultation. In addition, staff would welcome feedback on the current strategy and any other considerations that should be taken into account during the development of the 2027 WMMP.

[Link to current WMMP](#)

Draft Annual Plan 26/27

Elected Members confirmed that the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 does not need to be publicly consulted on, and staff are continuing to develop the document which will be approved at Council's June meeting.

Mōrearea | Risk

No risks have been identified.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires all local authorities to develop ways to involve Māori in the Council decision-making processes.

Section 81(1) requires that a local authority must:

- a) Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
- b) Consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
- c) Provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b)

Legislative requirements for the policy and bylaw reviews are noted in the relevant Statements of Proposal provided at the time of consultation and available on Council's [Kōrero Mai | Let's Talk](#)

[website](#). Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the special consultative procedure of the LGA and to give effect to section 82 (principles of consultation).





Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

An overview of the key dates is outlined below:

Dates	Tasks
23 February	Policy on Dogs, Dog Control Bylaw, Land Transport Bylaw, Local Easter Sunday Trading Policy open for consultation
Mid-March	Fees and Charges open for consultation
19 April	Consultation closed (for all topics)
13 May	Oral submissions held at Council. Council deliberations on submissions Council adoption of policies, plans and bylaws
1 July	Policies, plans and bylaws in force

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council’s Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.’			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

The community outcomes relevant to this report are as follows:

- All of the above.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

Policy work encompasses the development, review, and updating of Council's policies, plans, and bylaws to ensure they remain effective, relevant, and aligned with strategic objectives and community outcomes. These activities are delivered within existing budgets through the Strategies and Plans activity as outlined in Council's Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Charlotte Walker Kaitohu Kaupapahere Paetahi Graduate Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tima Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	

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8.5 District Plan and Resource Management Plans Update

CM No.: 3130687

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako (TMF) with an update on the rolling review of the Matamata-Piako District Plan (MPDP) including the exemption applications. This update also includes information on the RMA reform, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, Private Plan Change 64 Banks Road, the Efficiency and Effectiveness (EE) Report, the MPDC Growth Strategy, MPDC website update work, Hauraki Gulf Forum activities, the Ashbourne fast track decision and the progress on the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A District Plan and Resource Management Reform summary is provided below. The update specifically refers to the Plan Change Exemption Applications, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, Private Plan Change 64 Banks Road, the MPDC Growth Strategy, the EE Report, Resource Management Act Reform, MPDC webpage updates, Hauraki Gulf Forum activities, the Ashbourne fast track decision and progress on six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations. Jayshree Kanji, Carolyn McAlley, Kumesh Burr and Fiona Hill are available to deliver the update and answer any questions.

Horopaki | Background

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

In August 2025, the Government introduced new legislation as part of the [Resource Management \(Consenting and Other System Changes\) Amendment Act 2025](#). A key part of this legislation is called [Plan Stop](#). The intention of this legislation is to ensure that local authorities do not expend resources unnecessarily, by stopping parts of the plan making process until the RMA replacement legislation comes into force. It included pausing updating plans to align with the National Planning Standards and full plan reviews.

However, under the Plan Stop rules, councils can still ask the Minister responsible for Resource Management Reform for permission to start or keep working on a plan change if it meets the criteria in section 80W of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

As a consequence of these changes, on 8 October 2025, the Council decided not to notify PC61 - National Planning Standards and Other Matters and to proceed with lodging two exemption applications.

Plan Change 65 Minor Matters - Exemption application

Plan Change 65 Minor Matters (PC65) aims to rectify issues with the Operative Matamata-Piako District Plan that have led to inefficiencies, unintended consequences or proved unworkable, as outlined in the Government's Plan Stop Policy exemption criteria 80W(2)(b).

On 13 March 2026, Council received the Minister's decision on the PC65 exemption application, approving it in full. Staff are now working on progressing this plan change through the process outlined in Schedule 1 of the RMA.

On 10 April 2026, the PC65 material was provided to iwi authorities for their review and comment for 20 working days as required by Clause 4A of Schedule 1 of the RMA. No feedback was received.

On 27 May 2026, staff sought approval to notify Plan Change 65 at the Council meeting.

For more information about PC65, please click [here](#).

Plan Change 49 Waharoa - Exemption application

On 8 October 2025, Council agreed to support the preparation and submission of an exemption application for Plan Change 49 Waharoa (PC49) to the Minister responsible for Resource Management Reform. This plan change aims to improve job opportunities and enable more flexible living options in Waharoa.

Staff have consulted with Ngāti Hauā and Te Hauora o Ngāti Hauā and have received supporting letters from both parties. These letters form part of the exemption application. The final draft of the application has been given to the Governance group for their review and comments. The application was lodged with the Minister on 19 May 2026. The exemption application has been placed on the MPDC [Plan Stop](#) webpage.

Private Plan Change 62 – Calcutta

On 3 July 2025, the Council received a request for Private Plan Change 62 – Calcutta (PPC62). This plan change seeks to rezone approximately 20ha of rural land along the southern side of Tauranga Road, Matamata to Industrial Zone. This is in the same location as Private Plan Change 57; however, Private Plan Change 62 has a smaller footprint.

Staff are reviewing the application and have issued a further information request to the applicant.

For more information about Private Plan Change 62, please click [here](#).

Private Plan Change 64 - Banks Road-Residential Zoning

KA Matamata Limited Partnership (KA Matamata) lodged a private plan change request, to MPDC, on Friday 27 February 2026. The plan change seeks to rezone approximately 26.3ha of land near the southeastern edge of Matamata. The land is located within the Banks Road to Mangawhero Road structure plan and is identified within the future residential policy area.

This plan change is known as Private Plan Change 64 - Banks Road (PPC64). The anticipated yield for the Plan Change site is approximately 430 dwellings. KA Matamata owns approximately 8.6ha of land within the PPC64 site. There are currently seven other landowners that own the balance of the land within the PPC64 area.

Staff have reviewed the application for completeness, and the matters that need to be addressed at the time of the plan change process. At Council's request, the applicant provided additional information related to traffic and this information will be reviewed.

For more information about Private Plan Change 64, please click [here](#).

Future Proof

Future Proof, in partnership with SmartGrowth, has completed a year-long study that identifies the potential growth impacts of transport improvements in the Hamilton to Tauranga Corridor. This area spans across Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako District, Waipā District and South Waikato District. The study provides a clear understanding of the growth areas unique needs and

potential and will help ensure that future growth and the necessary transport, water and utility infrastructure is coordinated and aligned. It aimed to determine how development can be managed in the best way possible – supporting economic outcomes, as well as protecting the environment and our communities.

The study has found that, in addition to the high growth already predicted in the corridor, planned transport improvements are expected to generate more development throughout the corridor. This additional growth is expected to continue to occur mostly at either end of the corridor, in Hamilton and Tauranga, however in the medium-long term, there is also expected to be significant potential growth in the central towns of Matamata, Tirau and Putāruru, and the proportion of growth occurring in this central area could gradually increase over time. Future Proof have also recently uploaded the final version of the Hamilton to Tauranga spatial study to the Future Proof website which you can access [here](#).

MPDC Growth Strategy

Council has given support for staff to progress this work. The Council has now received the updated projections from Te Ngira and has adopted the high growth scenario. The Future Proof study discussed above is important as it provides a broader context for future development in the district.

Further national direction on the National Policy Statement for Urban Development is expected this year which will impact the strategy. Staff are considering what this means for the timing and development of the Strategy, along with the recently announced changes for the structure of local government and will report back to the Council on a recommended direction for the strategy.

Efficiency & Effectiveness report (EE report)

Under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act (RMA), the Council has a duty to monitor the state of the environment and the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, rules and other methods contained within its district plan.

By way of background until 2020, Council published a State of the Environment Report. The report covered Land, Air, Water, Biodiversity and Waste. In 2020 the reporting approach was reviewed, and a new framework called the Monitoring Strategy was decided upon to guide data collection and evaluation. The Strategy covers the study period of 2020 – 2025. Staff have been working on collating the information into the District Plan Efficiency and Effectiveness Report (EE Report). The overall purpose of the report is to assess how effective the Matamata-Piako District Plan is in achieving the intended outcomes.

The EE Report is in the process of being finalised. The report is grouped into a number of chapters such as population growth and the economy, rural development, and heritage and culture. Once finalised, the report will be presented in a Council workshop and thereafter, published on our website. A link to the finalised monitoring report will be shared at a subsequent meeting.

The current program of resource management reform will change the way in which councils monitor their district plans. Whilst the details of the new monitoring system are not known there will be a shift towards a more standardised and nationally coordinated system, with environmental limits and environmental reporting set at a national level. Central government is also working on a centralised data system which will assist in collating data in a consistent manner.

MPDC will still be responsible for local compliance, enforcement, and consent monitoring, but these activities will now align with a single combined regional plan and shared monitoring system. These changes are due to take place over a couple of years, starting as soon as later this year.

Resource Management Act Reform (RMA Reform)

In March 2024, the Government made an announcement regarding its proposed RMA reform processes, which is occurring in three phases. The status of the phases is outlined below.

Phase	Status
Phase 1 - Repealed Existing RMA Reform	COMPLETE
Phase 2 Stage 1 - Freshwater and Other Matters Bill	COMPLETE
Phase 2 Stage 2 - Resource Management Consenting and Other Matters Act and national policy changes	<p>PARTIALLY COMPLETE</p> <p>Act passed into law.</p> <p>On 15 January 2026, ten national policy direction instruments came into force.</p> <p>On 7 May 2026, two amended national policy direction instruments came into force.</p> <p>For more details about the national direction instruments above, click here.</p>
Phase 3 - New Planning Act and Natural Environment Act	<p>PENDING</p> <p>The Bills were introduced on 9 December 2025.</p> <p>MPDC provided a submission on the bills. To access and read the submission, please click here.</p> <p>Submissions have been heard by the Environment Select Committee. A report from the Select Committee is due on 26 June 2026.</p> <p>The amended bills will then be presented to parliament for the second and third readings with royal assent anticipated in August mid-2026.</p>

For more information about the RMA reform, please click [MPDC Resource Management Act Reform](#).

What is happening now?

Phase 2

The Government is making changes to a programme of national direction instruments under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to boost infrastructure and urban development, enhance the primary sector, and deliver housing growth.

By way of background, a National Environmental Standard (NES) is a regulation that sets nationally consistent rules and requirements under the RMA to manage various environmental activities, ensuring health protection and environmental quality. On the 6 May 2026, the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Natural Hazards Implementation Guide was published to offer guidance to consents planners and others administering this national direction.

On 7 May 2026, the following national direction instruments were gazetted and are expected to come into force on 4 June 2026:

- Amendment to NES for Commercial Forestry
- Amendment to NES for Marine Aquaculture.
- Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations.

Additionally, the following national direction instruments are intended to be gazetted mid-2026 and will come into force shortly afterwards:

- NES for Papakāinga.
- Amendment to NES for Telecommunication Facilities.
- Amendment to NES for Electricity Transmission Activities, and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities Amendment Regulations 2026.

Phase 3

At this stage, the new Acts are progressing through the Parliamentary process, with Select Committee scrutiny and potential amendments still to occur, meaning councils should expect further detail and refinement before final implementation requirements are confirmed.

As the legislation has not yet been finalised, further detail on timeframes, transition arrangements, and implementation requirements is still emerging. There is significant reliance in the legislation on national direction, the detail of which is currently unknown.

The Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill are expected to be passed in August mid-2026, following completion of the Parliamentary process. Once the Bills are enacted, there will be some sections that take effect within the short timeframe thereafter. Most sections of the new Acts will not take effect until the new combined plans have been developed and are in force. In the interim, councils must continue to operate under the current RMA framework while monitoring the progress of Phase 3 and preparing for future implementation impacts.

Fast-track – Ashbourne Development

The Independent Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 has released its final decision on the Ashbourne Fast-track application. For fast-track applications, the decision-making authority sits with central government, not Council. Council's role is limited to providing technical advice when requested and monitoring compliance with conditions if approvals are granted.

Project overview:

- Location: approximately 125 hectares, around 1.8 km south-west of Matamata.
- Residential development of up to 530 dwellings.
- Public open space, a multi-functional greenway, and a neighbourhood centre.
- Proposed retirement development of approximately 250 units with an associated hospital.

- Two solar farms (approximately 13 ha and 25 ha), with potential generation of up to 52,000 MWh per year.

For more information about the Ashbourne development, please click [here](#). On 21 April 2026, the panel's final decision was to:

- **grant** the solar farm approvals,
- **grant, in part**, the residential development approvals sought, subject to the conditions, and
- **decline** the retirement village.

The decision to decline the retirement village has been appealed by the applicant to the High Court. As the other parts of the proposal have been approved and are not subject to the appeal, they are able to proceed.

MPDC RMA webpage updates

Additionally, a [Recent changes to RMA National Direction Instruments](#) webpage has been published to help the public understand the scope of the new NPS and NES national direction instruments.

Staff have also published a [Duty Planner Service](#) and [Duty Building Service](#) to help customers understand information about resource consents and building consents, who to contact, and what assistance duty officers can provide.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations

The Council has received six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations. A Mana Whakahono ā Rohe is a binding statutory arrangement under the RMA that provides for a more structured relationship between local authorities and iwi authorities. Their intent is to improve working relationships as well as enhancing Māori participation in resource management and its associated decision-making processes. Invitations have been received from iwi authorities in the Pare Hauraki Collective and in the Upper Waihou catchment. MPDC is leading discussions with the iwi authorities in the Upper Waihou catchment. Hauraki DC is leading discussions with Pare Hauraki Collective.

For the Upper Waihou Council staff and elected representatives had an initial hui at the end of November and a further meeting in January. As a result, a technical working group has been established who have been meeting fortnightly to progress the drafting of the agreement.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

The State of our Gulf annual report is currently being developed. A draft copy has been provided to members for their review on the 25 May and a further discussion will take place with technical staff on the 29 May.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Carolyn McAlley Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Senior RMA Policy Planner	
	Jayshree Kanji Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Paetahi Graduate RMA Policy Planner	
	Fiona Hill Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Team Leader RMA Policy	

Approved by	Nathan Sutherland Pou Whakamahere Planning Manager	
	Ally van Kuijk Hautū Tipu me te Whakamatua Group Manager Growth & Regulation	

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8.6 Emergency Management Update

CM No.: 3172848

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Te Manawhenua Forum on national, regional and local Civil Defence Emergency Management matters, including Council's response to Ex Tropical Cyclone Vaianu, and to provide information on current work programmes, emerging issues and improvement activity.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary This report provides Te Manawhenua Forum with an update on national, regional and local Civil Defence Emergency Management matters, with particular emphasis on the Council response to Ex Tropical Cyclone Vaianu in April 2026. It provides an update to the Emergency Management Bill (No 2), the National Assurance Project, and summarises regional implementation of the Waikato CDEM Group Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

At the local level, the report highlights operational readiness, response activity, staff effort, exercise implications, and emerging improvement themes from recent event debriefs.

It also signals ongoing work in marae preparedness, welfare arrangements, Māori partnerships, and community-led response planning. The report is provided for information and awareness to support continuous improvement in Council's emergency management capability and preparedness.

Horopaki | Background

National

Emergency Management Bill No2

On 9th December 2026, the Emergency Management Bill was introduced into Parliament. When passed, the Bill will replace the existing Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

[Emergency Management Bill \(No 2\) | New Zealand Legislation](#)

A 'Joint Committee Submission Subgroup' was initiated with CEG and Joint Committee members and a Submission to the Bill (No2) forwarded to the Governance and Administration Committee on 13 February 2026.

A report on the Bill from Governance and Administration is due on 9 June 2026. The Select Committee gathers information and prepares a report on the Bill for the House, including recommendations and changes to the Bill before the second reading.

The second reading of the Bill is before the House and follows legislative process. [Chapter 38 - The Legislative Process: Second Reading and Committee of the Whole House - New Zealand Parliament](#)

Of note in the Proposed Bill was the introduction of Emergency Management Committees under Schedule 1.

There are numerous clauses which set out the functions, powers, and administrative rules.

- Clause 35 enables the Minister to approve a merger of multiple Emergency Management Committees into a single Committee.
- Clause 36 sets out rules for the reorganisation of Emergency Management Committee membership in the event of a local government reorganisation that creates new authorities or alters relevant boundaries, districts, or region.
- This is flagged as it relates to the Head Start Pathway.

National Assurance Project

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) are undertaking a five-year Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation project. Phase One focussed on defining operating parameters for a self-assessment tool. It commenced mid-2025 and included Andy BuBear as one of the project team.

The project aims to provide an assessment tool for all organisations and agencies with Emergency Management responsibilities under legislation and the CDEM National Plan Order 2015. [National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015 and Guide to the Plan » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

The new assessment tool will report on capability and align with the National Disaster Resilience Strategy [National Disaster Resilience Strategy » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

The tool will also report on People, Plans and Procedures, Tools and Resources, Systems and Relationships and Governance. These are all current CDEM activities we undertake.

Phase Two of the project will focus the Tool development and include some CDEM Groups and Local Authorities testing the self-assessment tool. Andy BuBear is also part of this new phase starting in June 2026.

Regional

The Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030 is a plan that sets the direction for the group.

[Waikato CDEM Group Strategic Group Plan 2025-2030](#)

Strategic Group Plan Actions

The first Group Plan Actions were finally approved by the joint committee on 30 March 2026 and outline the priority projects and measures for Year 1 2025-2026 and year two 2026-2027.

The local implementation of these measures commenced being reported to the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) from 15 May 2026.

2027 – 2030 Measures

On 6 May 2026, Waikato CDEM Professional staff led by the GEMO attended a workshop to develop the Strategic Plan actions from 2027 to 2030, (years three, four and five).

The proposed local implementation of these measures will be prepared for discussion at the next Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) and recommendations Joint Committee for final approval and therefore are subject to change.

The proposed projects and measures are:

Partnering with Māori Emergency Management

2027-2028 Year 3.

- Delivery of resources is undertaken to support Māori participation and operational response as outlined in the iwi/CDEM co-created work programme. (to be developed)

2028 -2029 Year 4.

- Iwi representation on the Joint Committee is confirmed through formal appointment or agreed governance mechanism.

2029-2030 Year 5.

- A review to confirm that Māori partnership arrangements are fit for purpose, appropriately resourced and effectively supporting delivery of the agreed iwi/CDEM co-created work programme. (to be developed)

Community Led Response Planning

2027- 2028 Year 3.

- Each Local Authority supports at least one community led response initiative through investment or infrastructure planning.

2028-2029 Year 4.

- Participating communities including Māori are included in at least one council or group exercise per year.

2029-2030 Year 5.

- Programme outcomes are reviewed to confirm sustainability in alignment with group objectives.

Māori Partnerships Plan

This project seeks to cement our relationships with iwi/mana whenua by implementing agreed projects that build on the ability of Māori to respond to emergencies. This encompasses a number of smaller projects and initiative as agreed with iwi and mana whenua. (to be developed).

2027- 2028 Year 3.

- Review the current Marae preparedness plans and identify any improvements required. Create a Regional Marae Civil Defence Centre council assessment tool.
- Co-design work on a CDEM / iwi / Māori Communication Plan is implemented.
- Review of implementation is reported to CEG.
- Agreed welfare cost recovery processes are communicated to iwi and service partners.
- Agreed tools and processes are applied in exercises or responses

2028-2029 Year 4.

- A review with iwi partners confirms arrangements remain fit for purpose and appropriately resourced.
- Feedback from iwi and partners informs any refinements, confirming regional processes remain fit-for-purpose. Reporting of findings to the Waikato Welfare Coordination Group.
- A review with iwi partners that seeks to confirm the Communication Plan remains effective, relevant and aligned with Group and iwi communication needs.
- Lessons learned are documented and shared, providing assurance that marae integration arrangements remain effective.
- Review to confirm communication approaches remain effective for disproportionately impacted communities.

2029-2030 Year 5.

- Programme outcomes are reviewed to confirm sustainability in alignment with group objectives.
- Feedback from iwi and partners inform any refinements and confirms regional processes remain fit-for-purpose. Reporting of findings to the Waikato Welfare Coordination Group
- Lessons learned are documented and shared, providing assurance that marae integration arrangements remain effective.
- Review to confirm communication approaches remain effective for disproportionately impacted communities.

Key proposed changes in the EM Bill that supports the above work program include:

- providing membership roles for iwi/Māori, rural communities and the wider community on Coordinating Executive Groups.
- requiring engagement with iwi/Māori and the wider community – particularly those who are disproportionately affected by emergencies, such as disabled people and seniors – during development of local plans and the national plan.

There are visibly increased demands on council Emergency Management staff, who are responsible for operational readiness and response activities within council 24/7. These demands include (but are not limited to) iwi/Māori partnership work and community-led response planning.

The Emergency Management Bill, the wider reform programme, and the expectation for councils to increase community and iwi/Māori resilience provides clear evidence that additional resourcing will be required to meet these new demands and assurance expectations.

Long Term Plan (LTP) discussions regarding funding for CDEM have started and will be formalised in the LTP planning process.

Local

Ex Tropical Cyclone Vaianu

Council staff responded to Ex Tropical Cyclone Vaianu from the 9th to 12th April 2026. This event required coordinated staff working in our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) over two days and tested organisational readiness.

This event did not have the predicted impacts because the weather system tracked further to the East.

The second week in April 2026, was the third major weather event this year in quick succession, which was a heavy load, both physically and mentally for council staff, partners and stakeholders.

Initial situational awareness for Cyclone Vaianu commenced earlier in the week with increased monitoring and attendance at Severe Weather Meetings from mid-week then increasing into the weekend.

Because of the variability about the predicted/forecast tracking of the cyclone, the whole of the Waikato CDEM Group area remained in scope for the impacts of the Cyclone.

On Thursday 9th April 2026, the Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO) provided some directions and an indication that a region wide Local State of Emergency (Local SOE) was being considered and requested the following activities:

- Undertake planning at a local level, to enable Emergency Operating Centres (EOC) to be activated and appropriately staffed from Saturday afternoon, through to Monday morning. The activation status of EOC's may differ from district to district; some may be in monitor; others may be in coordinate or direct. EOC and Group Emergency Control Centres (GECC) status will be influenced by the most up to date forecasting/tracking.
- Undertake planning at a regional level, to enable the GECC to be activated and appropriately staffed, for the same period.
- Develop, keep under-review, and deliver regionally consistent public messaging.
- Local authorities to undertake a stocktake of events that attract large numbers of spectators and/or participants.

- Local authorities to identify, and prepare, community welfare facilities that are appropriately located, in the context of known risks; and adequately resourced to meet community needs - including Marae.
- Undertake early, and ongoing, consideration of the need for a state of emergency (SOE), due to foreseeable evacuations, including any directions that may be required in relation to events that attract large numbers of spectators and/or participants.
- Local authorities to undertake local multi-agency assessments, and determine what (if any) surge support, and specialist external resources, may be required locally. For example, additional EOC staff, FENZ, Urban Search and Research (USAR) teams or NZ Defence Force resources.
- Given the variability of modelling, the need to be flexible/agile in terms of where the CDEM powers may be required. Early (initial) high-level discussions between the Joint Committee Chair and Group Controller regarding the prospect of a pre-emptive region wide Local SOE.
- If there were to be a region wide Local SOE, it would still be a locally led response: The implementation (the how) would remain the responsibility of the Local Controllers - which is particularly important, given the local consequences, impacts and community needs will vary from district to district, and a local response is best placed to understand those unique needs.

The Group Controller consulted with Council Chief Executives, Mayors and Local Controllers and considered the region wide impacts, as well as the fact that several areas across the region that were at different phases of recovery - with land instability at a heightened level of risk across several districts.

Another consideration was whether it was reasonably foreseeable that local authorities would have decided (in advance of the cyclone) to proactively evacuate certain homes, streets, or communities for the duration of the severe weather event and the need special powers under the CDEM Act 2002 to enable this.

A regionwide Local State of Emergency would provide all districts the ability to undertake these activities and use the powers if necessary. This was important because of the uncertainty of the cyclone track and early indications that it would track down through the centre of the region.

On Saturday 11th April 2026, a Local State of Emergency in the Waikato Group area was declared by the Joint Committee Chair Cr Emma Pike, (Hamilton).

The Group Controller provided the intent for the response which was:

“Ensure our communities and Emergency Management systems are prepared for, and ready to respond to, the adverse effects of Tropical Cyclone Vaianu, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the people impacted in our region.”

He also provided his expectations for how we would achieve this:

Proactively plan for, and undertake, the preparatory actions that are necessary to keep people and property safe; including ensuring appropriate Emergency Management structures and personnel are ready. And resources are pre-deployed and available to those communities likely to be impacted by the emergency. Maintain the provision of accurate and timely information to the community.

The operational delivery of the response remained the responsibility of Local Controllers, and in the case of Ryan Johnston and Andy BuBear, (yet to be confirmed as Local Controllers), the Group Controller delegated specific powers to them Under Section 29(3) of the CDEM Act 2002.

- Section 86 Evacuation
- Section 87 Entry onto premises
- Section 88 Closing roads or public places
- Section 91 Power to give direction
- Section 92 Power to carry out inspections

These powers were not required.

Our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated from Saturday morning in preparation for the cyclone with Functions Leads and other staff rostered 24/7 to cover the weekend with the main impacts forecast from Saturday night. We had reduced staff monitoring overnight through to Sunday morning.

The EOC was fully staffed on Sunday with a reduced shift for continuing monitoring overnight. Staff initially attended the EOC Monday before it was deactivated around 1030hrs.

The decision to move from response and transition to recovery was made Monday 13th April 2026. This was based on the minimal impacts and agreement between Local Controllers and Recovery Managers.

A breakdown of the total staff hours committed to the Ex Tropical Cyclone Vainu Response included initial Monitoring, EOC preparation and set up, attendance at Group meetings and briefings, and supporting the EOC either in person or remotely was 453 hours.

MPDC Debriefs and Corrective Actions

A number of internal debriefs were held both face to face and by survey which identified themes for continued improvements.

These are yet to finalised with strong themes focussed on:

- Staff availability and recognition
- EOC resources
- Civil Defence Centre Resources
- Volunteer engagement and role clarity
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Bespoke Communications Plan for at risk areas

Annual CDEM Exercise

By activating the EOC and conducting the response to the extent we did, meant we did not have to undertake our yearly mandatory assessed CDEM Exercise as we had essentially exercised in real time.

The current LTP performance measure MPDC adopted from 2024 is:

The evaluation of an annual exercise (or Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activation within 6 months of a planned exercise) as a measure of effectiveness of training.

Our MPDC exercise was scheduled for 21 May 2026 with the scenario being a serious weather event (Exercise Tasman).

The planned exercise has been postponed based on the following reasons:

- Cyclone Vaianu was the third severe weather event this year that our staff have been involved in.
- Key staff may be physically and mentally fatigued. Proceeding with an exercise too soon can increase the risk of burnout, errors, and reduced engagement. Prioritising staff wellbeing supports long-term capability and organisational resilience.
- After a severe weather event, staff may be focused on recovery activities, taking time off and returning to BAU. Running an exercise during this period may detract from this.
- An actual emergency provides valuable, fresh lessons. Cancelling or postponing the exercise allows time to complete after-action reviews, capture insights, and update plans and procedures so the future exercise can meaningfully test improved arrangements rather than outdated ones.
- Simulating a scenario (Exercise Tasman) closely resembling Cyclone Vaianu may be challenging for staff who were directly involved. Allowing time before repeating a similar scenario demonstrates organisational care and can improve participation quality when the exercise is rescheduled. This also includes our Exercise Assessors.
- Postponement creates an opportunity to redesign the exercise to better reflect the real event, test identified weaknesses and include realistic improvement actions—ultimately increasing its strategic value.

The Waikato CDEM Groups After Action Report Policy provides direction for:

1. When an after-action report (AAR) will be required following an emergency, (defined by the CDEM Act 2002 and
2. Suggest matters to be considered in the terms of reference for such AAR.

The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) had previously approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for an Independent After-Action Report (AAR) in relation to the January and February 2026 severe weather events.

An After-Action Report should include a synopsis of the event with key factors in chronological order. The scope will be confirmed by CEG and should include the following considerations:

1. The function of CDEM Groups required by section 17 of CDEM Act:
 - a. Identification, assessment and management of hazards and risks.
 - b. Provision of suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers and an appropriate organisational structure.
 - c. Availability and provision of services, information and other resources.
 - d. Response and management of adverse effects.
 - e. Requests and responses for assistance from other Groups and organisations
 - f. Public awareness
2. The powers used, in relation to the emergency, as defined in Part 5 of the CDEM Act.
3. Arrangements for transition to recovery, including the provisions of Part 5A of the CDEM Act.

CEG were advised that the policy threshold was met for a further independent AAR relating to Cyclone Vaianu (April 2026). With a proposal, and recommendation, that CEG agree to extend the scope of the existing January–February 2026 severe weather AAR to also include the April 2026 event.

CEG agreed and we are waiting for the AAR which will be conducted by an independent contractor using a combination of Face to Face and online assessment.

Marae Preparedness

With Cyclone Vaianu coming through and thankfully having minimal impact, it has allowed to see potential gaps or inconsistencies, whether in the planning processes and/or communications in the Iwi/Māori space, which is a focus area for Civil Defence moving forward.

Stemming from our Marae Ake Ake Ake workshops, we started the development on Marae Preparedness Planning using the old Te Puni Kōkiri template which we feel could have some improvements. The Marae Preparedness Plan Template is still being reviewed locally due to other work and reporting but should ideally be ready by the end of June.

Once developed, we are intending on providing any scientific projection information, emergency contacts, CDEM information relevant first – and then work with Marae to finalise key Marae information such as key contacts, facility information (kitchen capacity, people capacity, bedding etc), and who is the primary contact that Civil Defence will get in-touch with annually (or twice annually) to review these plans. This template will be a flip chart that can be mounted onto a wall and includes general emergency information in addition to CDEM and site-specific information.

For Communication, we have a mixed bag with some being available only through email, some only through phone, and some being specific to Facebook Group contact only – We are wanting to help simplify/unify these contact methods moving forward to help make sure that when emergency information needs to be shared that it is reaching the wider Māori communities, with any pre-event weather information being distributed to key individuals that represent Iwi/Māori and Marae to help coordinate an effective response if required. We understand that some would prefer to only be contacted by people they acknowledge/trust, which is why we are wanting to find the right path to reaching this goal here.

Welfare





With the appointment of our new Welfare Manager (in training), Constanza Baigent – we are proposing that Tuesdays become our default coordinated day for CDEM Welfare actions such as community engagement, marae visits, response and preparedness planning etc. This aligns with the Waikato’s Regional Welfare Coordination Group quarterly meetings (which are also Tuesday), as well as the Te Manawhenua Forum for reporting back here.

From 16 June (after Regional/Local Welfare meetings), we are intending on scheduling visits to Marae, Hauora centres, and the general communities with a focus on developing our relationships as well as emergency planning. As part of this, we would love to discuss the potential of having Iwi/Māori representation in our Local Welfare Committee to help guide our Local Welfare Business Plan actions for the next financial year.

We are also looking at options for venues for where our Local Welfare Committees can be hosted. We are open to moving some meetings to marae to help further encourage relationship building between Local Welfare agencies, Council and Iwi/Māori. If there is any interest from particular marae, please feel free to let us know and we’ll prioritise you first.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council’s Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Andy BuBear Pou Whakahaere Whakararu Emergency Management Manager	
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Approved by	Ally van Kuijk Hautū Tipu me te Whakamatua Group Manager Growth & Regulation	
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.7 Member Representatives Update

CM No.: 3173312

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Forum representatives to provide an update of their activities.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary Forum representatives have the opportunity to provide an update of their activities since the last meeting.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information is received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stacey Edwards Kaitohu Kāwana Governance Advisor	
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Approved by	Tamara Kingi Kaiārahi Kāwana Governance Team Leader	
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.8 Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme Update - June 2026

CM No.: 3130694

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the forum on the work programme.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary The work programme is a standing item for each forum hui.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme Update - June 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene Pou Tūhono Iwi Relationship Manager	
	Tayla Bamber Kai-whakahaere ā-Tūhono Iwi Relationship Advisor	

Approved by	Kelly Reith Hautū Rangatōpū, Tāngata me ngā Hononga Group Manager Corporate, People & Relationships	
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