

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako

Mēneti Wātea | Open Minutes



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Te Mana Whenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako held in the Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, TE AROHA on Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 9:30am.

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		Vacant
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		

An audio-visual recording of the open session of the meeting is available on Matamata-Piako District Council's website and YouTube channel.

Visit <https://www.mpdcc.govt.nz/live-stream> for the most recent meeting livestream.

Recording	Document Reference #	Youtube Link
Te Mana Whenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako – 9 December 2025	3124203	https://www.youtube.com/live/4p9oZTdQ1Lw?si=4-CjUOU0qL1u_466

Minutes prepared by:

Stacey Edwards

Kaitohu Kāwana | Governance Advisor

Ngā whakapāha | Apologies

Name	Position/Organisation
Matua Tahauariki Thompson	Ngāti Pāoa
Matua Norm Hill	Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu
Matua Waati Ngamane	Ngāti Maru

Ngā mema kua tae ā-tinana | Members Present

Name	Position/Organisation	Time In	Time Out
Tiamana Hinerangi Vaimoso	Ngāti Hinerangi	9:37am	11:17am
Mayor Ash Tanner	Matamata-Piako District Council	9:37am	11:17am
Whaea Rangitionga Kaukau	Ngāti Hauā	9:37am	11:17am
Matua Tumohe Clarke	Ngāti Hauā	9:37am	11:17am
Whaea Dianna Vaimoso	Ngāti Hinerangi	9:37am	11:17am
Matua Craig Solomon	Ngāti Maru	9:37am	11:17am
Whaea Jill Taylor	Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu	9:37am	11:17am
Matua Leo Whaiapu	Raukawa	9:37am	11:17am
Whaea Andrea Julian	Raukawa	9:37am	11:17am
Whaea Arama Ngapo	Ngāti Tamaterā	9:37am	11:17am
Deputy Mayor James Sainsbury	Matamata-Piako District Council	9:37am	11:17am
Councillor Rewiti Vaimoso	Matamata-Piako District Council	9:37am	11:17am

Ngā mema i reira o runga te tūhono ipurangi | Members present via audio/visual link

Name	Position/Organisation	Time In	Time Out
Matua Michael Baker	Ngāti Whanaunga	9:37am	11:17am

Kaimahi i reira | Staff Present

Name	Title	Item No.
Manaia Te Wiata	Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Officer	
Stacey Edwards	Kaitohu Kāwana Governance Advisor	
Stephanie Hutchins	Kaitohu Mātāmua Kāwana Senior Governance Advisor	
Tayla Bamber	Kai-whakahaere ā-Tūhono Iwi Relationship Advisor	
Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene	Pou Tūhono Iwi Relationship Manager	7.4
Tamara Kingi	Kaiārahi Kāwana Governance Team Leader	7.3, 7.5, 7.6
Sandra Harris	Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships & Governance Manager	7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9
Jennifer Cochrane	Hautū Wheako Kiritaki Group Manager Customer Experience	7.5, 7.6
Laura Hopkins	Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	7.7, 7.8, 7.9
Anne Gummer	Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	7.9
Jayshree Kanji	Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Paetahi Graduate RMA Policy Planner	8.1
Carolyn McAlley	Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Senior RMA Policy Planner	8.1

1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

Tiamana Hinerangi declared the meeting open at 9.37am and welcomed members, staff and those viewing the livestream.

2 Karakia | Prayer

Matua Leo performed the opening Karakia.

Pou Tūhono | Iwi Relationship Manager, Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene, performed a mihi whakatau to acknowledge and welcome Matua Tumohe Clarke (Ngāti Hauā), Mayor Ash Tanner, Deputy Mayor James Sainsbury and Councillor Rewiti Vaimoso (of Matamata-Piako District Council) to the forum.

3 Ngā whakapāha | Apologies/Leave of Absence

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That an apology from Matua Tahauariki Thompson, Matua Waati Ngamene and Matua Norm Hill be received and accepted.

Resolution number AC/2025/00001

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Mayor A Tanner

KUA MANA | CARRIED

4 Pānui i Ngā Take Ohore Anō | Notification of Urgent/Additional 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

- (iii) 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 meneti | Confirmation of Minutes

As this is the first meeting of the 2025-2028 triennium, there are no minutes to be confirmed.

NGĀ PŪRONGO A NGĀ ĀPIHA | OFFICER REPORTS

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 New appointment for Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust

CM No.: 3124126

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Te Manawhenua Forum of the new membership from Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust is giving formal notice to the Te Manawhenua Forum of the new appointment of Tumohe Clarke as the secondary representative.

The formal letter from Ngāti Hauā was attached to the agenda.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Tumohe Clarke be welcomed to the Forum and appointed as the new Ngāti Hauā secondary representative.

Resolution number AC/2025/00002

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Mātua L Whaiapu

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.2 Welcome to new and returning members - Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako

CM No.: 3119346

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To welcome new and returning members to Te Manawhenua Forum following the local elections 2025.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of membership updates for Te Manawhenua Forum.

Mayor Ash Tanner will be returning to the Forum after being a member in the past. Deputy Mayor James Sainsbury and Councillor Rewiti Vaimoso will join the Forum as new members.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. The new and returning members be welcomed.

Resolution number AC/2025/00003

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Whaea R Kaukau

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.3 Adoption of Standing Orders

CM No.: 3118687

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Te Manawhenua Forum to adopt Matamata-Piako District Council's Standing Orders as adopted by Council on 5 November.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to adopt standing orders. Council is required to operate in accordance with standing orders for the conduct of its meetings. Standing orders must not contravene any Act.

The adoption of Standing Orders and any amendment to Standing Orders must be made by Council and by a vote of not less than 75% of the members present. Standing orders apply to all meetings of the local authority, its committees, subcommittees and subordinate decision-making bodies.

Following the election on 11 October 2025, the newly elected Council reviewed and adopted the Standing Orders at their meeting Wednesday, 5 November 2025. The Standing Orders are available on the Matamata-Piako District Council website and attached to this report.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako adopt Matamata-Piako District Council's Standing Orders (adopted by Council 5 November 2025), noting that Standing Orders cannot contravene any Act.

Resolution number AC/2025/00004

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.4 Heads of Agreement

CM No.: 3120214

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) endorsement of the Heads of Agreement (HoA), subject to any final amendments agreed at the hui on the 9th of December 2025. A proposal to discuss the name of the Heads of Agreement will be put forward for discussion at the hui.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako Forum is a Standing Committee of Council and was first established in 2004. The relationship between Council and iwi/hapū continues to evolve as we move towards a post-settlement era.

The Forum operates under a Heads of Agreement first signed in 2004, with the latest review completed in 2023. The current Heads of Agreement is attached for members' information.

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from the Forum about whether a further review of the Agreement is required, and if so, how the Forum wishes to proceed.

Kōrerorero | Discussion:

- There was discussion regarding the potential renaming or providing greater purpose to the Heads of Agreement titled "Ki Tapu." A suggestion was made to change "Rahiri Tumutumu" to "Ngāti Tumutumu". However, it was confirmed that the current naming will remain unchanged until a formal request for change is submitted.
- Support was expressed for the adoption of the Heads of Agreement. However, it was noted that a work programme should be developed over the next triennium to allow for a thorough review. While a workshop has been held, it was considered insufficient time for full consideration. The work programme should ensure the Heads Of Agreement remains operable while enabling a comprehensive review.

TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. The information is received.**
- 2. The Forum confirms the current Heads of Agreement with amendment details following the 2025 Local Government Elections.**

OR

- 3. The Forum provides direction about how it wishes to proceed with a review of the Heads of Agreement.**

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

- 1. The information is received.**
- 2. The Forum confirms the current Heads of Agreement with amendment details following the 2025 Local Government Elections, and requests the development of a comprehensive work program over the next triennium to allow for a thorough review.**

Resolution number AC/2025/00005

Moved by: Whaea J Taylor

Seconded by: Whaea D Vaimoso

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.5 Schedule of Meetings and Draft Work Programme 2026

CM No.: 3117996

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Forum with proposed meeting dates for 2026 and a draft work programme of reports.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Annually, Council and Committees determine proposed meeting dates for the next year and a draft work programme of reports.

Note, at the time of writing this report Council are yet to determine their meeting dates. However, a full draft is attached for information but is subject to change.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Forum confirms the schedule of meetings and draft work programme of reports for 2026.

Resolution number AC/2025/00006

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Whaea J Taylor

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.6 Iwi-led grant

CM No.: 3119859

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a recommendation from Te Manawhenua Forum to access funds specifically for events such as Waitangi Day and / or Matariki.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Staff are seeking a recommendation in regards to the allocation of funds to support culturally significant community events, specifically Waitangi Day and Matariki.

To enhance accessibility and ensure equitable distribution of resources, staff present two potential funding approaches for consideration:

- **Scheduled Funding Rounds**
Establish dedicated funding rounds for Waitangi Day and Matariki in alternating years, with set application dates.
- **Year-Round Funding**
Maintain a continuous funding application process, allocating funds on a first-in, first-served basis for organisations that have confirmed event plans.

Kōrerorero | Discussion:

- The forum discussed options for supporting iwi-led initiatives. One approach is for Council to allocate \$5,000 to support iwi-led events and programmes on significant dates such as Waitangi Day and Matariki, with this evolving into a formal grant process. It was suggested that Council delegate this funding to the forum, enabling flexibility within its work programme and the ability to shape the grant process. Direction to staff would be to develop a grant policy and bring it back to the forum at its first meeting in 2026. In the interim, the possibility of opening the grant based on suggested criteria was raised, acknowledging that further work is required.
- Questions were raised regarding the composition of the grant fund committee. It was noted that there is no official committee; the Grants Team conducts the initial review for eligibility, and decisions have been made by staff. The possibility of the Te Manawhenua Forum Tiamana sitting on the committee was discussed, but concerns were expressed about potential conflicts of interest if the Chair were to seek funding.
- Criteria for Matariki funding were considered, including whether funds could be used for activities beyond celebrations, such as purchasing plants for the rohe and involving children in planting across the district to mark the start of the planting year. Staff noted that these considerations would be addressed when developing the criteria within the grant policy wording.
- **Recommendation to Council:** The Forum requests Council delegation of allocated funds to support iwi-led events, programmes or initiatives related to Waitangi day or Matariki.

TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. The Iwi-led Grant report be received.**
- 2. A) Staff establish dedicated funding rounds for Waitangi Day and Matariki in alternating years, with set application dates.**

OR

B) Staff maintain a continuous funding application process, allocating funds on a first-in, first-served basis for organisations that have confirmed event plans.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

- 1. The Iwi-led Grant report be received.**
- 2. The Forum requests Council delegation of allocated funds to support iwi-led events, programmes or initiatives related to Waitangi day or Matariki.**

Resolution number AC/2025/00007

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Mātua CS Solomon

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.7 Review of Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw

CM No.: 3119589

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise early engagement feedback on the review of Council's Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw, and to invite Te Manawhenua mō Matamata-Piako Forum to review and endorse the draft section of the Policy that acknowledges the cultural significance of kurī, reflecting previous feedback provided by the Forum.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council has recently carried out early engagement on dog control in the Matamata-Piako District to inform the review of its Policy on Dogs (Policy) and Dog Control Bylaw (Bylaw). This report summarises the engagement process and feedback received.

Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako (Forum) has contributed feedback throughout this process. Council seeks to reflect this feedback into documents and operational considerations and acknowledges the deep cultural connection between tangata whenua and kurī.

The Forum is invited to review and endorse the section on the historic significance of kurī to ensure accurate representation of mana whenua perspectives. The wording will be presented in the draft Policy to Council for approval to consult with the community in February 2026.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. The Review of Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw report be received.
2. Te Manawhenua mō Matamata-Piako Forum endorse the inclusion of the kurī historic significance section in the draft Policy on Dogs for consultation.

Resolution number AC/2025/00008

Moved by: Whaea AN Ngapo

Seconded by: Whaea J Taylor

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.8 Plans, Policies, Bylaws and Strategy Update

CM No.: 3118943

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum with an update on Council's policy work programme for 2025/26 and seek feedback.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The report outlines the topics scheduled for consultation from February to April 2026. Staff seek input from the Forum on key issues for consideration in the review of these documents, as well as suggestions for effective ways to engage with the local community.

Kōrerorero | Discussion:

- Concerns were raised about significant access issues at some marae, particularly Rangaiti on a major highway, and worsening conditions on SH29 due to increasing port traffic. These issues have been communicated to NZTA, and Mayor Ash noted that he raised them at the Regional Transport agenda yesterday and will raise them again at Thursday's meeting.
- There was discussion around Ngakaru o te Waka and future-proofing for mana whenua, with anyone from Te Manawhenua able to attend. The focus is on the Hamilton–Tauranga corridor, including the Cambridge–Piarere expressway and the Hinuera to Te Poi section. Concerns were raised about anticipated growth and increased traffic, highlighting the need to stay ahead of these issues. Raukawa is engaging with Waka Kotahi and stressed that action should not wait for a fatality, requesting MPDC's advocacy. Similar access and safety issues exist across other marae, and Te Manawhenua was encouraged to advocate for Raukawa in this space.
- The forum questioned whether NZTA has a manawhenua forum in the rohe, noting that such a forum exists in Auckland and asking why similar discussions on roading cannot occur locally. It was suggested that Te Manawhenua Forum request a meeting with NZTA's relationships manager to explore setting up a forum, potentially including iwi within Matamata-Piako.

The forum moved that they formally request NZTA to establish a manawhenua forum in Waikato, modelled on the Auckland approach. Mayor Ash Tanner to raise this matter at the Regional Transport meeting on Thursday.

TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. The Plans, Policies, Bylaws and Strategy update be received.**
- 2. The Forum provide any feedback to staff to inform review of the topics included in the 2025/26 review cycle.**
- 3. The Forum provide any feedback to staff on effective ways to engage with the local community during the upcoming consultation period.**
- 4. The Forum provide feedback on the policies, plans and bylaw reviews they would like to see on the 2026 work programme.**

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

- 1. The Plans, Policies, Bylaws and Strategy update be received.**
- 2. The Forum provided no specific feedback to staff to inform review of the topics included in the 2025/26 review cycle.**
- 3. The Forum provided no specific feedback to staff on effective ways to engage with the local community during the upcoming consultation period.**
- 4. The Forum provided no specific feedback on the policies, plans and bylaw reviews they would like to see on the 2026 work programme.**
- 5. The Forum formally request that Mayor Ash Tanner recommend to the Regional Transport Committee that Waka Kotahi (NZTA) establish a mana whenua forum in Waikato, modelled on the Auckland approach.**

Resolution number AC/2025/00009

Moved by: Tiamana H Vaimoso

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury

KUA MANA | CARRIED

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 District Plan & RMA Update

CM No.: 3114855

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Te Manawhenua Forum members with an update on the rolling review of the Matamata-Piako District Plan (MPDP). This also includes an update on the RMA reform including exemption applications and the Fast Track Approvals Amendment Bill, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, MPDC Website update work and the progress on the receipt of six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A District Plan and Resource Management Reform summary is provided below. The update specifically refers to Plan Change Exemption Applications, Calcutta (PPC62), the proposed MPDC Growth Strategy, Resource Management Act Reform (RMA Reform), Future Proof, and the progress on the receipt of six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations. Jayshree Kanji and Fiona Hill are available to deliver the update and answer any questions.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

That:

1. The report be received.

Resolution number AC/2025/00010

Moved by: Whaea D Vaimoso

Seconded by: Mātua TC Clarke

KUA MANA | CARRIED

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.2 Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme Update - December 2025

CM No.: 3117672

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the forum on the work programme as confirmed for 2025.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The work programme is a standing item for each forum hui.

WHAKATAUNGA Ā-KOMITI | COMMITTEE RESOLUTION That:

1. The information be received.

Resolution number AC/2025/00011

Moved by: Whaea AN Ngapo

Seconded by: Whaea J Taylor

KUA MANA | CARRIED

11.19am

Tiamana Hinerangi invited Matua Leo Whaiapu to perform the closing karakia, thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
OF THE MEETING OF TE MANAWHENUA FORUM
MO MATAMATA-PIAKO HELD ON 9 DECEMBER
2025.

KO TE RĀ | DATE:

TIAMANA | CHAIRPERSON: Hinerangi Vaimoso