Kaunihera | Council

Kaupapataka Wātea | Open Agenda

te kaunihera ā-rohe o matamata-piako district council








Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: **Wednesday 28 October 2026**
Wā | Time: **9:00**
Wāhi | Venue: **Council Chambers**
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

NGĀ MEMA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana | Chairperson: **Koromatua | Mayor**
Ash Tanner

Mema | Members: **Koromatua Tautoko | Deputy Mayor**
James Sainsbury

Kaunihera ā-Rohe | District Councillors
Vincent Andersen
Grace Bonnar
Bruce Dewhurst
Tyrel Glass
Dayne Horne
Greg Marshall
Andrew McGiven
James Thomas
Gary Thompson
Rewiti Vaimoso
Sue Whiting

Waea | Phone: 07-884-0060
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1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

Chairperson to open the meeting.

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

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

3 Pānui i Ngā Take Ohorere 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."

4 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.

5 Whakaaetanga mēneti | Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes, as circulated, of the Extraordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council, held on 15 October 2026

6 Papa ā-iwi whānui | Public Forum

At the close of the agenda there were no speakers scheduled to the public forum.

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 Hearing: Draft Climate Resilience Strategy and Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033

CM No.: 3230691

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To receive the written and verbal submissions from the community on the following:

- Draft Climate Resilience Strategy
- Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council consulted on its draft Climate Resilience Strategy and draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033 between 2 September and 2 October 2026.

In total, 39 submissions were received across both topics. 13 people submitted on the draft Climate Resilience Strategy, and 26 on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

At the time of writing, one submitter has confirmed they would like to verbally present their submission to Council via Microsoft Teams.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The information be received.**
2. **Any late submissions be accepted.**
3. **Council hears all submitters that wish to be heard.**
4. **Council hears and considers all the submissions it receives, both written and verbal.**

Horopaki | Background

Council adopted the draft Climate Resilience Strategy and draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033 at its 26 August 2026 meeting for consultation.

Council agreed to receive verbal feedback from the community via a hearing. At the time of writing, one submitter has confirmed they would like to verbally present their submission to Council via Microsoft Teams.

Council must comply with all statutory meeting rules and procedures. This includes compliance with Matamata-Piako District Council Standing Orders adopted on 5 November 2025, as well as sections 82 (Principles of Consultation) and 83 (Special Consultative Procedure) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Subsequent reports in this meeting agenda are prepared for elected members to deliberate each topic and allow for Council to make any further changes or request additional information if required before adoption of the final documents.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The submissions have been collated and are attached to this report including submissions from Te Manawhenua Forum on both topics.

Climate Resilience Strategy

13 submissions were received in total, with one late submission received after the submission period. A summary of the submissions is included in the attachment from page 33. The late submission is not included in the summary information.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033

26 submissions were received. A summary of the submissions is included in the attachment from page 43.

Note: due to submitters being able to select more than one number on the online submission form some submitters did not rank the priorities at all or ranked each priority on a scale of 1 to 8. The submissions received by email also did not rank the priorities and were therefore not included in the top priorities summary.

Mōrearea | Risk

There are no specific risks to note, as the purpose of this report is for Council to hear submitters who have indicated that they would like to speak to their submission(s), and to consider all submissions received. Where specific risks have been identified, these will be outlined in the corresponding reports.

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

The relevant requirements are set out in the separate reports on each document consulted on and included in the respective Statements of Proposal.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Decision-making requirements

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Subpart 1 of the LGA outlines requirements for Council's planning and decision-making. In accordance with these provisions, Council must, during the decision-making process:

1. Identify all reasonably practicable options to achieve the objective of a decision;
2. Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages;
3. Where a significant decision involves land or a body of water, Council must take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.
4. Consider the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the matter.

It is the responsibility of Council to exercise its discretion in determining how best to give effect to the decision-making requirements of the LGA. Section 79 of the LGA allows Council to make judgements about the extent to which it complies with these requirements, based on the significance of the decision and the circumstances of the matter, in accordance with its Significance and Engagement Policy.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed in the relevant Statement of Proposal for each topic consulted on.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	In mid-late 2024, Council undertook a substantial programme of early engagement on climate resilience to understand community perspectives. This feedback has been considered by Council in the drafting and review of the documents. Formal consultation was undertaken in accordance with the prescribed special consultative procedure of the LGA. Council is required to hear those submitters who wish to speak to their submission and to consider all submissions in their decision-making.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	Having regard to the provisions of the LGA and Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions associated with this report are assessed as having a medium level of significance. Therefore, Council has ensured an appropriate level of analysis, engagement, and consideration of relevant factors, proportionate to the importance of the decision and the decision-making approach has been set accordingly. This includes: • Identifying reasonably practicable options to achieve the objectives of the decision. • Assessing the advantages and disadvantages of each option. • Considering community views and preferences through the consultation process. • Ensuring the views of Māori and the relationship of Māori with ancestral land and taonga are taken into account where relevant. Providing sufficient information to elected members to support informed decision-making.
Section 81 – Contributions to Decision-Making by Māori	As required under Section 81, Council must: 1. Establish and maintain processes to

	provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making; 2. Consider ways to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making; 3. Provide relevant information to Māori to support these contributions. Staff have involved Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako in the review where relevant.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	Public consultation has been undertaken in accordance with LGA requirements.

Policy Considerations
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 Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

The engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders is provided in detail in the reports for adoption of the Waste Management and Minimisation Pan and Climate Resilience Strategy in this agenda.

Decisions to submitters

Following Council decision making, staff will inform all submitters of the decisions made. Each topic may have certain requirements to inform the public/key stakeholders of the decisions and implications prior to the Climate Resilience Strategy or Waste Management and Minimisation Plan coming into force.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A. Climate Resilience Strategy Submissions *(Under Separate Cover)*
B. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 - 2033 submissions *(Under Separate Cover)*

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard **Kaitohu Kaupapahere | Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team Leader**	

	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.2 Adoption of Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy

CM No.: 3192934

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata Matamata-Piako Climate Resilience Strategy for adoption.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A draft Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata Matamata-Piako Climate Resilience Strategy (Strategy) has been developed jointly with Council, staff and Te Manawhenua Forum members. It has been publicly consulted on and staff now seek Council's adoption of the Strategy.

The Strategy focuses on understanding and communicating local climate risks, investing in practical, cost-effective measures that reduce impacts on Council infrastructure and communities, and ensuring effective adaptation, preparedness and response to extreme weather events.

Public consultation occurred from 2nd September 2026 to 2nd October 2026. The Strategy received 12 submissions. Five submissions supported adopting the Strategy as proposed, five supported the adoption of the Strategy with further changes, one did not support the adoption of the Strategy and one did not specify a preferred option. One late submission was also received in addition to the 12 submissions received on time, this submission is included as part of the Hearing report on this agenda and will be considered by Council.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Council receives the report.**

2. **Council approves the amendments to Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government as set out in this report (amendments are highlighted in the attachment).**

3. **Council adopts the Manaaki Whenua Manaaki Tangata, Matamata-Piako Climate Resilience Strategy as proposed *[or with amendments to be specified]*.**

Horopaki | Background

As part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Council developed a *Climate Change Rivermap* to outline the key actions being taken across Council activities to prepare for climate impacts.

The Rivermap included five workstreams: Strategy, Waste, Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater. One of the key actions within the Strategy workstream was the development of a Climate Change Strategy.

To help inform this work, Council undertook an *Organisational Climate Risk Assessment,* which identified climate-related risks to Council's assets, services and operations, and highlighted potential adaptation options. The findings from this assessment informed the development of the

Strategy and its focus on improving Council's resilience. The Risk Assessment was presented to Council on 24 September 2025.

Community feedback was gathered through engagement at community events, an online survey, and a climate related question included in the Annual Residents' Survey conducted by Key Research. The results of this engagement are reflected throughout the Strategy.

Throughout the Strategy development process, a Climate Strategy Working Group provided detailed review and input at key milestones. The group comprised representatives from Council, Te Manawhenua Forum, and Council staff, helping to ensure the Strategy incorporated a range of perspectives and expertise.

Public consultation occurred from 2nd September 2026 to 2nd October 2026. The results of this consultation process are outlined in the following section of the report.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Strategy received 12 submissions. Five submissions supported adopting the Strategy as proposed, five supported the adopting the Strategy with further changes, one did not support the adoption of the Strategy and one did not specify a preferred option, one late submission was also received in addition to the 12 submissions received on time. As the submission was received late, it has not been included in the summary but has been attached in full to the 'Hearing' Report on the same agenda for Council's consideration.

Of the changes suggested, common themes include:

- Rain gardens, intentional wetlands, indigenous biodiversity and other nature-based solutions be given equal, high-priority status, supported by investment in sustainable management systems
- Identify short, medium and long-term goal priorities within the Strategy, along with measures of success.
- Strengthen connection and role of agriculture/ farming narrative - recognising the importance the sector plays in the district's economy and resilience.
- Focus on outcomes and clearly describe how actions will benefit residents, businesses, and ratepayers.
- Recognise mitigation and greenhouse gas emission reductions as per Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council.

Staff Comments

Staff acknowledge the significant work undertaken by both the MPDC working party and elected members to develop the Strategy to its current stage.

Staff recommend adopting the Strategy in its current form. Matters raised through feedback, including nature-based solutions, short, medium, and long-term goals, outcomes, and specific actions, can be considered through the Climate Implementation Plan, which is currently being developed. A workshop on the implementation plan will be presented to Council once the work is further progressed.

Staff recommend amending Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government within the Strategy to further elaborate on legislative context as noted in a submission from Lawyers for Climate Action. This expanded on Council's responsibilities for indigenous biodiversity management as recognised in the Resource Management Act 1991 and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. Further, the Strategy was updated from discussing the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 to the Emergency Management Act 2026.

These amendments are highlighted in the attachment.

The strategic framework for the strategy is set out below:

Vision

Working together to increase our climate resilience and protect the people, places, taonga and ways of life we care most about, now and for the future.

Goal

Thriving, informed, climate-resilient communities in Matamata-Piako supported by a, prepared and responsive Council.

Guiding Principles

- Te Taiao I Our environment is central to our wellbeing
- Kotahitanga I Working together gets us further
- Mātauranga I We value knowledge and learning
- Whakatakatū I Getting ready now ensures we're prepared for whatever the future holds
- Oranga Tonutanga I Our aim is thriving communities into the future.

Purpose of the strategy

This strategy sets out our overall approach and key areas of focus. Its purpose is to guide present and future decision-making and help us take action and respond to climate risks in a coordinated way.

The Strategy has three focus areas:

1) Council resilience

- Understanding local climate impacts
- Building resilient assets and services
- Strengthening Council as an organisation

2) Community adaptation and preparedness

- Keeping communities out of harm's way 'Avoiding the risk'
- Working with communities to plan for the future 'Adapting to the risk'
- Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions 'Preparing for risks when they happen'

3) Council and community sustainability

- Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao | the environment
- Reducing the community's impact
- Reducing Council's impact

Costs and capacity

A statement has been included in the Strategy acknowledging the ongoing challenge of balancing resilience measures with cost and capacity constraints. This need for a cost-effective and achievable approach is reflected throughout the Focus Areas.

Mōrearea | Risk

An overview of the risks to Council from climate hazards is outlined in the Strategy.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Option One – Council adopt the Strategy as proposed but including amendments to Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government (amendments are highlighted in the attachment).	
Description of option	
Council decide to adopt the Strategy as it was proposed through community consultation, but including amendments to Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government (amendments are highlighted in the attachment).	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
Minimal further work required.	Will not include some suggested amendments provided by the community throughout the consultation period.
Considerations of the Strategy will be put into the Long Term Plan work.	

Option Two – Council do not adopt the Strategy	
Description of option	
Council decide to not adopt the Strategy.	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
No further work required by staff.	Previous staff, elected member and Te Manawhenua Forum time and cost will not be utilised.
Council will continue with business as usual actions.	Council will not have a document relating to climate and resilience which has been identified as a priority by The Audit Office through the LTP process.
	There will be no baseline document to provide Council guidance on climate impacts and Council will be out of line with legislative requirements.

Recommended option

Staff recommend Option One – Council adopt the Strategy as proposed but including amendments to Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government.

Council may also add any other minor amendments based on community feedback.

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

Legal considerations are identified in the draft Strategy.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low/medium level of significance.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of interested/affected people	Community views have been sought to inform the Strategy through public consultation.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above. This issue is assessed as having a low/medium level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	Public consultation occurred from 2 September 2026 – 2 October 2026.

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 Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Public consultation occurred from 2 September 2026 – 2 October 2026.

Consultation included media posts (Antenno, Facebook etc.) which pointed individuals to Council's LetsTalk page to provide a submission on the Strategy.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
26 August 2026	Council meeting to adopt draft Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy for public consultation.
2 September – 2 October 2026	Public consultation.
28 October 2026	Council meeting to adopt final Manaaki

	Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy.
1 November 2026	Strategy in force.
1 November onwards	Staff continue to develop Climate Implementation Plan, to be presented to Council at a later date.

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

This is funded within the Strategies and Plans activity.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Draft Climate Resilience Strategy - For Council Adoption 28/10/2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Charlotte Walker **Kaitohu Kaupapahere Paetahi | Graduate**	

	Policy Advisor	
	Anne Gummer **Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua | Senior Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team Leader**	
	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

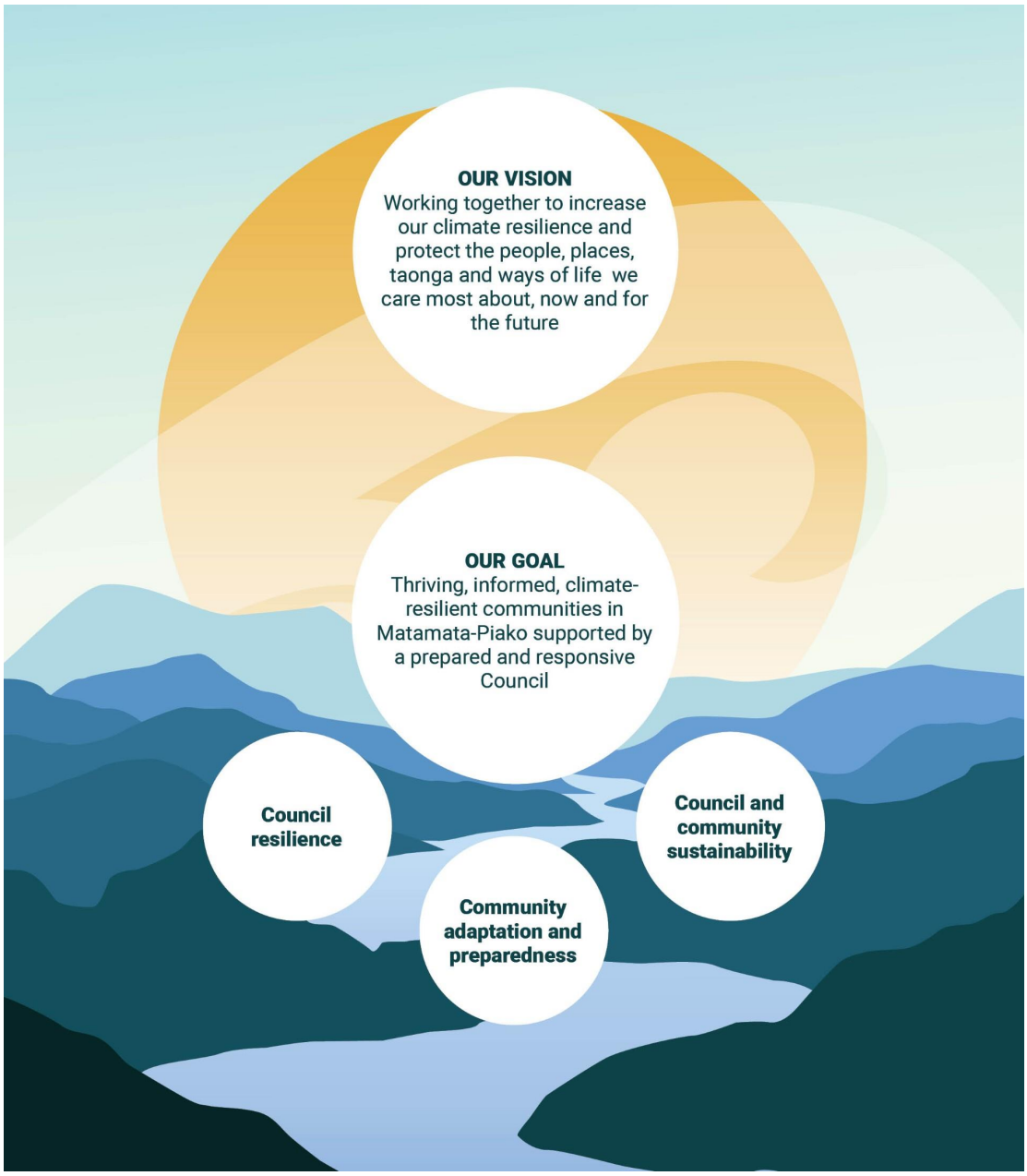
Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata Climate Resilience Strategy



DRAFT FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION

te kaunihera ā-rohe o matamata-piako district council

Council's Climate Change Rivermap



Mihi | Acknowledgement

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua – Go forth into the future with our past laid out before us.

This whakatauki - proverb is a reminder that resilience is strengthened by carrying forward the wisdom of our past into the challenges of our future. In shaping the Climate Resilience Strategy, the pathways forward can be guided by the knowledge, values, and practices handed down through our tūpuna - ancestors. Their wairua or presence remains in our whakapapa, in our whenua, in our waters, and in the spirit of collective care.

By grounding our response to the changing climate in this perspective, we honour the interconnectedness of past, present, and future. We acknowledge that our actions today are not separate from those who came before, nor from those who will come after. This strategy therefore rests on a foundation of whakapapa and tikanga, ensuring that resilience is not only about surviving change, but about carrying forward the strength and wisdom of generations.



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SECTION 1:

Kupu Whakataki | Introduction



Nau mai | Welcome

Matamata-Piako is a vibrant rural district in the Waikato, with closely connected communities and an economy based on the natural resources of the area. We have important transport links to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, precious natural places such as our awa and maunga, and community spaces such as libraries, sports facilities and marae that all help to make this a great place to live. And throughout the district we have individuals and groups working to support the wellbeing of our people and environment in many different ways.

The towns, rural areas and settlements in our district have developed here over time based on a temperate climate. However, our weather can sometimes be unpredictable, and extreme. In the years ahead, in Matamata-Piako, we are likely to face increasing costs and impacts from severe storms, floods and drought.

The weather can sometimes negatively impact many aspects of our lives, including our home, school, and work life, our marae, our sports and recreation choices, our cultural practices, and our health. By working together, we can respond to these challenges and prepare and adapt in ways that help protect the things that matter most, for now and for the future.

We all have our part to play. This strategy is about how Council plans to play its part and take practical steps in ensuring we can continue to provide services to the community and support our communities to be adaptable and continue to thrive. It's not about Council imposing rules and regulations on residents but rather ensuring that we are supporting the wellbeing and aspirations of our community. By understanding and communicating the risks, by adapting and investing to minimise the impacts, by reducing our contribution to the risks, and by preparing to respond effectively when extreme weather events happen, we will be doing our part to help ensure our people and environment can thrive into the future.

This strategy has been a collaboration between Council and Te Manawhenua Forum, including detailed input and oversight from a working group made up of elected members, Forum members and executive staff. It has also been guided by in depth community feedback, and staff expertise from across the organisation. We're grateful to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy that will help guide our decision-making into the future.

Ngā Pānga ā-Āhuarangi | Climate Impacts

Climate hazards and risks

Here in New Zealand, we have seen and experienced how disruptive weather events can negatively impact our communities when we are not prepared.

These events can severely impact daily life and, over time, can have long term implications for our environment, economy and ways of life. That's why it's important we plan ahead and protect the things that are important to us.

Temperature Increase and Drought	Flooding and Extreme Weather
Extreme temperature	Extreme precipitation
Increased humidity	Extreme weather events
Wildfire	Extreme wind
Drought	Landslips
New pest and diseases	Inland flooding

What this means for Matamata-Piako

To ensure we plan well and invest wisely for the future, we will refer to a broad range of information to help us understand potential climate impacts and what it could mean for us here in Matamata-Piako. We can draw on many sources to build this picture. Historical data, climate science projections, research reports, mātauranga Māori, local experience, and lessons learnt from elsewhere in the country can all contribute to our understanding.

When we experience disruptive weather events the impacts are local, and that means our responses need to be local too. For Matamata-Piako, the key climate hazards we're likely to face are extreme weather - including extreme wind, for example along the Kaimai Ranges, flooding, increased fire risk, dryness and drought, and higher temperatures.

These changes will affect our land, water, communities, and economy, and we'll need to plan carefully in order to adapt effectively.

Table 1: Assessment of climate hazard exposure by district

	Flooding (Fluvial And Pluvial)	Coastal Hazards	Extreme Weather	Higher Temperature	Dryness And Drought	Increased Fire Weather	Groundwater Rise And Salinity Stress	Landslidess And Soil Erosion	Marine Heatwaves And Ocean Chemistry Changes	Decreased Frost
Thames Coromandel	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Haruraki	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Waikato	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Hamilton City	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Matamata-Piako	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
South Waikato	✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓✓
Waipā	✓✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓
Ōtorohanga	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Waitomo	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Taupō	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓
Rotorua Lakes (WRC Area)	✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓

Source: Waikato regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025.

Climate hazards can have direct, immediate impacts like property damage from storm events, or water shortages during periods of drought.

They can also cause indirect and cascading risks, such as pressure on Council finances due to increased costs for maintenance and repairs, rising insurance costs for Council and community, and pressure on the primary sector economy due to repeated drought and heat stress events.

The table below describes some of these effects – direct and indirect, as they relate to the people, environment, infrastructure and economy of Matamata-Piako.

Find out more

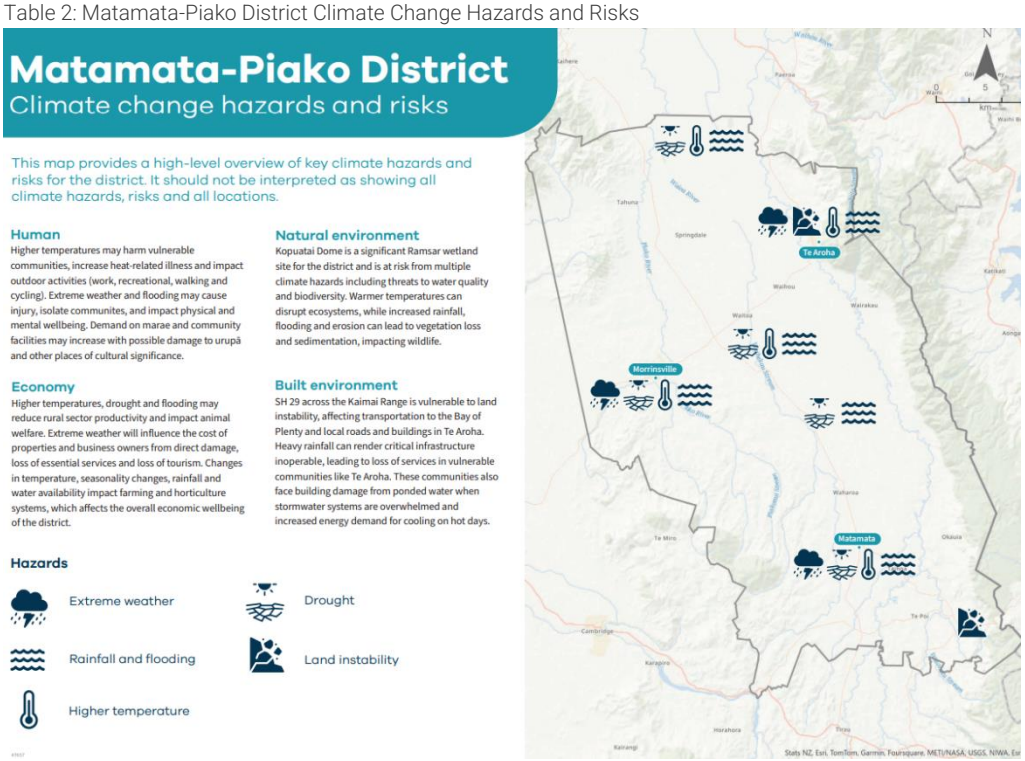
To read more about the projected impacts on the Waikato read:

- Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report
- Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Full Report

To understand more about the water pressure facing the Waikato read:

- Water Security Strategy for the Waikato Region

Table 2: Matamata-Piako District Climate Change Hazards and Risks



Source: Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025

Te whakariterite mō ngā kawekawe āhuarangi | Preparing for Climate Impacts

What can we all do?

We know what our major climate risks are so we can mitigate potential impacts by preparing for extreme weather, droughts, and floods, and building resilience in our homes, communities, and services.

The most effective response is to take action as individuals, whānau, communities and organisations. By working together, we can reduce risks now and lessen the impacts for future generations.

What is Council's role?

Council has legislated responsibilities to help our district prepare for and respond to climate impacts. These include:

- Land use planning: Making sure development happens in places that will be safe for the long-term.
- Infrastructure planning: Designing and maintaining services that can cope with changing conditions.
- Civil defence and emergency management: Helping communities prepare for and recover from natural hazard events
- Sharing hazard information: Ensuring people can make informed decisions

Council also plays a broader part in climate response by providing leadership, listening to and reflecting community views, supporting community-led initiatives, and working in partnership with mana whenua and other organisations.

Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government

Legislation	Roles and responsibilities for local government
Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)	Section 6(h) "the management of significant risks from natural hazards" be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. Section 7(i) requires all persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA to have particular regard to the "effects of climate change". Section 31(1b) outlines that every territorial authority has a responsibility to control the actual and potential effects of land use, development, and protection, including for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biological diversity.
National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity	Clause 1.5(3)(e) recognises the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity. Clause 1.7 outlines what is required to maintain indigenous biodiversity. Clause 3.6 outlines local authorities requirements to promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change.

	Clause 3.21(3) states that local authorities must consider providing incentive for restoration in priority areas, and in particular where those areas are on specified Māori land, in recognition of the opportunity cost of maintaining indigenous biodiversity on that land. The NPSIB also encourages collaboration with tangata whenua, people and communities to engage with maintenance and restoration.
Emergency Management Act 2026	Section 45(1) A local authority that is a member of a multi-member Emergency Management Committee must plan and provide for emergency management within its region or district. Section 45(2) outlines obligations that each local authority is required to uphold, including but not limited to: In relation to hazards and risks within its region or district, the following: i. Identify and assess those hazards and risks: ii. Report to the committee on the identification and assessment of hazards and risks: iii. Manage those hazards and risks: iv. Identify how to reduce risks and implement cost-effective risk reduction: Consult and communicate with the communities within that region or district about those hazards and risks.
Local Government Act 2002	Provide a long term focus for the decisions and activities of council. Provide integrated decision making and coordination of the resources of council, managing its assets, liabilities and general finances prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. (Part 1, section 4). Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of council, consider ways it may foster development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making and provide relevant information to Māori for these purposes. (Part 6, section 81).
LGOIMA Amendment Act 2023	Section 44B (1) Natural hazard information to be included in land information memoranda: (a) natural hazards, (b) impacts of climate change that exacerbate natural hazards.
Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019	On request, Council must provide information to the Minister of Climate Change about its governance, risk identification, and management of climate change impacts.
National Adaptation Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.
National Emissions Reduction Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.

National Policy Statement on Natural Hazard Decision-Making (NPS-NHD) 2025	The NPS-NH 2025 establishes a framework for councils to manage natural hazard risks in new developments, based on the level of risk involved. Consideration of the potential impacts of climate change to at least 100 years into the future must be included in the assessment of risk.
Auditor General expectations for local government	"The statutory purposes of a long-term plan include integrated decision-making, taking a long-term focus for the council's decisions and activities, and being accountable to communities. Climate change is an issue with long-term implications, and it needs to be integrated into the council's processes, plans, and strategies."
Waikato Regional Policy Statement	District Plans should assume a climate change scenario of temperature increase of at least 2.1C by 2090.

What is Council currently doing?

As part of developing the Long Term Plan 2024-2034, Council created a Climate Change Rivermap that set the priorities for Council's response to climate risks, and outlines the key actions we're taking across our services. A performance measure tracking progress on the actions in the Rivermap is included in the Long Term Plan and reported on each year in the Annual Report. The Climate Change Rivermap has five workstreams, each with a climate resilience goal.

Climate Change Rivermap – Stormwater workstream

The focus for stormwater is on reducing risk to our communities. We're modelling how our urban stormwater systems perform under future climate conditions, so we can understand the risks and plan for resilience. We've also increased our maintenance and water quality monitoring programmes to help reduce flooding risk and better manage what's discharged into our waterways.

Climate Change Rivermap – Rubbish workstream

The focus is on both waste minimisation and waste separation, including keeping food waste out of landfill. We're also separating e-waste, batteries, whiteware and tyres from general waste at the transfer stations, and degassing refrigeration. We are tracking what the government is doing next in relation to emissions from organics and construction and demolition waste (wood). We are also beginning to work internally to look at our organisational sustainability.

Climate Change Rivermap – Strategy workstream

There are five key areas of work:

Growing governance knowledge: Council and committee members have taken part in workshops on climate risks, insurance, emissions, and adaptation.

Building organisational knowledge: We've completed an emissions inventory and organisational climate risk assessment, and staff have been involved in climate-related workshops.

Developing this strategy to guide our response and planning.

Growing community resilience: the focus to date has been on gathering community feedback on concerns and priorities for responding to climate risks.

Planning in an integrated way: Climate hazards is now treated as a top risk for our organisation, and we're working more closely with regional partners.

Climate Change Rivermap – Water workstream

A key challenge for us going forward is the availability and quality of the water we supply to our community. Looking at water availability for the catchments in our region, we know that the Waihou catchment has sufficient capacity but the Piako catchment is under very high pressure with water use well above sustainable levels year round.

We're working on fixing leaks in the network, installing network water meters to understand and manage water loss, and requiring grey water systems in new developments. This work continues as we prepare to transition the management of our water assets to the new sub regional council-controlled organisation, Waikato Water Ltd., which will occur 1 October 2026.

Climate Change Rivermap – Wastewater workstream

We're working to reduce environmental risks from wastewater. Extreme weather events bring large amounts of rainfall in a short period of time which can overwhelm the network resulting in overflows.
We have a programme of work underway to reduce stormwater entering the wastewater network and to upgrade our treatment plants to meet future demand and improve discharge quality. This work also continues as we prepare for the transition to Waikato Water Ltd. On 1 October 2026.



What you told us

To help shape this strategy, we asked our community for feedback. We gathered community views through two surveys:

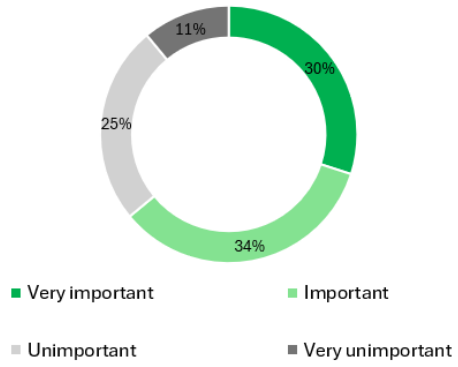
- Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey, conducted by Key Research. We included a climate change question, and received 382 responses. The responses are weighted to ensure they reflect the demographics of our district.
- A Climate Ready Survey with 140 responses. This was an online survey on Council's website, the responders were self-selected.

The results are outlined below. To read the feedback received in full, please see here: Climate Survey Results

Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey

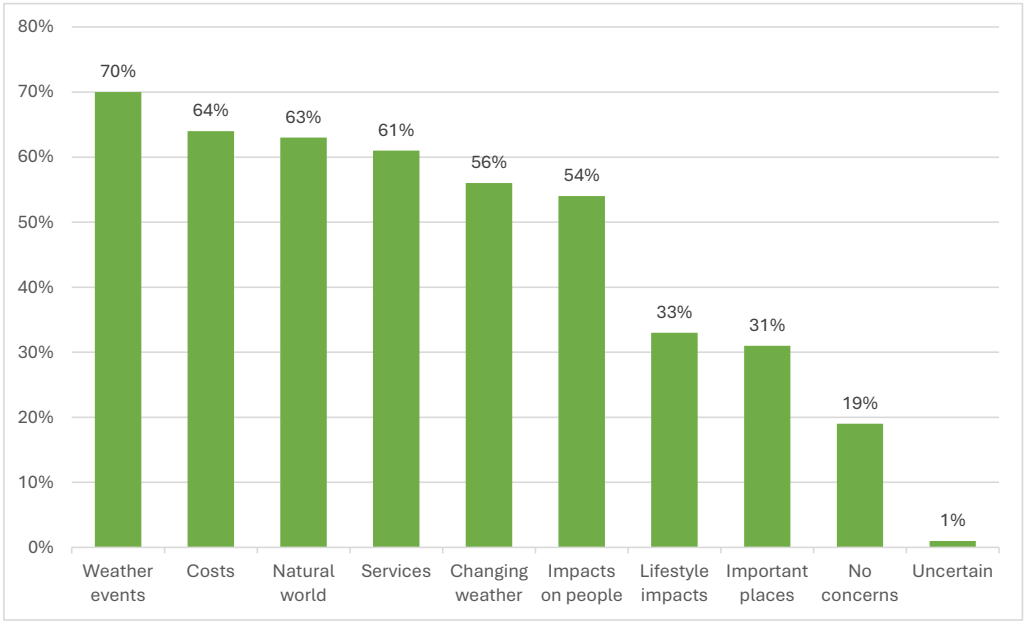
Question: Do you think it is important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community?

64% of residents state that it is Important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community. This opinion is significantly stronger among respondents who have lived in the district for 6-10 years (75%) compared to those who have lived in the district for over 10 years (58%).

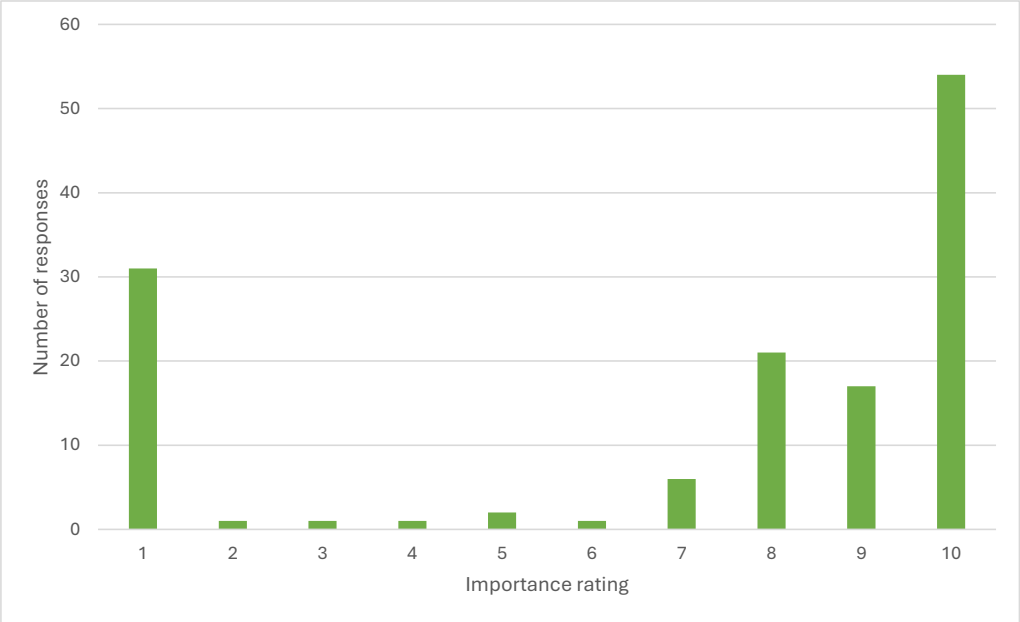


Climate Ready Survey

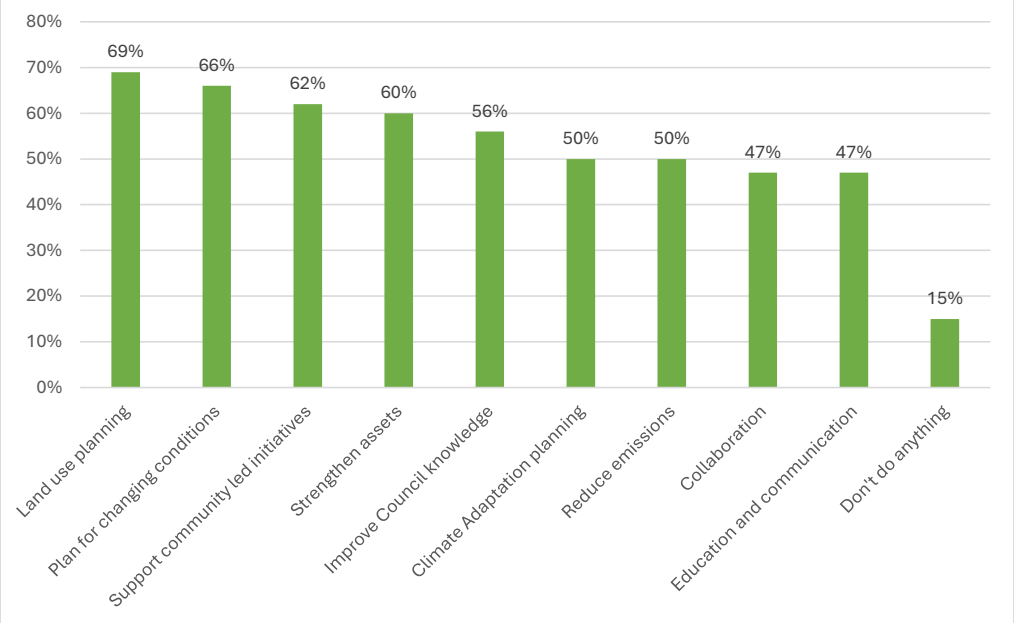
Question 1: In terms of climate impacts, what are you most concerned about?



Question 2: How important is it to you for Council to take a leadership role in responding to climate change? (scale: 1 – not at all, 10 – very important).



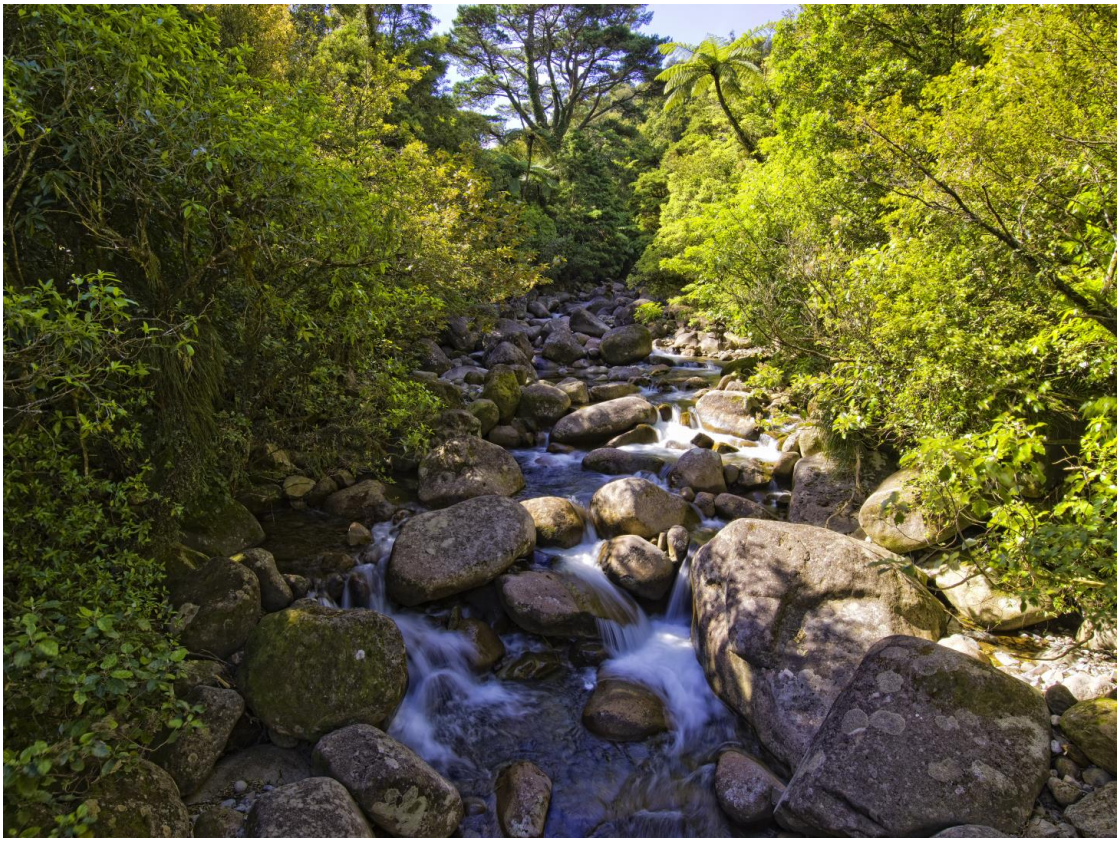
Question 3: What actions are most important for Council to take to respond to climate change?



Navigating climate conversations

We know when an extreme weather event hits, it can have really significant impacts for the community. We need to make sure we're prepared so that we can minimise the impacts of extreme weather, avoid people getting hurt, and recover quickly. Preparing and adapting in these ways will be much more effective if we can work together.

Having open, ongoing conversations is an essential part of navigating our collective response to the changing climate. By acknowledging a range of perspectives and knowledge systems, and by navigating these climate conversations together we can build understanding, strengthen community connections, and shape a collective response to the challenges ahead.



Te Urupare Whai Rautaki a te Kaunihera | Our Climate Resilience Strategy

This strategy builds on the work we've done to date and is informed by the feedback gathered from our community. It's our next step in planning how Council and our communities can become more resilient to climate impacts.

The strategy sets out how we can work together to look after the things we value most, and ensure the future wellbeing of our district and people.

Vision

Working together to increase our climate resilience and protect the people, places, taonga and ways of life we care most about, now and for the future.

Goal

Thriving, informed, climate-resilient communities in Matamata-Piako supported by a prepared and responsive Council.

Guiding Principles

Te Taiao I Our environment is central to our wellbeing

Kotahitanga I Working together gets us further

Mātauranga I We value knowledge and learning

Whakatakatū I Getting ready now ensures we're prepared for whatever the future holds

Oranga Tonutanga I Our aim is thriving communities into the future

Purpose of the strategy

This strategy sets out our overall approach and key areas of focus. Its purpose is to guide present and future decision-making and help us take action and respond to climate risks in a coordinated way.

Costs and capacity

The costs associated with climate impacts was highlighted as a key concern by those who responded to the Climate Ready Survey.

Getting prepared now is likely to be much less costly, and much more effective at preventing harm in the long run, than waiting until damage occurs and having to respond reactively. But it means incurring costs now for benefits that may not be felt for some years to come. And we know there is a limit on what our community can afford. These are tough trade-offs to navigate.

Being clear and transparent about the choices we are making as a Council, and being guided by the priorities of our community, will help us to make these complex decisions in the years to come.

In many ways, Council is already responding to climate risks by working to ensure core services like roads, the stormwater network and parks are fit for purpose for changing conditions. From here, as outlined in the Strategy, we'll build on the work done to date, including by integrating the results of our Climate Risk Assessment into our planning, continuing to deliver on the priorities in the Rivermap, and undertaking our Civil Defence Emergency Management work programme. Other work in the Strategy will require further consideration and funding decisions.

Focus area

We've identified three key areas where we'll focus our efforts:

Council resilience

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.

- Understanding local impacts.
- Building resilient assets and services.
- Strengthening Council as an organisation.

Community adaptation and preparedness

Helping communities stay safe, informed and involved in decisions that affect them.

- Keeping communities out of harm's way 'Avoiding the risk' .
- Working with communities to plan for the future 'Adapting to the risk'.
- Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions 'Being ready for risks when they happen'.

Council and community sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect and restore the natural world.

- Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao I our environment.
- Reducing the community's impact.
- Reducing Council's impact.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Aumangea o te Kaunihera | Focus Area: Council Resilience.

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.



Understanding local impacts.

We will work to better understand how climate impacts are likely to affect our district, now and in the future. This knowledge helps us make good decisions and invest in cost-effective ways to protect people, places, and services.

What we've done so far

We've increased our natural hazard and climate risk information including completing a Climate Risk Assessment for Council, undertaking modelling of our urban flood risk, measuring Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and installing rain gauges to track rainfall in our district. We've also shared knowledge with elected members, and other councils.

What's next

To continue building our understanding, we will need to:

- Keep growing our understanding of the risks, including by drawing on the knowledge of iwi and other long term residents, increasing locally specific hazard data, and partnering with others to share expertise and costs.
- Continue to track and assess local impacts, like the cost of extreme weather events to our roads, pipes and other infrastructure.
- Support knowledge building within Council, so elected members and staff can make informed decisions.
- Advocate to central government for open access to nationally consistent, local hazard and risk information that helps communities and councils plan well.



Building resilient assets and services.

We will continue to plan ahead and invest in ensuring our assets and services are resilient and fit for purpose into the future, including trying new ways of working. With the right information and planning methods we can invest wisely for the future, prioritising work in such a way as to minimise long term costs and maximise benefits now and for the future.

What we've done so far

We've started to build climate resilience into our infrastructure planning by developing an Operational Resilience Strategy, Water and Wastewater Master Plans, an Inflow and Infiltration Strategy, and a Water Conservation Strategy. We're progressing actions across the five streams of work outlined in the Climate Change Rivermap.

What's next

To continue building the resilience of our assets and services, we will need to:

- Use climate risk information to guide asset management and inform business cases so that the cost-benefit of resilient solutions are articulated.
- Grow staff expertise in climate-resilient infrastructure planning and design methods.
- Trial new approaches, like adjusting the level of service in an area where repeated weather damage is driving up costs and expanding the scope of our current services to support community needs under more extreme conditions.
- Explore funding options for future climate adaptation, such as targeted rates or green loans.
- Advocate for a more integrated and coordinated government response, such as including climate adaptation in the Local Government Act, and more closely aligning climate, emergency management and resource management legislation.
- Build our understanding of how a changing climate could affect population growth, economic development, changing service demand etc so we can plan infrastructure that meets future needs.

Strengthening Council as an organisation.

We will make sure Council is as ready as possible to manage climate risks as part of good governance.

What we've done so far

Climate impacts are now treated as one of Council's organisational risks.

What's next

To continue to strengthen Council as an organisation, we will need to:

- Continue regular, measurable reporting to governance and integrate the results of the Climate Risk Assessment into strategic planning to improve the ways we do things.
- Update our Business Continuity Plans to ensure we can continue to operate effectively in emergency situations.
- Review and monitor how climate risks could affect Council's insurance, finances and staff.
- Check we have the right expertise in-house available to give sound policy and technical advice on climate issues.
- Develop the way we report back to the community on the actions we are taking.
- As part of the local government sector, advocate to central government for clearer roles, responsibilities, and funding arrangements for climate adaptation across the country.
- Collaborate regionally, where it makes sense, to solve shared problems together.



Wāhi Arotahi: Te Urutau me te Whakarite a te Hapori | Focus Area: Community Adaptation and Preparedness.

Helping communities stay safe, informed, and involved in decisions that affect them.



Keeping communities out of harm's way - 'Avoiding the risk'.

We will work to reduce risk to our community from natural hazards, with a focus on the hazards that impact us most significantly, such as flooding and wind.

What we've done so far

In partnership with Waikato Regional Council we have been updating the flood modelling for our district. And we've been improving how we share natural hazard information on property files, in line with new regulations.

What's next

To continue to play our part in helping keep communities safe, we will need to:

- Use our most up to date flood modelling and climate risk data to guide our Growth Strategy and our approach to land use planning, in a way that still supports development.
- Look at how other councils are using District Plan rules to reduce risk to communities and encourage stormwater management in new and existing developments.
- Communicate with the community about the importance of stormwater management, and what we can all do to help reduce flooding impacts.
- As we increase our natural hazard data, continue to develop the way we communicate with affected residents so that residents have clear, relevant and reliable information about the issues that affect them.
- Encourage collaboration across regional groups, including those focused on growth, infrastructure, building, and emergency management.
- Maintain communication with the insurance sector on our communities' behalf to keep the sector informed about Council's resilience planning.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) Green Loans, such as opening streams, building flood bypasses, or creating swales to manage surface runoff.
- Continually refine our natural hazard modelling to ensure it reflects real-world local data, is based on realistic projections and is as robust as possible.

Working with communities to plan for the future - 'Adapting to the risk'.

We will start to work with communities to support adaptation planning.

What we've done so far

We have been learning from our neighbour councils' experiences of community climate adaptation processes.

What's next

To support future-focussed planning in the community, we will need to:

- Assess climate hazard exposure across the district to understand the areas most at risk, including working with mana whenua to include mātauranga Māori I Māori knowledge and kōrero tuku iho I local stories and histories, and with other residents who have long term knowledge of our district.
- Further develop our understanding and skills in the area of community adaptation planning, and develop a pilot project.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as protecting buildings, infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites from floods and landslides; and explore ways for Council to be a connector for funding options for groups wanting to undertake adaptation / resilience projects.



Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions - 'Being ready for risks when they happen'.

We will upskill, inform and enable our communities to be prepared for climate impacts.

What we've done so far

We've identified emergency response and recovery as one of Council's organisational risks and committed to developing community response plans.

To support communities, we will need to:

- Develop community response plans with vulnerable communities including supporting marae and papakāinga resilience projects in line with iwi aspirations.
- Provide locally relevant and practical resources to communities, directly or through community partners, to grow understanding of climate risks and impacts, and what we can do to adapt.
- Work with other organisations to improve our understanding of the vulnerabilities to routes and services that are important for Council, the community, and industry, and integrate this knowledge into our resilience planning.
- Align and integrate local and regional civil defence and climate adaptation work programmes to maximise their effectiveness.
- During and after weather events, communicate to the community about the specific impacts of these events eg roads closed, trees down, houses without power, to build up an understanding of impacts and Council's response.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as warning systems and emergency preparedness measures in areas at risk of floods or landslides; or through NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Resilience Fund grants to grow our capability and knowledge around managing climate impacts. We can also advocate to government for increased local funding for emergency preparedness and response.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Toitūtanga o te Kaunihera me te Hapori| Focus Area: Council and Community Sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect and restore the natural world.



Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao I the environment.

We will support community actions that build connection and care for te taiao | our environment

What we've done so far

We've provided grants and staff support to community organisations and iwi and catchment groups for a range of environmental projects.

What's next

To continue to support environmental action, where practical and economically viable, we'll need to:

- Support community-led initiatives that protect, restore, and connect others with the environment through a review of our grants and by providing advice about other possible funding sources including LGFA Green Loans.
- Support local initiatives through our community development team, and explore new ideas like Council staff and elected members undertaking voluntary work alongside the community.
- Support landowners to access information and advice about managing slip prone land and reducing the impacts of weather events, with benefits for water quality, biodiversity and district resilience.



Reducing the community's impact.

We will encourage actions that reduce waste and conserve our natural resources.

What we've done so far

We've introduced kerbside collection of food scraps, diversion of batteries, e-waste, tyres and whiteware from landfill, and degassing of refrigerants. We've provided grants to support community sustainability initiatives. We've introduced District Plan rules that require water-saving measures in new developments. We've invested in walking, cycling, and accessibility improvements to support active transport and recreation.

What's next

To continue supporting actions that minimise impact on the environment, where practical, we'll need to:

- Support community-led sustainability initiatives that promote impactful energy and water conservation.
- Grow people's awareness of the practical actions they can take at the household level to support district-wide priorities such as water conservation, protecting stormwater quality, and reducing waste.
- Encourage low-impact development through our Growth Strategy, District Plan, and regional planning.
- Update the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.
- Support the community with projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, including those that encourage walking and cycling, increase recycling, and improve stormwater quality.
- Explore new ways to amplify sustainability action such as a sustainability category in local business awards, and social media to highlight Council's leadership in this space.



Reducing Council's impact.

We will make changes to how Council operates so we can reduce our environmental impact and lead by example. That means thinking about processes such as how we design and procure for new projects, the purchases we make, and the way we manage our own waste.

What we've done so far

We undertake ongoing monitoring and management of Council's energy usage. We've developed an understanding of Council's key emissions sources and communicated that to the public. We've been replacing Council vehicles at end of life with hybrid vehicles, shifting from petrol to electric powered tools for some usage, trialled use of chemical-free weed control on Council parks and cemeteries and installed nature based solutions for stormwater management which provide water quality, biodiversity and public amenity benefits.

What's next

To continue to reduce our impact, where practical, we'll need to:

- Review Council processes to find meaningful opportunities to reduce Council's impact on the environment.
- Investigate ways to improve water quality, reduce costs and increase biodiversity on Council-owned land, such as esplanade reserves, floodplain areas, under-utilised parts of parks, and around our drinking water sources.
- Expand the use of nature-based stormwater solutions, like rain gardens, in a way that minimises maintenance and uses best practice design.
- Explore sustainable and practical upgrades as part of other scheduled work, like replacing the gas boiler at Morrinsville Pool with an electric heat pump or adding solar panels to Council buildings, to save energy, improve energy security, reduce emissions, and cut costs.
- Identify projects for LGFA Green Loan funding, especially those related to energy efficiency and green building, where there is positive return on investment.
- Undertake a corporate emissions inventory, in line with the Long Term Plan, where required for statutory or reporting purposes.



7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.3 Adoption of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 - 2033

CM No.: 3192932

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027-2033 for adoption.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 – 2033 (WMMP) sets out what Council intends to do over the next six years to make sure we manage our waste as best we can for the benefit of our community, our local economy, and our environment.

The draft WMMP was consulted on from 2 September 2026 to 2 October 2026.
26 submissions were received in total and the majority agreed with the draft Plan.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The information is received.**
2. **Council adopts the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 – 2033 to come into force on 1 July 2027 (circulated separately).**
3. **Council has had regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the Waste Assessment when preparing the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.**

Horopaki | Background

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires territorial authorities to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within their districts. Council is required to review the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan at least every six years.

The WMMP must set out:

- Objectives, policies and methods for achieving effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.
- How implementation of the plan will be funded.
- A framework for making any grants to organisations or individuals for waste management and minimisation purposes, should the Council wish to make grants available.

Following several workshops, Councils undertook a light review of the current 2021 WMMP and proposed the following key changes:

- A new vision
- Updated goals
- Updated targets
- Updated actions focused on improving waste diversion, strengthening resource recovery opportunities, supporting data-driven decision making, improving the resilience of waste

infrastructure, planning for future disposal requirements and maximising the effective use of waste levy funding.

In accordance with Section 44 of the Act, Council undertook a Waste Assessment and considered the matters identified the Assessment to inform the WMMP 2027.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Submissions on WMMP

Following public consultation, **26 submissions were received in total.**
16 submitters **agreed Council's draft WMMP identified the right issues**;
8 submitters felt **some issues identified were correct but not all**; and
2 felt the draft WMMP **missed the mark**.

A full summary of the submissions received is available in the first report in this agenda.

Of the 26 submitters, 14 submitters ranked the eight priorities identified by Council from most to least important. The top three priorities were:

1. Education and behavioural change
2. Better information about waste
3. Reducing waste sent to landfill

The top priorities from submitters were better education, behavioural change and better information about waste and a common theme was around collaboration with other Councils, particularly around resource recovery.

MPDC plans to build on these priorities by working collaboratively with neighbouring councils to improve community understanding of waste, deliver consistent education and messaging.

We will continue working regionally to identify collaborative opportunities to reduce waste to landfill. Stronger partnerships will enable MPDC to share expertise, infrastructure and investment, achieving better outcomes than Council could deliver alone. This approach will expand resource recovery, support behaviour change and accelerate the region's transition to a more resource-efficient future.

One submitter called for stronger product stewardship. While Council cannot control product stewardship locally, the WMMP has identify opportunities to work with central government and national partners to support it. Another submitter requested investment in specific waste-to-energy initiatives. As the WMMP provides strategic direction for reducing and minimising waste, any funding decisions are to be considered through the Long Term Plan. Council is also discussing opportunities at a regional level.

Waste Assessment

In preparing the WMMP regard must be had to the Waste Assessment. A waste assessment was prepared accordance with section 51 of the Act. This contains:

- A description of the services provided by the Council;
- A forecast of future demands for the services;
- Options available to meet those demands;
- The Council's intended role in meeting the demands;
- Proposals for meeting the demands;
- The extent to which the proposals will ensure public health is protected and promote efficient waste management and minimisation

In making the assessment Council consulted the Medical Officer of Health and their feedback is appended to the assessment.

The Waste Assessment identified that a significant proportion of material currently disposed of to landfill could potentially be diverted through waste minimisation, recycling, composting and resource recovery initiatives. In particular, organic waste remains the largest component of the landfill waste stream, highlighting opportunities to improve diversion and resource recovery outcomes across the district.

The assessment also identified several strategic challenges that will influence future waste management planning, including some ageing transfer station infrastructure, future disposal uncertainties associated with regional landfill capacity, increasing volumes of construction and demolition waste and limitations in the quality and availability of waste data. These issues reinforce the need for a coordinated and long-term approach to waste management and minimisation.

The Waste Assessment was received by Council in August 2026.

Mōrearea | Risk

Failure to adopt the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 may impact Council's ability to maximise the effective use of waste levy funding, as the Plan provides the strategic framework for prioritising and delivering waste minimisation initiatives across the district.

Deferring adoption may create misalignment between the WMMP and the assumptions, priorities, and work programmes incorporated into the Long Term Plan, potentially affecting the delivery of planned waste management outcomes and future investment decisions

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Council may either adopt the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 as proposed, adopt the WMMP with amendments, or defer adoption pending further review or amendments.

Option One	
Description of option	
Adopt the Waste Management and Minimisaiton Plan 2027	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
Provides Council with an updated statutory Waste Management and Minimisation Plan that meets the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and is informed by the Waste Assessment 2026	Some actions identified in the Plan may require additional operational resources, partnerships, external funding, or future capital investment to achieve desired outcomes
Establishes a clear strategic framework to guide waste management and minimisaiton activities across the district over the next six years	The Plan may need to be reviewed or amended during its lifespan in response to future legislative, regulatory, technological, or market changes affecting the waste sector.
Provides direction for future planning, investment, service delivery, infrastructure	

development, waste diversion initiatives, and resource recovery opportunities	
Supports Council's long-term objectives of reducing waste to landfill, improving resource recovery, and protecting environmental and public health outcomes.	

Option Two	
Description of option	
Defer Adoption of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
Provides Council with additional time to consider any outstanding matters arising from submissions or stakeholder feedback before making a final decision.	Delays adoption of Council's primary statutory framework for waste management and minimisation, creating uncertainty around the district's strategic direction and priorities.
Enables Council to seek additional information or analysis on specific matters before committing to the plan.	Deferring adoption may undermine alignment between the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 and the Long Term Plan 2027-37, creating uncertainty around the delivery and prioritisation of waste management initiatives identified through both planning processes.
	Risks reducing momentum gained through the Waste Assessment and public consultation process, potentially delaying benefits sought by the community and stakeholders and requiring additional staff time and resources to revisit the adoption process.

Recommended option

Option 1 Adopt the Wast Management and Minimisation Plan 2027

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 has been developed through the statutory Waste Assessment process and informed by feedback received through public consultation. Adoption of the Plan provides Council with an updated strategic framework for waste management and minimisation, ensuring alignment with the Long Term Plan 2027-37 and Council's broader environmental and infrastructure objectives.

Adopting the Plan will enable Council to progress the actions and priorities identified through the Waste Assessment, including improving waste diversion, supporting resource recovery, strengthening infrastructure resilience, enhancing waste data, and planning for future disposal requirements. It also provides certainty for the community, stakeholders, and Council regarding the district's waste management direction over the next six years

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

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 (WMMP) has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act). As required by sections 50

and 51 of the Act, Council completed a Waste Assessment to provide the evidential basis for reviewing its existing WMMP and developing the WMMP 2027.

Under section 43 of the Act, territorial authorities are required to adopt a WMMP and review the plan at intervals of not more than six years. Adoption of the WMMP 2027 will ensure Council continues to meet its statutory obligations and maintains an up to date framework for waste management and minimisation within the district.

In accordance with section 44 of the Act, Council undertook consultation on the WMMP 2027 using the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Public submissions and feedback received through that process, including comments from the Medical Officer of Health, have been considered in the preparation of the final plan presented for adoption.

Section 44A of the Act requires territorial authorities to consider the effective and efficient delivery of waste management and minimisation services, while section 44C requires Council to have regard to the national waste strategy when preparing, amending, or revoking a WMMP. The WMMP 2027 has been prepared having regard to the Government's Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy, released in March 2025, which replaced Te Rautaki Para | New Zealand Waste Strategy and provides national direction for waste reduction, resource recovery and circular economy outcomes.

Adoption of the WMMP 2027 will provide Council with a statutory planning document that aligns with the Act, supports the waste-related assumptions and priorities contained within the Long Term Plan and establishes the strategic direction for waste management and minimisation activities across the district

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a high level of significance.

The WMMP impacts the whole district and how waste will be managed for the next six years. The WMMP is of significance to Māori and has moderate public interest. The WMMP is a key document that guides how Council will manage environmental impacts of waste that can impact future generations. Council is legally required to consult on the WMMP. During the process, Council notified key stakeholders, including iwi and Māori organisations, and consulted with Council's Te Manawhenua Forum on the plan.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Public consultation on the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 was undertaken from 2 September to 2 October 2026. The consultation process

	provided an opportunity for the community and key stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed Plan and inform Council's decision-making prior to adoption.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above. This issue is assessed as having a [*high*] level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	*Public consultation on the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 was undertaken from 2 September to 2 October 2026.*

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 Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Public consultation on the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 was undertaken from 2 September to 2 October 2026 using the consultative procedure. The consultation process provided an opportunity for the community and interested stakeholders to review the proposed Plan and provide feedback on Council's proposed direction for waste management and minimisation.

Consultation activities included engagement with the wider community, Te Manawhenua, marae, businesses, waste operators, community organisations and other stakeholders with an interest in waste services and waste minimisation. Feedback received through the consultation process has been considered in the preparation of the final Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 presented to Council for adoption.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Council workshops	8 July 2026, 15 July 2026, 19 August 2026
Adoption of WMMP for consultation and receive the Waste Assessment 2026	26 August 2026
Consultation	2 September 2026 to 2 October 2026
WMMP deliberations and adoption	28 October 2026

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:

- He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa | A place with people at its heart
- He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao | A place that embraces our environment

The solid waste activity contributes to Council's community outcomes by helping to maintain a clean and sustainable district. The activity provides essential waste and recycling services to residents and businesses through kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps collections, transfer station operations, closed landfill management, waste minimisation programmes and community education initiatives. It also supports increased resource recovery, waste diversion and planning for future waste infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing district.

The strongest alignment is with the delivery of reliable and resilient essential services, ensuring the community has access to safe, effective and environmentally responsible waste management services that protect public health and support community wellbeing.

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

Adoption of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 does not require any additional budget approvals through this report and does not, in itself, commit Council to any new level of service, capital expenditure, or funding allocation. Any future projects, service enhancements, or

infrastructure investments identified within the Plan will be subject to consideration through the Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, business case and other Council decision-making processes.

The WMMP 2027 provides the strategic framework for future waste management and minimisation activities and aligns with the assumptions and priorities incorporated into the Long Term Plan

The Waste Assessment and supporting asset planning work identify a number of longer-term financial pressures that Council will need to manage over the life of the Plan. These include the anticipated closure of Tirohia Landfill, increasing waste disposal and transport costs, waste levy and emissions-related cost increases, kerbside collection and processing costs, transfer station operational requirements, closed landfill compliance obligations and future investment in waste infrastructure resilience and resource recovery opportunities.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 for Council adoption 28 Oct 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Romario Pereira **Kaiārahi Para Māro | Solid Waste Lead**	
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Approved by	Susanne Kampshof **Pou Rawa me ngā Kaupapa | Assets and Projects Manager**	
	Fiona Vessey **Hautū Hanganga me ngā Wāhi Hapori | Group Manager Community Places and Infrastructure**	

RAUTAKI WHAKAHAERE WHAKAITI HOKI I TE PARANGA
WASTE MANAGEMENT & MINIMISATION PLAN

TE WHAKAHEKE I NGĀ PARANGA, TE WHAKAMAHERE MŌ ĀPŌPŌ 2027-2033 | REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE 2027 -2033



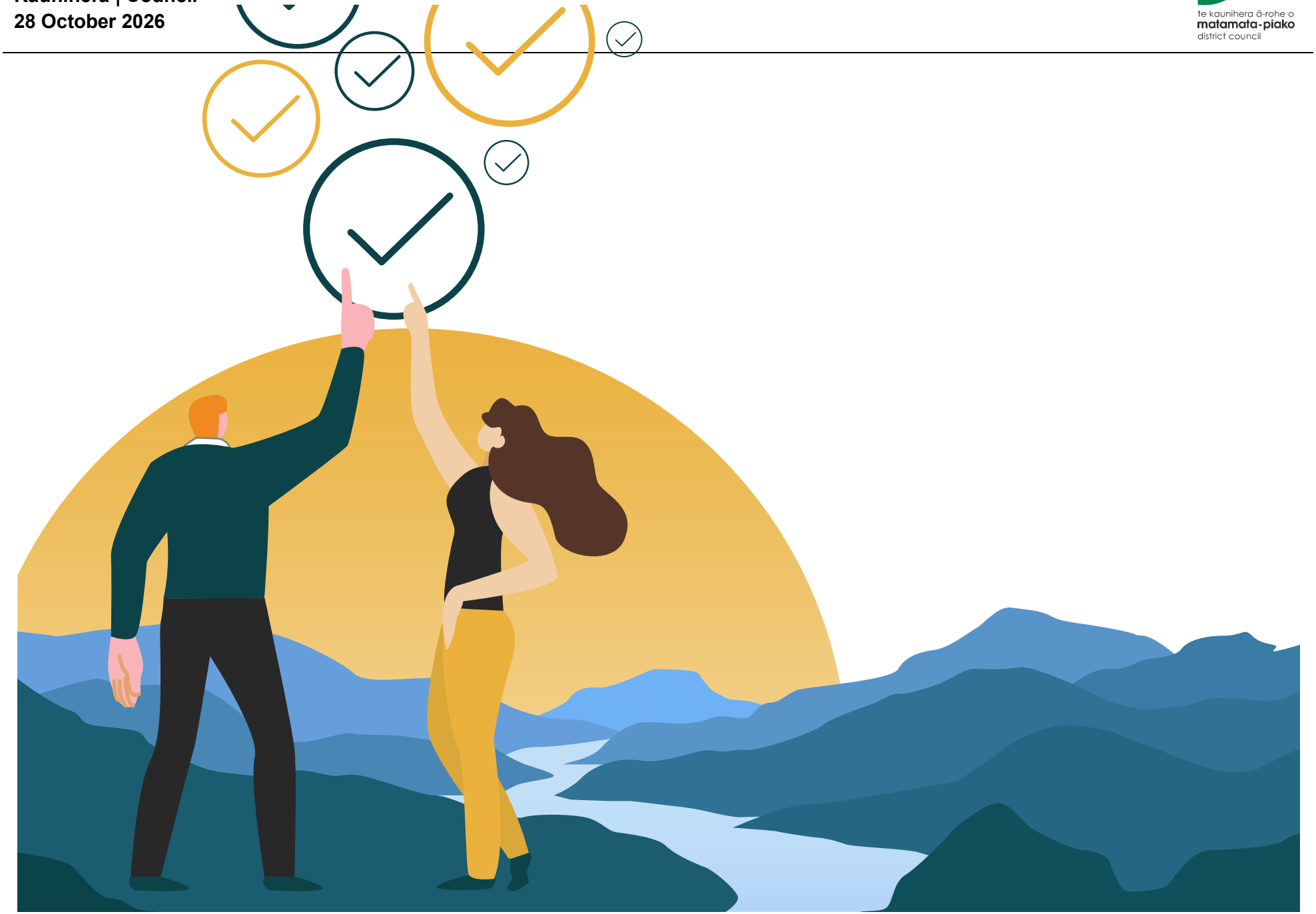
KA WHAKAKAHA TE HĀPORI KIA WHAKAHEKE AI I NGĀ PARANGA, KIA PAI AI TE WHAKAMAHI I NGĀ RAUEMI, KIA WAIHANGATIA AI I NGĀ HUA PAI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA, NGĀ WĀHI HOKI

ENABLING OUR COMMUNITY TO REDUCE WASTE, USE RESOURCES WISELY AND CREATE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

Te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

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He Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

As Council we are required to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) under s44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA 2008). Our last WMMP was adopted in 2021.

This updated plan has been developed for the Matamata-Piako District to meet our statutory responsibilities and respond to our communities' needs. It supports practical waste management and minimisation services that are fit for the future, while aligning with national legislation, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the national waste hierarchy.

Waste issues, infrastructure needs and service opportunities often extend beyond district boundaries. We will continue to work with neighbouring councils, Waikato regional partners, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi and community organisations where a coordinated approach can improve outcomes, reduce duplication, support better data, or provide more practical and cost-effective waste management options for our communities.

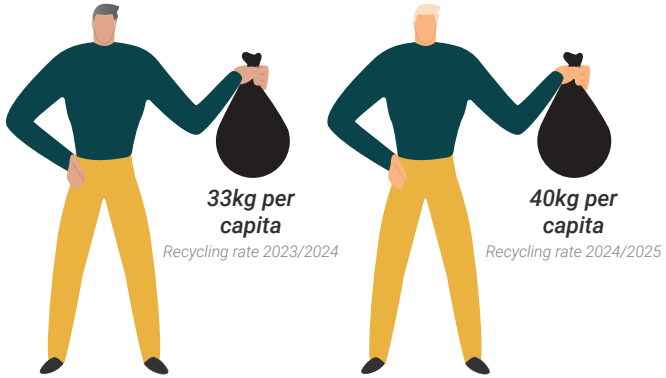
It is based on a collaborative model where Council, businesses, Iwi, community groups and households can all work together to build new waste minimisation services and grow local economic development, ultimately building community resilience at the same time.

We will ensure everyone has access to recycling, resource recovery and waste management services, that businesses and individuals understand that reducing and minimising waste is their responsibility, and that valuable resources are reused or recycled and don't go to landfill.



Ka pēwhea te nui o ā tātou paranga?
How much waste do we have?

Unlike the majority of New Zealand, our council's volume of waste to landfill has not increased dramatically over the past 10 years. While the volume of waste to landfill remains steady, our recycling rate has increased but still remains comparatively low.



33kg per capita
Recycling rate 2023/2024

40kg per capita
Recycling rate 2024/2025

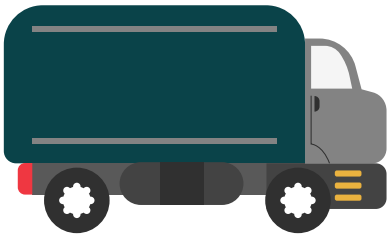
We do not have data on waste that is burned or buried so the actual volume of waste being disposed of within our District is unknown.

Central government has set national direction through the WMA 2008, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, product stewardship requirements, waste disposal levy settings and national waste data expectations. These settings reinforce the need for councils to reduce waste sent to landfill where practical, improve data and reporting, support resource recovery, and manage disposal responsibly.

We propose to do this by progressively converting our Refuse Transfer Stations into Community Resource Recovery Centres (CRRC) to provide for greater separation of waste streams, and provide for collaborative enterprises that allow for community and business input.



11,167 tonnes to landfill



13,856 tonnes to landfill

The management of our CRRC's will remain in-house. This means there is a responsibility for our Council to consider all waste in our district, although we may not have direct involvement in the management of it all. This will include suggesting areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves, or where councils, Iwi, businesses and the community can work together collaboratively to enhance local economic development and build community resilience.

Council's rates-funded kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps services commenced in September 2023. We will continue to monitor and optimise these services, alongside refuse transfer station operations and private sector activity, to ensure they support practical waste reduction, reliable service delivery and compliance with national direction.

All of these changes will require a change in behaviour, a key consideration in the development of this plan. The actions in this plan will be carried forward into our long term and annual plans to ensure we have the resources to deliver the WMMP's goals and objectives. Our WMMP needs to be reviewed at least every six years with new goals set and this proposed WMMP will cover the period 2027-2033.

Ka whakakaha te hāpori kia whakaheke ai i ngā paranga, kia pai ai te whakamahi i ngā rauemi, kia waihangatia ai i ngā hua pai mō ngā tāngata, ngā wāhi hoki.
Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place.

Ngā Whāinga - e whakaahu ana tātou ki whea | Goals and objectives: What we want to achieve

G1

Use resources well
A community that considers and, where appropriate, implements new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable waste minimisation services that are cost-effective to the community.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products can be diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse and recovery initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community making best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.



G2

Protect people and place
Minimise environmental harm and protect public health.

- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.
- Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.



Mō te aha te rautaki?
Why do we need a plan?

Council has a statutory requirement under the WMA 2008 to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within our district, we do this by adopting a WMMP. We also have obligations under the Health Act 1956 to ensure that our waste management systems protect public health.

Our WMMP sets the priorities and strategic framework for managing waste in the district. The WMMP should align to the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, the waste hierarchy, Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plans, and it should also support or align with other relevant strategies and plans including any other central government directions on the issue of waste management.

He aha ōna pūtaketanga?
What informs the plan?

The plan must meet requirements set out in the Waste Minimisation Act, including:

- Considering the 'Waste Hierarchy', which sets priorities for how we should manage waste
- Ensuring that waste does not create a 'nuisance'
- 'Having regard to' the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and other key government policies, including the recently released guidelines by central government that signal changes to the way we will need to manage waste.
- Considering the outcomes of the 'Waste Assessment'
- Following the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the Local Government Act (2002).

Te raupapa paranga
The waste hierarchy

The 'waste hierarchy' is a common approach to ways we can think about waste. It is a framework used to rank waste management options from the most environmentally preferable to the least preferable. Efforts to eliminate or reduce waste are at the top of the hierarchy and disposal is at the bottom.





Te raupapa paranga, te rautaki rauemi, me te rautaki paranga o Aotearoa

The New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and waste hierarchy

Our vision aligns with the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy. It recognises that the most effective way to manage waste is to reduce the resources we use and design waste out where possible, keep products and materials in use for longer, process materials into new products where practical, recover value where possible, including through emerging recovery technologies where appropriate, and use treatment and disposal only as the least favoured option.

This approach supports practical decision-making for our district. It encourages Council, Iwi, businesses, community groups and households to keep resources in use for longer, recover value from materials where possible, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Tangata whenua principles such as kaitiakitanga continue to be important to how we think about waste and resources. These principles sit alongside the national direction by encouraging care for land, air and water, responsible resource use, and long-term protection of people and place.

He aha te paranga, ā, he aha tōna raruraru?
What is waste and why is it a problem?

The national direction encourages councils and communities to reduce the amount of waste generated, keep products and materials in use where practical, recover value from materials where viable, and send material to landfill only where better options are not practical or available.

Most of the things we do, buy, and consume generate some form of waste. Managing this waste properly comes at a cost and represents a loss of potentially valuable resources. Importantly, if we do not manage the waste properly, it can cause significant impacts on the environment, people's health and communities. Our WMMP covers all solid waste and diverted material in the district whether council manages it or not.

This does not necessarily mean that the Council is going to have direct involvement in the management of all waste, but there is a responsibility for us to at least consider all waste in our district, and to suggest areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves.





Ngā tūāhuatanga puta noa i te motu
The New Zealand situation

Prior to 2018, most of our recyclables materials were sent to China. Restrictions introduced by the Chinese Government in 2019 reduced the types and quantities of recycled materials accepted by China. The effect has been that we need to find new markets and uses for recyclable materials, particularly onshore. Awareness amongst the public about a number of waste issues, notably plastic bags and single-use plastics, has increased dramatically and led to petitions calling on government to ban single-use packaging and other similar items.

There has been increased investment into onshore facilities so that we can process (recycle) more materials onshore. However, the quality of materials collected for recycling has a big effect on the costs and feasibility of recycling; contaminated and mixed material types are more costly to sort and reprocess (for example food waste mixed with plastic packaging). There is therefore a need to continue to improve the quality of recyclable materials so that this investment in infrastructure does not go to waste.

We also need to consider adopting procurement policies that encourage and support the use of recycled products. Buying recycled is not just about reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill, but also reducing the amount of 'virgin' materials that are extracted for manufacturing. The reuse of materials that we already have available through recycling, rather than throwing items away after a short time and extracting more raw materials, is far more preferable in terms of environmental impact and long-term economic resilience.

Tō tātou Rohe | Our district

Ka pēwhea te nui o te paranga, nō whea hoki ia?
How much waste is there and where does it come from?

Based on population-adjusted 2025 data, Matamata Piako District sends an estimated 13,856 tonnes per annum of waste to Class 1 landfill. This waste comes from household kerbside waste collections, industrial or commercial activities, and includes commercial, residential and rural residents taking loads to our three transfer stations and, waste taken directly to landfill by private operators. It also includes the tonnage taken out of the district for disposal.

In September 2023, MPDC transitioned from a user-pays bag-based rubbish system to a comprehensive rates-funded kerbside service, an element of which included the introduction of food scraps collections. In September 2023, our council ceased commercial collections. Currently those living and working in the Matamata Piako District have access to a range of options to manage their waste including:

Council rates-funded kerbside service:



Fortnightly mixed recycling in 240-litre wheelie bins.



Fortnightly rubbish collection in 120-litre wheelie bins.



Weekly food scraps collection in 23-litre bins.



Fortnightly glass collection in crates.

Private company wheelie bin services

Green waste drop-off at Refuse Transfer Stations

Refuse Transfer Stations accept:

- general refuse
- paper and cardboard, plastics 1, 2, and 5, steel and aluminium tins and cans
- green waste
- scrap steel, tyres, whiteware
- household hazardous waste

To view the complete list of items accepted at the Refuse Transfer Station, please visit: **www.mpdc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling/transfer-stations**

Due to perceived convenience, the household wheelie bin market is highly competitive nationally. This has led to a number of councils losing significant market share and even reviewing their role in providing waste collections. Prior to the introduction of rates-funded kerbside wheelie bin services, many households in the district already used wheeled-bin services provided by private companies, with approximately only 9% of the waste collected in our district using council rubbish bags. The remaining waste going to landfill includes waste from industrial and commercial sources and waste taken directly to the Tirohia Landfill, or to one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations.

The commercial collection market is served entirely by private operators. Matamata-Piako District Council ceased rubbish and recycling collections from commercial areas in September 2023, with businesses directed to arrange their own services. Private operators provide regular collection of commercial residual waste and recycling in various container types, with charges depending on type, size, and frequency. This market is reasonably well-serviced, with multiple providers offering flexible options suited to differing commercial needs.

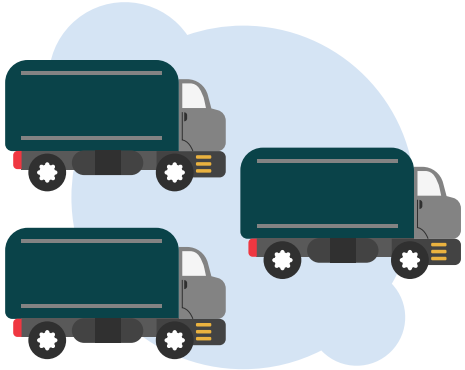
Ka ahatia ā tātou paranga?
What happens with our waste?

Council-collected waste passes through one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) in Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata, where waste can also be taken directly by residents and business. Some waste travels directly from source to Tirohia landfill. Commercial operators (waste companies) provide household and commercial collections that account for the rest of the district's waste.

Recycling collected at the kerbside and at our RTS's is managed by our contractor who sort and bale materials that are then on-sold.

A 2025 audit of Council wheelie bins estimates 19.1 tonnes of organic waste (kitchen and green waste) are put out for collection in rubbish wheelie bins each week, or over 990 tonnes per annum, contributing nearly half (46.6%) of the total kerbside rubbish. Sanitary paper was the second most common component at 12.5% (5.1 tonnes per week), followed closely by plastics at 12.3% (5.1 tonnes per week).

While the council now provides a rates-funded kerbside collection to residential properties, some households continue to use a private wheelie bin company. Council data on the qualities of waste collected does not account for the market share split between private and Council waste to landfill, so it is not possible to gain a clear picture of overall waste volumes and trends. Therefore, rather than incorporating updated Council figures in isolation, a blanket population growth rate has been applied to the total waste to landfill figure from the 2020 SWAP to provide a projected estimate of current volumes.



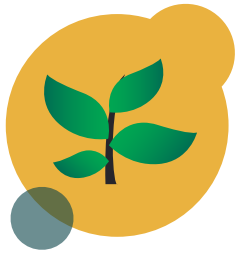
All waste to landfill from Refuse Transfer Stations, kerbside and commercial collections = 13,856 tonnes per annum

Organic waste (food and garden) = 5,002 tonnes per annum

The top three waste streams that could be diverted from the overall waste disposed of at Class 1 landfill are:



1. *Food waste: 44.5 tonnes per week*



2. *Compostable green waste: 37.6 tonnes per week*



3. *Recyclable paper: 9.5 tonnes per week*

Overall, we could divert close to 50% of our waste from landfill every year and recycle or compost this instead. This is important, particularly as Tirohia Landfill will have closed by 2038. The closest landfill will then be 75kms away and any waste created will need to be transported out of the district for disposal.

He pai ā tātou mahi?
How well are we doing?

While we have completed a number of the actions from the last WMMP, it is difficult to measure what impact this has had on our performance due to changes in the way we collect and store information.

To determine how well we are doing in terms of waste minimisation it is useful to compare ourselves with other parts of New Zealand.

- When we consider all waste sent to landfill, the waste per capita is 350kg, which is down from 419kg when surveyed in 2010.
- When it comes to kerbside household recycling, we recycle about 40kg per capita per year, which has increased from 33kg per capita in 2023/24. This is still on the lower side when compared to other councils.
- When we look at how much waste from households we send to landfill from our kerbside collections, we generate about 93kg per person, per year. This has reduced from 183kg per person and is also lower than many other councils. However, it is important to note that this figure only accounts for households that utilise the Council kerbside collection service (59% of the district's population), so does not include a significant proportion of households that still use private wheelie bin services, properties that may be generating much higher quantities of waste per person.

Me pēwhea e pai ake ai?
How much better could we do?

Surveys of the rubbish picked up at the kerbside, and the rubbish sent to landfill, show that there is a large percentage that does not need to go to landfill and could instead be recycled, composted or be recovered in some other way such as reused.

ME PĒWHEA TE HAUKOTI?
WHAT COULD BE DIVERTED?

Recoverable materials in all waste to Class 1 landfills - Projected 2025 quantities	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	3.6%	9.5 T/week
Paper - Cardboard	2.8%	7.3 T/week
Plastic - Recyclable	1.3%	3.5 T/week
Ferrous metals	3.0%	7.8 T/week
Non-ferrous metals	0.8%	2.2 T/week
Glass - Recyclable	2.9%	7.7 T/week
Textiles - Clothing	1.8%	4.9 T/week
Rubble - Cleanfill	2.0%	5.2 T/week
Timber - Reusable	0.6%	1.7 T/week
Subtotal	**18.8%**	**49.9 T/week**
Compostable materials		
Kitchen waste	16.7%	44.5 T/week
Compostable greenwaste	14.2%	37.6 T/week
New plasterboard	1.4%	3.6 T/week
Untreated/unpainted timber	2.1%	5.6 T/week
Subtotal	**34.3%**	91.2 T/week
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	**53.1%**	**141.2 T/week**

Recoverable materials in Council kerbside rubbish bins November 2025	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	4.2%	0.34 T/bin
Plastics - #1,2,5 containers	2.1%	0.17 T/bin
Ferrous metals – steel cans	1.3%	0.03 T/bin
Non-ferrous metals – aluminium cans	0.4%	0.03 T/bin
Glass – bottles/jars	2.3%	0.19 T/bin
Subtotal	**9.4%**	**0.77 T/bin**
Compostable materials		
Organics – food waste	31.7%	2.61 T/bin
Organics – garden waste	8.1%	0.67 T/bin
Subtotal	**39.8%**	3.28 T/bin
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	**49.1%**	**4.04 T/bin**



Ngā take matua
Key issues

The 2026 Waste Assessment looked across all aspects of waste management in the Matamata Piako District and identified the main areas where we could improve our effectiveness and efficiencies.

- A significant proportion of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste present across all kerbside rubbish collection systems.
- We now provides a wheelie bin service for rubbish and mixed recycling kerbside collection. While this is being utilised by a significant proportion of the population (59% of households) many households continue to use private wheelie bin services.
- There is a lack of facilities to recycle or otherwise divert a range of materials other than household recyclables, green waste, scrap metal and waste for disposal.
- Licensing provisions in the Council's Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 are not yet implemented, so there is little data available on private operator activities and non-council waste streams in general.
- While there are services to manage household hazardous waste, there are no other services.
- Community engagement, understanding and awareness of waste issues could be improved.
- More recyclables could be diverted from both domestic and commercial properties.
- There is scope to increase landfill diversion of a broader range of materials from industrial and commercial. Paper and cardboard is the main material type currently diverted.

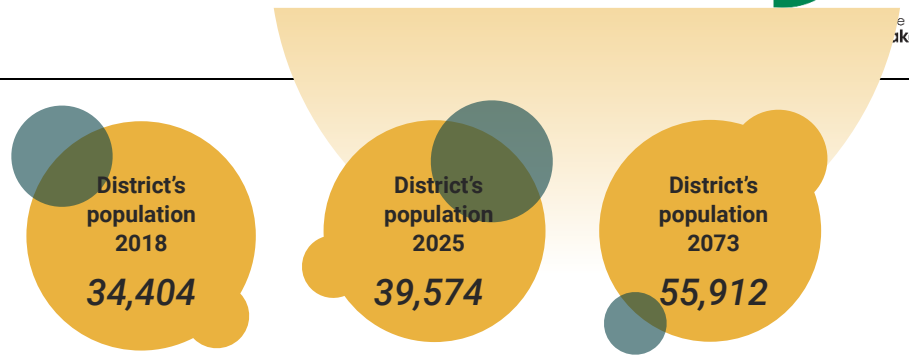
Ngā pānga o āpōpō
Future demand

A wide range of complex factors will impact future demand for waste services. Factors include:

- Economic growth or decline
- Population growth or decline
- Construction and demolition activity
- Changes in lifestyles and consumption. e.g. an increased use of electronics
- Demographic changes such as an aging population, e.g. more home-based medical assistance and wastes that require specialised recovery
- Changes in collection services and/or change in recovery of waste streams including rural wastes.
- The growing shift towards Product Stewardship, where producers take responsibility for their own waste.

Population growth in the district has been steady over the past 15 years. In 2018, it was 34,404 and has now surpassed 39,500 in 2025. It is expected to continue growing, projected to reach close to 56,000 by 2073 (41.3% growth).

The population aged 0-64 years is expected to ease slightly while the population aged 65 years and over will grow strongly. The number of households is projected to grow steadily from 14,631 in 2025 to 19,391 in 2072. This suggests no dramatic shifts are expected over this period of time.



Assuming quantities of waste increase in line with expected population growth, the total quantity of waste to landfill in the district is expected to be over 14,700 tonnes in 2035. This is likely to be a conservative estimate particularly given growth rates over recent years have exceeded previous projections.

Te hangahanga o tā tātou rautaki
The structure of our plan

This plan is in three parts:

Part A - Strategy: contains core elements vision, goals, objectives, and targets. It sets out what we are aiming to achieve and the broad framework for working towards the vision.

Part B - Action plan: sets out the proposed actions to be taken to achieve the goals, objectives, and targets set out in Part A. Part B also shows how we will monitor and report on our actions and how they will be funded.

Part C - Supporting information: contains the background information that has informed the development of our WMMP. Most of this information is contained in the Waste Assessment.



WAHANGA A: Te Rautaki, te whakitenga mō āpōpō | PART A: THE STRATEGY - Our Vision for the Future

Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place



Our vision reflects the intended direction for the district in putting maximum effort into diversion and using landfill disposal as a last resort.

It is guided by the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy, with a focus on reducing waste, keeping resources in use for as long as possible, and using landfill disposal only where better options are not practical or available.

In practice, this means making decisions that help products and materials last longer, support repair and reuse where practical, improve recycling and recovery options, and reduce reliance on landfill disposal.

G1

Kia pai ake te whakamahi i ngā rauemi | Use Resources Well:

A community that considers, and where appropriate implements, new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable services that are cost-effective to the community as a whole.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products are diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Promote, encourage, and emphasise reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community of make best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to ‘future-proof’ our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Use the national waste hierarchy to guide decisions about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal
- Support the investigation of emerging technologies, processing methods and regional solutions that can reduce waste to landfill and recover value from residual waste, where they align with the waste hierarchy, environmental outcomes and community priorities..

G2

Tiaki i ngā tāngata me ngā wāhi | Protect People and Place:
Protect and enhance our place while supporting healthy communities.

• Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.

• Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

WAHANGA B: Te Mahere Rautaki: He aha hei mahi mā tātou?

PART B: ACTION PLAN: What are we going to do?

Ngā Whāinga
Targets

1	Reduce the amount of kerbside household waste disposed to landfill.	Reduction of 1% each year, measured against the previous year's average. This recognises ongoing residential growth and development across the district while still focusing on waste reduction at a household level.
2	Enhance the recovery of organic materials (such as food waste) from kerbside waste streams by establishing cost-efficient collection and processing services that divert organic waste from landfills.	Aim to increase the amount of organic materials diverted from landfill by 30% above the baseline of 400 tonnes annually by 2033, with annual progress assessments.

Te tirohanga Whānui o te Mahere Rautaki
Action plan overview

The action plan aims to set out clear, practical initiatives for Matamata Piako District Council to implement, either on our own or jointly. While the action plan forms part of the WMMP, it is intended to be a 'living' document that can be regularly updated to reflect current plans and progress.

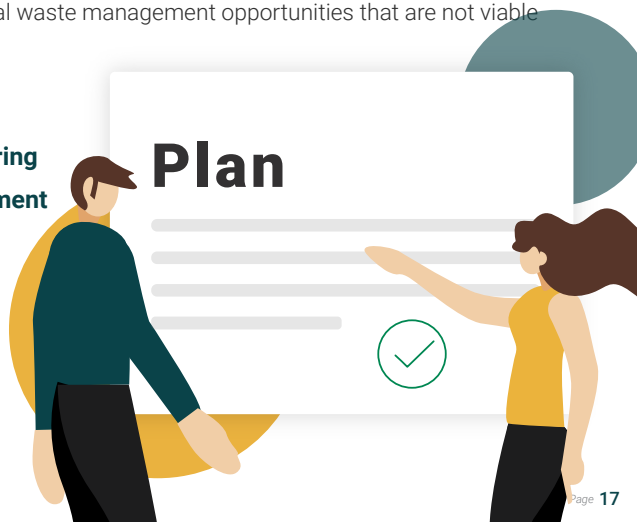
Leadership actions focus on advocacy, regional collaboration, funding support and partnerships. This recognises that coordinated work with neighbouring councils, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi, community organisations and regional groups will be needed to improve waste data, plan infrastructure, respond to national policy direction, and support practical local outcomes.

Ko ā tātou mahinga matua rāpea
Our proposed key action areas

Our action plan includes practical activities that will enable us to achieve our vision for reducing waste, using resources wisely and managing disposal responsibly. Regional collaboration is woven through the action plan because some waste streams, infrastructure needs, data gaps and policy settings cannot be addressed effectively by our council alone.

Regional collaboration may also assist in evaluating future waste processing, resource recovery and residual waste management opportunities that are not viable at a district scale.

1. **Regulation**
2. **Measuring and monitoring**
3. **Education and engagement**
4. **Waste services**
5. **Waste infrastructure**
6. **Leadership**



Action Area	Key Actions	Issues addressed and what it will do
Ngā Waeture | Regulation	Increase data visibility across the waste industry, including construction and demolition, and event-related waste. Take action against illegal dumping and littering.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste. Reducing the amount of waste being dumped and entering the environment.
Te Mātaitanga me te Inenga | Measuring and monitoring	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows. Continued monitoring of both council and non-council waste flows.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste.
Tūhononga me te Whakaakoranga | Education and engagement	Provide community-wide education and awareness raising. Monitor areas not performing well. Develop behaviour change interventions.	Increasing wider understanding of waste issues and opportunities.
Ngā Ratonga Paranga | Waste service	Provide and optimise household collection and recycling services. Collaborate with commercial waste sector to facilitate improvements.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Te Hanganga o te Paranga | Waste infrastructure	Update waste infrastructure via maintenance or construction as appropriate. Develop infrastructure such as resource recovery and organic waste processing facilities. Develop region-wide relationships.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Te Hautūtanga | Leadership	Continue to provide funding for waste minimisation projects. Collaborate and advocate across stakeholders for infrastructure and policy.	Supporting local innovation in priority waste streams. Improving waste diversion.

Hei whakaaro mā tātou
Considerations

The action plan outlines high-level intentions for actions to meet our obligations under the WMA 2008. In some cases, further research might be required to work out the costs and feasibility of some projects. This might change how, when, or if they are implemented.

Completing some other actions might depend on changing contractual arrangements with providers, or setting up new contracts. These type of contracts can be unpredictable, and this might impact the nature, timing, or costs of these projects.

Te tūranga a Te Kaunihera
Council's intended role

We intend to oversee, facilitate and manage a range of programmes and interventions to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district. We will do this through our internal structures responsible for waste management. We are responsible for a range of contracts, facilities and programmes to provide waste management and minimisation services to the residents and ratepayers of Matamata Piako District.

TE MAHERE RAUTAKI | ACTION PLAN



Ngā Waeture | Regulation

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
R1	Implement the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 in full - as part of this, introduce operator licensing and licensing fees. Act on conditions requiring that operators provide ongoing reporting on quantities and types of waste	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill. Poor understanding of rural waste streams, construction and demolition waste. Increase monitoring and reporting required by central government	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R2	Require construction and event Waste Minimisation Management Plans and related data reporting as per the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024	Poor understanding of construction and demolition waste Poor understanding and control of event related waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R3	Continue to take action against illegal dumping and littering, using relevant legislation	Waste is dumped and enters the environment	Reduce the amount of waste being dumped illegally or littered	Regulator



Te Mātaitanga me te Inenga | Measuring and Monitoring

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
M1	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows to better understand opportunities for waste management and minimisation	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste going through the district year-round	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder
M2	Maintain current monitoring levels; monitoring waste at kerbside, transfer stations, and to landfill	Understanding of current council waste streams provides some information for performance	Maintain status quo	Provider
M3	Monitor non-council waste flows through waste operator licensing with associated data collection requirements (linked to option R1)	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder

Tūhononga me te Whakaakoranga | Education and Engagement				
Reference	**Action**	**Issues addressed**	**Impact on current / future demand**	**Council's role**
E1	Provide community-wide waste minimisation education and awareness raising, including to continue to educate households on the importance of food waste collections and participation in kerbside food waste collection services	Support action on many other waste issues. Need for additional waste minimisation education. Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill	Need for education/engagement (i.e. demand) is proactively identified and addressed. Increased responsibility taken by various sectors for waste management within the community. Better understanding across the board of non-household waste management and opportunities to move up the hierarchy	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E2	Monitor and survey to identify areas that are not performing as well (e.g. higher contamination, lower recycling, problematic waste streams) and undertake targeted education campaigns	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken in areas where particular issues have been identified, improving the community's understanding of the issues and the opportunities to improve waste management and minimisation	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E3	Work in partnership with private waste companies to educate wheeled bin users about preferred behaviour, e.g. encouraging organic collections	Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill Support action on many other waste issues	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Facilitator, Funder
E4	Undertake targeted communication campaigns as required to support service changes, e.g. new/altered services, regulatory changes, legislative changes	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken to ensure services are used appropriately. Contamination and usage levels addressed	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E5	Develop community-based behaviour change interventions, identifying appropriate community groups and working with them to develop and deliver behaviour change campaigns. Including, but not limited to, the Para Kore programme	Education and engagement activities are undertaken with a consistent behaviour change approach, and are delivered where possible through community groups	Education and engagement is extended into behaviour change campaigns, delivered within the communities	Facilitator, Funder



Ngā Ratonga Paranga | Waste Services

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
S1	Continue to provide current council kerbside collection services as present. Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Additional material is diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
S2	Work with the commercial waste sector to identify and facilitate improvements to collection services	More material is collected for diversion outside Council's kerbside collections	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling	Facilitator

Te Hanganga o te Paranga | Waste Infrastructure				
Reference	**Action**	**Issues addressed**	**Impact on current / future demand**	**Council's role**
WI1	Upgrade the existing RTS network by retaining all three sites and improving each site where affordable and practicable, to maximise waste diversion and resource recovery opportunities	Ageing infrastructure limits operational efficiency and the ability to divert recoverable materials from landfill	Maintains local service levels, improves waste diversion where reasonably practicable, and supports affordable, staged investment	Provider, Funder
WI2	Investigate a greenfield community resource recovery park or regional supersite with neighbouring councils, where practical and affordable	Ageing RTS infrastructure may limit future service delivery, resource recovery opportunities, and regional waste diversion options	Assesses whether a resource recovery park or regional supersite could improve diversion, recovery, efficiency and affordability for the district or region	Provider, Funder
WI3	Provide storage space at an RTS for increased diversion, e.g. Space for storing reuse items, covered space for textile sorting or e-waste storage	Large quantities of divertible waste going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional services are available in the district	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
WI4	Develop or procure organic waste processing, appropriate for the types/quantities of organic wastes to be processed (i.e. food waste only or mixed food and garden etc)	Large quantities of organic waste still going to landfill	Additional organic waste can be diverted from landfill	Provider, Funder
WI5	Work with product stewardship scheme providers to identify infrastructure needs and consider provision/facilitation locally (such as collecting batteries at the RTS)	Limited local infrastructure to support product stewardship schemes, particularly for e-waste, batteries, and farm plastics.	Additional material is diverted from landfill through product stewardship; district residents have improved access to scheme drop-off points	Facilitator, Funder, Provider.
WI6	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery, including with social enterprise, to extract value from waste and to provide employment	Fragmented regional infrastructure; limited economies of scale for processing and recovery	Improved regional resource recovery outcomes; potential for social and employment benefits through enterprise partnerships	Facilitator, Funder

Te Hautūtanga | Leadership

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
L1	Continue to provide a local fund for waste minimisation projects (the Resource Recovery Fund)	Community and business capacity to develop and implement local waste minimisation initiatives	Local innovation and waste minimisation activity is supported and sustained; community-led projects receive funding to develop	Funder
L2	Undertake targeted funding rounds to encourage specific outcomes e.g. construction and demolition recovery, textiles recovery	Specific waste streams, including construction and demolition waste and textiles, remain largely unaddressed	Focused funding drives activity in priority waste streams; additional material is diverted from landfill in areas where market-led solutions have not yet emerged	Funder
L3	Continue involvement in the development of a national approach to disaster waste management, and prepares a local disaster waste management plan	Growing risk of disaster waste events	The district is better prepared to manage disaster waste efficiently	Provider, Facilitator
L4	Collaborate with the commercial waste sector to proactively identify and facilitate opportunities for improved waste management services and infrastructure	Limited visibility of commercial and industrial waste flows. Large quantities of waste going to landfill	Improved commercial waste diversion; better alignment between Council strategy and private sector service delivery across the district	Facilitator
L5	Advocate to central Government for increased action on issues such as product stewardship and extended producer responsibility	Councils bear disproportionate responsibility for managing waste streams, that are better addressed through centrally led schemes	Central government action on product stewardship reduces the burden on local ratepayers and improves management of difficult waste streams at a national scale	Facilitator
L6	Continue with regular Mana Whenua Forum, where updates can be provided on key projects and progress towards targets, and partnership working options are identified and pursued	Need to ensure waste minimisation strategies reflect tikanga Māori and fulfil te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations; importance of mana whenua partnership in waste planning and delivery	Stronger relationships with mana whenua support culturally appropriate service design and community engagement; partnership opportunities are identified and progressed	Facilitator
L7	Adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content where possible, while balancing project costs. This will help reduce emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and support the circular economy	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Procurement decisions reinforce the district's broader waste minimisation goals	Provider, Funder, Facilitator

TE PŪTEA MŌ TE RAUTAKI | FUNDING THE PLAN

The WMA 2008 (s43) requires that councils include information about how the implementation of this WMMP will be funded, as well as information about any grants made and expenditure of waste levy funds.

Te pūtea mō ngā mahinga ki te takiwā
Funding local actions

There is a range of options available to local councils to fund the activities set out in this plan. These include:

- **Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)** - a charge that is paid by all ratepayers
- **User Charges -** includes charges for user-pays collections as well as transfer station gate fees
- **Targeted rates -** a charge applied to those properties receiving a particular council service
- **Waste levy funding -** The Government redistributes funds from the $10 per tonne waste levy to local authorities on a per capita basis. By law, 50% of the money collected through the levy must be returned to councils. This money must be applied to waste minimisation and wider environmental activities
- **Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) -** Most of the remaining 50% of the levy money collected is redistributed to specific projects approved by the Ministry for the Environment. Anyone can apply to the WMF for funding for projects
- **Private sector funding -** The private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities, for example in order to look to generate income from the sale of recovered materials etc. Council may work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the WMMP goals.

Funding considerations take into account a number of factors including:

- Prioritising harmful wastes;
- Waste minimisation and reduction of residual waste to landfill;
- Full-cost pricing - 'polluter pays';
- Public good vs. private good component of a particular service;
- That the environmental effects of production, distribution, consumption and disposal of goods and services should be consistently costed, and charged as closely as possible to the point they occur to ensure that price incentives cover all costs;
- Protection of public health;
- Affordability; and
- Cost effectiveness.

The potential sources of funding for each of the actions are noted in the tables in Part B of the WMMP. Budgets to deliver the activities set out in this plan will be carefully developed through our Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes. The approach taken will be to implement as many of the activities as possible while controlling costs and, where possible, taking advantage of cost savings and efficiencies. It is anticipated that by setting appropriate user charges, reducing costs through avoided disposal, more efficient service delivery from joint working, and targeted application of waste levy money, the increased levels of waste minimisation as set out in this WMMP will be able to be achieved without overall additional increases to the average household cost.

Te pūtea o te utu i Ngā Paranga a Ngā Mana ā-Rohe Territorial Authorities waste levy funding

Council receives, based on population, a share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. It is estimated that at the current rates (ranging from $15 to $70 per tonne) our council's total share of waste levy funding will be approximately $240k per annum.

The WMA requires that all waste levy funding received by councils must be "spent on matters to promote waste minimisation and in accordance with their WMMP".

Waste levy funds can be spent on ongoing waste minimisation services, new services, or an expansion of existing services. The funding can be used for education and communication, policy research and reporting, to provide grants, or as infrastructure capital, and other activities in our WMMP.

We intend to use our waste levy funds for a range of waste minimisation activities and services as set out in the action plan.

In addition, we may make an application for contestable waste levy funds from the WMF, either separately, with other councils, or with another party. The WMF provides additional waste levy funds for waste minimisation activities.

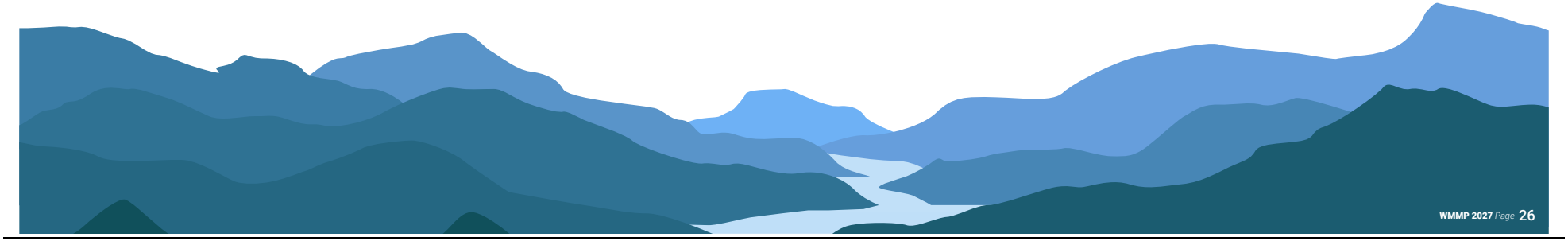
Te pūtea mō ngā mahinga ā-pakihi, ā-hapori hoki Funding business and community actions

Councils have the ability under the WMA (s47) to provide grants and advances of money to any person, organisation or group for the purposes of promoting or achieving waste management and minimisation, as long as this is authorised by the WMMP.

Council will investigate the development of a grants programme where Matamata Piako District businesses, community groups, and other organisations can apply for funding from council for projects which align with, and further, the objectives of this WMMP on an annual basis.

TE AROTURUKI, TE AROTAKE ME NGĀ PŪRONGO O TE NGĀ AHUNGA WHAKAMUA | MONITORING EVALUATING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

This WMMP contains a number of actions with timeframes (refer to Part B), as well as a set of waste minimisation targets. Progress on each of these actions and targets will be reported annually to Council.



PAPAKUPU | GLOSSARY

Bulky items	Large and small household appliances, furniture, carpets, mattresses, bric-a-brac etc
Circular Economy	A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.
CRRC	Community Resource Recovery Centre
E-waste	E-waste (electronic waste) refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.
Food waste	Any food scraps – from preparing meals, leftovers, scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds.
Green waste	Waste largely from the garden – including hedge and/or tree clippings, and/or lawn clippings.
Household hazardous waste	Waste that can cause harm or damage to people or the environment like strong chemicals.
Kaitiakitanga	Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view
Mana whenua	Territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land.
Mātauranga Maori	Mātauranga Māori is about a Māori way of being and engaging in the world – in its simplest form, it uses kawa (cultural practices) and tikanga (cultural principles) to critique, examine, analyse and understand the world.
New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy	The Government's priorities for minimising waste and improving waste management, see environment.govt.nz/news/waste-strategy/ It replaces Te Rautaki Para | New Zealand waste strategy adopted by the previous Government in March 2023.
Organic waste	Plant-based material and other bio-degradable material that can be recovered through composting, digestion or other similar processes.
Para Kore	A call to action that aims to end the current take, make, and dispose mentality of human society.
Polluter pays	The commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment
Product stewardship	Product stewardship is the responsible management of the environmental impact of a product including the cost. It aims to reduce the impact of manufactured products at all stages of the product life cycle.
RTS	Refuse Transfer Station
Rural waste	In rural areas, examples of solid waste include wastes from kitchens, gardens, cattle sheds, agriculture, and materials such as metal, paper, plastic, cloth, and so on. They are organic and inorganic materials with no remaining economic value to the owner produced by homes, commercial and industrial establishments.

Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024	Council's solid waste bylaw which can be viewed at: www.mpdc.govt.nz/policies-a-bylaws/consolidated-bylaw-2008
SWAP	Solid Waste Analysis Protocol
WMA 2008	The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Act (the Act) encourages a reduction in the amount of waste we generate and dispose of in New Zealand. The aim is to reduce the environmental harm of waste and provide economic, social and cultural benefits for New Zealand.
WMF	Waste Minimisation Fund
WMMP	A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan as defined by s43 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

RAUTAKI WHAKAHAERE

WHAKAITI HOKI I TE PARANGA

TE WHAKAHEKE I NGĀ PARANGA, TE WHAKAMAHERE MŌ ĀPŌPŌ 2027-2033

WASTE MANAGEMENT &

MINIMISATION PLAN

REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.4 Risk and Assurance Committee Report of 23 October 2026

CM No.: 3242602

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Risk and Assurance Committee following its meeting on 23 October 2026.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Risk and Assurance Committee Chairperson, Jaydene Kana, in attendance to update Council on the committee business, provide an overview of the minutes and any recommendations from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 23 October 2026.

The update will be circulated separately to the agenda.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins **Kaitohu Mātāmua Kāwana | Senior Governance Advisor**	

Approved by	Tamara Kingi **Kaiārahi Kāwana | Governance Team Leader**	

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.5 Adoption of Annual Report and Summary 2025/26

CM No.: 3231693

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report 2025/26 and Annual Report Summary 2025/26 for adoption.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Annual Report is a crucial tool for Council to inform the community about how it has delivered on the commitments set out in the Long Term Plan 2024-34. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to adopt an externally audited Annual Report and Annual Report Summary each year by 31 October.

René Van Zyl and Erika Dadson from The Audit Office will be in attendance to present the Audit Opinion if it is issued prior to the meeting.

The following documents will be circulated separately, once available:

a. Annual Report 2025/26
b. Annual Report Summary 2025/26
c. Audit Opinions for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
d. Letter of Representation for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
e. Warrant of Fitness for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
f. Audit Misstatement Schedule

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The following documents are received:**
   a) **Annual Report 2025/26**
   b) **Annual Report Summary 2025/26**
   c) **Audit Opinions for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26**
   d) **Letter of Representation for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26**
   e) **Warrant of Fitness for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26**
   f) **Audit Misstatement Schedule**
2. **Section 13 of the Warrant of Fitness is completed by Elected Members**
3. **Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Statement of Compliance and Responsibility on behalf of Council.**
4. **Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Letter of Representation to the Auditor on behalf of Council.**
5. **The audited Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26 are adopted.**
6. **Council authorise staff to make minor amendments following the adoption of the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26 to amend any minor errors (e.g. formatting).**

Horopaki | Background

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to:

- Complete and adopt its Annual Report, containing audited financial statements, within four months after the end of the financial year i.e. by 31 October each year.
- Make its Annual Report and Annual Report Summary publicly available within one month of adopting it.

The Annual Report and Summary must be audited, and an opinion on the Annual Report and Summary provided to Council and the report's readers.

The Annual Report provides information on the activities that Council undertakes and is part of the accountability framework through which the community can assess the Council's performance.

The Audit Office has been appointed as the Council's Auditor and is responsible for undertaking the annual audit. The independent audit report prepared by the Auditor reports on whether the Annual Report presents fairly the Council's financial and non-financial performance for the year.

a. Annual Report 2025/26
See documents circulated separately.

b. Annual Report Summary 2025/26
See documents circulated separately.

c. Audit Opinions for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
Under the Local Government Act 2002 Council is required to obtain an audit of its Annual Report and Summary. René Van Zyl and Erika Dadson from The Audit Office will be in attendance to provide details about the audit and the Audit Opinion, if ready in time for this meeting.

d. Letter of Representation for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
The representation letter sets out Council's responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 to report on Council's financial position and activities; and quality of information presented in the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary.

The letter provides assurances from Council to The Audit Office in relation to the following requirements:

- General responsibilities relating to the Councils actions
- Responsibilities for the financial statements and the statement of service performance
- Responsibilities to provide information
- Confirmation that Council is a going concern
- Responsibilities for the information presented in the summary
- Publication of information on our website.

Council is required to confirm that to the best of their knowledge these requirements have been met.

e. Warrant of Fitness for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary 2025/26
The Warrant of Fitness has proven to be a useful tool for staff to check that significant matters have been considered in the preparation of the Annual Report. It is intended to provide some assurance to Council in this regard. Section 13 is to be completed by elected members.

f. Audit Misstatement Schedule
The schedule of misstatements sets out the errors noted by The Audit Office and those changes identified by staff in their QA process.

Timing of adoption

The Annual Report and Summary for 2025/26 reflects what Council delivered to the community for the year ending 30 June 2026.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Financial Performance

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses

For the 2025/26 financial year, Council recorded a net surplus of $4.8 million against a budgeted deficit of $3.2 million. Total revenue was $101.6 million against a budget of $85.7 million. Most of the difference came from two unbudgeted items, and neither can be used to fund day-to-day services or reduce rates:

- $6.3 million in community donations towards the Open Country Community Stadium in Matamata, which opened in February 2026.
- $6.0 million of vested assets from subdivision developments.

Fees and charges were $1.7 million above budget. This came mainly from trade waste charges ($1.77 million, up from $0.75 million last year after charges for large industry were increased) and from higher building and resource consent activity. Lower visitor numbers at Te Aroha Mineral Spas and the district pools partly offset this. Subsidies and grants were $0.8 million above budget. Interest revenue was $0.4 million higher than planned, including $105,000 of interest on the establishment funding advanced to Waikato Waters Limited (WWL). Council also recovered $749,000 of establishment and transition costs from WWL. Rates revenue was on budget at $62.3 million. Development contributions were also on budget at $2.2 million, but well down on the $4.7 million received last year.

Total expenditure was $96.8 million against a budget of $89.0 million. Other expenses were $6.2 million over budget, driven mainly by water and wastewater operating costs:

- keeping the existing Matamata Wastewater Treatment Plant within its consent conditions while its replacement is built, including extra power and mechanical and electrical maintenance
- compliance requirements at Te Aroha
- laboratory testing and UV bulb replacements
- new levies from the water services regulator
- legal costs relating to a previous consent breach at the Waihou Wastewater Treatment Plant

About $2.2 million of the overspend is unbudgeted non-cash accounting adjustments:

- a $550,000 write-down of a decommissioned centrifuge at the Morrinsville Wastewater Treatment Plant
- a $661,000 loss on disposal of assets
- a $229,000 unrealised loss on Council's interest rate swaps, much smaller than the $1.67 million loss last year

Depreciation was $1.7 million above budget, following the 30 June 2025 revaluations and the additional vested assets. Personnel costs were $0.5 million below budget because of vacancies.

Other comprehensive revenue and expense was $3.2 million, against $25.6 million assumed in the Annual Plan. Land, roading and three waters assets were fully revalued at 30 June 2025, so no revaluation was done this year. Fair value assessments at 30 June 2026 found carrying values were not materially different from fair value. The value of Council's shareholding in Waikato Regional Airport rose by $4.0 million, reflecting growth in the company's net assets.

Statement of Financial position

Total assets were $1.35 billion, of which $1.27 billion is property, plant and equipment. Capital expenditure was $48.9 million against a budget of $58.5 million, mainly because the Matamata Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade started later than planned. At year end, $32.6 million of wastewater work was in progress and $18.2 million of wastewater capital commitments were outstanding.

Borrowings rose from $85.0 million to $98.5 million: $27.0 million of new borrowing, less $13.5 million of maturing debt repaid in April 2026. Net external debt was 96% of total revenue, well within the 175% limit in the Financial Strategy. Of total borrowings, $47.0 million is due within 12 months, more than usual, because Council has been refinancing over shorter terms ahead of the transfer of waters debt to WWL. Cash and term deposits fell from $22.2 million to $6.3 million. This reflects the debt repayment and the $4.9 million establishment funding advanced to WWL, which was repaid on 1 July 2026.

Transfer of water services

On 1 October 2026, Council's drinking water and wastewater activities transferred to WWL. Because the transfer happened after balance date, it is disclosed as an event after balance date and is not reflected in the 30 June 2026 figures. The estimated effect is:

- a reduction in property, plant and equipment of $288.3 million
- a reduction in external debt of $72.3 million, about 73% of Council's borrowings
- a cash settlement of $22.2 million for internally funded water debt
- a $4.0 million reduction in water-related reserves

In exchange, Council received Stage 2 shares in WWL, with an expected final shareholding of about 25%. The debt settlement is subject to a wash-up on 1 April 2027. This is the last year the full cost of water and wastewater services appears in Council's accounts.

Overall, Council's balance sheet remains sound. The surplus is made up almost entirely of one-off and non-cash income, though, and the underlying pressure is the rising cost of delivering services. Council's financial position will look very different in 2026/27 once the water transfer is recognised.

Non-Financial Performance

Council achieved 80% of its performance measures for the year, compared with 80% in 2024/25. Of the 56 performance measures outlined in the Long Term Plan, 45 were achieved and 11 were not achieved.

The 2025/26 Annual Report will be the last to include a full year's water and wastewater performance and financial information, following the transfer of these activities to Waikato Waters Ltd on 1 October 2026. Therefore, the 2026/27 Annual Report will only include water and wastewater information for the first quarter of the financial year where relevant.

Mōrearea | Risk

The audit work carried out by The Audit Office provides added assurance regarding the accuracy of Council's Annual Report.

At the time of preparing this report, the audit is still ongoing. Staff expect an unmodified opinion will be issued by the Audit Office with two emphasis of matter; Simplifying Local Government Reform and Future Changes in Water Service Delivery. The emphasis of matter simply draws the readers attention to these matters which are disclosed in the Annual Report, given their significance.

Policy Considerations

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.

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 highlight above are relevant to this report.

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

The Annual Report cost including the audit is provided for within the Strategies and Plans activity budgets.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Charlotte Espin **Kaitohu Kaupapahere Paetahi | Graduate Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Larnia Rushbrooke **Pou Pūtea, Ratonga Pakihi | Finance & Business Services Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.6 Adoption of External Member Remuneration Policy 2026

CM No.: 3225479

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and adopt the External Member Remuneration Policy 2026.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

An External Member Remuneration Policy has been developed to establish a consistent and transparent framework for determining remuneration and reimbursement of reasonable expenses for external members invited to participate in committees and working groups established or endorsed by Council.

The purpose of the Policy is to provide a clear and consistent approach to compensating external members for their time and contribution.
An external member is a person appointed by Council, or by a Council committee under delegated authority, to participate as a chairperson or ordinary member of a Council committee or working group, who is not an Elected Member or Council staff member.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The report be received.**
2. **The External Member Remuneration Policy 2026 be adopted.**
3. **Staff be authorised to make minor amendments where necessary.**

Horopaki | Background

Council currently uses a range of remuneration approaches for external members across committees and working groups. These arrangements have evolved over time and there is no consistent framework to guide decisions. The current ad-hoc approach can be time consuming to administer and creates uncertainty for staff and participants.

An External Member Remuneration Policy has been developed to provide a consistent and transparent framework for determining the remuneration and recognition of external members appointed to Council committees and working groups. The Policy seeks to support equitable participation while ensuring remuneration decisions are based on clear principles, role expectations and levels of responsibility.

The process to date has involved engagement with Council staff, Te Manawhenua Forum, elected members and the Risk and Assurance Committee Chairperson (where there was no identified area of perceived conflict). A summary of feedback is provided below:

Te Manawhenua Forum

- 4 August 2026 workshop: Early input from the Forum to assist policy development noted that participation is not primarily about payment and appropriate remuneration recognises the mana and professional advice. Members participate as iwi representatives and carry responsibilities beyond meeting attendance.
- 15 September 2026 meeting: To manage potential conflicts, the Forum received the proposed framework and factors for comment rather than the full draft Policy. The Forum endorsed the framework and factors, subject to Council reconsidering its proposed classification. The Forum asked that mana whenua representatives' role as Rangatira for iwi and hapū, cultural considerations, and "Whakaaro Rangatira" be reflected in the framework.

Risk and Assurance Committee Independent Chairperson

- 8 September 2026 email correspondence: The Independent Chairperson of the Risk and Assurance Committee also received the proposed framework and factors rather than the full draft Policy. The Chairperson declined to comment on remuneration factors to avoid any perceived conflict. However, noted caution around using the Cabinet Fees Framework as a benchmark, the added complexity of chairing local authority committees, and the need for discretion in setting remuneration. The draft Policy was amended to reflect these points where possible.

Council

- 19 August 2026 workshop: Council tested the proposed levels and framework against examples and directed staff to prepare a draft Policy. Council requested clearer role responsibilities, commitments, and examples to support consistent application.
- 23 September 2026 workshop: Council reviewed the draft Policy and Te Manawhenua Forum's request for reconsideration. Council gave direction that the Forum operates at a unique level and its remuneration should sit outside the draft Policy. Elected members supported amendments to the Forum allowance; this will be progressed through a Heads of Agreement review late 2026/early 2027.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Policy is now being brought to Council for consideration and adoption.

Te Manawhenua Forum

At the workshop on 7 October 2026, Council discussed options for Te Manawhenua Forum member fees that would recognise the mana of the Forum.

Council considered that remuneration provisions are most appropriately captured in the Heads of Agreement between Council and Te Manawhenua Forum and as such member fees have not been included in this policy.

District Licensing Committee

Currently District Licensing Committee members are currently paid the following rates:

- Chairperson / Commissioner: $78 per hour for part days (or $624 per day).
- List Members: $51 per hour for part days (or $408 per day).

These rates were based on the previous version of the Cabinet Fees Framework from 2022.

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 sets provisions around remuneration:

- Section 195(1): A member of a licensing committee is entitled to receive remuneration …of a kind determined by the Minister in accordance with the fees framework.

- Section 195(2): Members are entitled to reimbursement for actual and reasonable travelling and other expenses in accordance with the fees framework.
- Section 195(3): Defines the fees framework as the framework determined by the Government for the classification and remuneration of statutory and other bodies.
- Section 195(4): Provides that commissioners are treated as members of a licensing committee for remuneration purposes.

Staff consider the District Licensing Committee falls within Group 2, Level 3 of the Cabinet Fees Framework from 2025, which sets daily fees as follows:

112 Group 2 - daily fees

Total score	Level	Fees range – chair	Fees range – members
26-29	1	$995 - $1,550	$640 - $990
22-25	2	$900 - $1,325	$585 - $815
17-21	3	$825 - $1,115	$525 - $730
13-16	4	$695 - $865	$450 - $560
12 or less	5	$525 - $770	$415 - $500

The Cabinet fees framework does not set hourly rates.

Although remuneration for the District Licensing Committee is governed by the applicable Cabinet Fees Framework, Appendix 4 of the Policy records Council's assessment and rationale for setting fees within those ranges.

	Current fees	Proposed fee under Policy	Comments
Chairperson / Commissioner	$78 per hour for part days (or $624 per day).	$115.00 per hour No daily rate set	Under the Cabinet Fees framework, the minimum hourly for the Chairperson / Commissioner is $103.13, the mid-point is $121.26 per hour and the maximum hourly rate is $139.38 (assuming an 8-hour day from the daily fee above)
List member	$51 per hour for part days (or $408 per day)	$70 per hour No daily fee set	The List member minimum hourly rate is $65.63, the mid-point of $78.44 per hour and the maximum hourly rate of $91.25 (assuming an 8-hour day from the daily fee above)

Council staff have taken a conversative approach to the fees, where proposed rates sit at the lower end of permitted ranges.

Council can review these fees at any time, including when there is a material change to the Cabinet Fees Framework, the workload of the Committee or the level of responsibility and expertise required.

Elected Members appointed to the District Licensing Committee are an exception to this Policy and will receive the applicable fees above in addition to their annual remuneration.

Risk and Assurance Committee

The biggest implication of this Policy would be for Council's Risk and Assurance Committee.

Currently, there is provision for one external member in addition to the Independent Chairperson. The previous member fee was $250 per meeting, and this would be increased to between $450-$500 per day.

The new member fee recognises the significant skill and expertise required and complexity of the matters on which they advise.

The Independent Chairperson of the Risk and Assurance Committee will continue to be paid separately through an individual agreement.

Other relevant committees and working groups

The following is a list of the committees and working groups covered by the Policy. Any future committees or working groups established or endorsed by Council will be added to the list below.

- Hearings Commission
- Risk and Assurance Committee
- Plan Change 49 – Waharoa Governance Group

Chairpersons

Guidance has been added to the Policy in Appendix 3 to help with the payment of chairpersons or deputy chairpersons. This is to support current practice, whereby a higher meeting fee is paid that recognises their additional duties, responsibilities and accountability.

A 33% loading on member fees is proposed to calculate chairperson fees. The Policy also notes that in particular circumstances, it may be more appropriate to pay a chairperson an annual fee or retainer. An exception to the 33% loading is the Independent Chairperson of the Risk and Assurance Committee, as above.

Mōrearea | Risk

There is a risk that without formal guidance and supporting processes in place, inconsistency, equity risk, reputational and audit risk and uncertainty for Council and staff may arise when new committees and working groups are established or endorsed.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Staff propose Council consider the following options.

Option One – Status Quo	
Description of option	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
Maintains current ad-hoc approach which allows for flexibility.	This approach has a lack of transparency, consistency and certainty and is time consuming to administer.

Option Two – Adopt the External Member Remuneration Policy	
Description of option	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
This approach allows for transparency, consistency and certainty and is efficient to administer.	Need to familiarise with policy and develop processes to assist with implementation.

Recommended option

Staff recommend option two, to adopt the External Member Remuneration Policy.

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

Council allocate budgets for external member remuneration through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. Any changes in remuneration levels as a result of the Policy will need to be included in operational budgets for governance and project activities.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision-making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low level of significance.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Consideration of a policy that outlines remuneration for external members creates a conflict for those members who would be affected by the outcome of the policy. However, it is also appropriate to consider the views of those who would be affected by the policy. Te Manawhenua Forum and the Risk and Assurance Committee are the two main groups that Council has formally appointed external members to. To appropriately manage this conflict, the proposed framework and factors included in the Policy were provided to Te Manawhenua Forum and Risk and Assurance Committee for comment, note remuneration figures were not included.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above. This issue is assessed as having a low level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	Not applicable.

Policy Considerations

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.

Staff note that the Policy has been amended to reflect the recently passed Local Government (Systems Improvements) Amendment Act 2026, which prohibits external members from counting towards a quorum and exercising voting rights. These changes take effect from mid-March 2027, six months after the Act's commencement date.

Staff will work through a review of its governance structures, committee membership, delegations, and quorum arrangements to reflect this change. External members can continue to participate on Council committees in a non-voting capacity.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Initial Council workshop on direction	17 June 2026
TMF workshop on initial feedback	4 August 2026
Second Council workshop on draft framework supported by examples of current remuneration and TMF feedback	19 August 2026
Policy development	August – September 2026
TMF meeting for feedback on proposed factors for inclusion in draft policy	15 September 2026
Third Council workshop to review draft policy	23 September 2026
Policy adoption	28 October 2026

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 community outcomes are relevant to this report.

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

The development of this Policy falls within the Strategies and Pans budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION - Draft External Member Remuneration Policy 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Manisha Tritscher **Kaitohu Kaupapahere | Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team Leader**	
	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

te kaunihera ā-rohe o matamata-piako district council



Te Kaupapahere o Te Utu o ngā Mema mai i waho 2026 | External Member Remuneration Policy 2026

FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION

DRAFT

Department	Policy and Governance
Policy Type	Internal - External
CM Reference	3228079
Resolution Date	TBC
Policy Effective From	1 November 2026
Engagement Required	Not Applicable
Review Frequency	Three-yearly or as required by Council or legislative changes
Review Date	1 November 2029
Policy Supersedes	None

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1. Te Kaupapa I Purpose

1.1. This Policy sets out Matamata-Piako District Council's (Council) framework for determining remuneration and reimbursement of reasonable expenses for External Members invited to participate in committees and working groups established or endorsed by Council.

1.2. The purpose of this Policy is to provide clarity and consistency in the manner in which External Members are nominally compensated for their time.

2. Ngā Tautuhinga I Definitions

Term	Definition
External Member	A person appointed by Council, or by a Council committee under delegated authority, to participate as a chairperson or ordinary member of a Council committee or working group, who is not an Elected Member or Council staff member.
Committee	A governance-level initiative established by Council under Schedule 7, Clause 30 of the Local Government Act 2002, including any subcommittee.
Working Group	A group established by Council delegated to provide advice, input, or support on a specific issue, project, or area of work. Also known as Working Parties or Governance Groups.
Flat Fee	A set payment for participation in a scheduled meeting, which recognises preparation (including pre-reading), attendance and post meeting follow-up work. The fee is not calculated on an hourly basis.
Daily Rate	A full-day payment recognising the total time commitment of a role, preparation (including pre-reading), attendance and post meeting follow-up work.
Level	A classification assigned to an External Member role that determines the applicable band range, based on Council's Remuneration Framework.
Factor	A consideration when applying Council's Remuneration Framework that identifies whether an External Member should be remunerated or recognised for their contribution.

3. Horopaki I Background

3.1. Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to give consideration to the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in a matter that is being decided on.

3.2. Council may establish committees and working groups that sometimes require the participation of External Members to provide expertise or representation.

3.3. Appropriate remuneration can support fuller, fairer and more equitable participation. It also ensures greater transparency and accountability between Council and External Members.

4. Raupapa Mahi I Scope

4.1. The Remuneration Framework (**Section 5**) is used for setting the fees of External Members of committees and working groups which have been established or endorsed by Council, either at the commencement of a Council term or at any time during the term. For example, all governance groups are confirmed following each triennial election. It does not apply to individuals or organisations engaged to deliver services outside of these roles.

4.2. Council may exercise discretion to adjust remuneration within the specified band ranges of the Remuneration Framework.

4.3. The Remuneration Framework does not apply:

- if payment is set by the Remuneration Authority, by legislation or another fee-setting framework that Council is required to follow (for example, the District Licensing Committee and Independent Commissioners on resource consent hearings – see **Appendixes 4 and 5**);
- if payment is made from or determined by some other source (for example, if External Members are paid to attend by their employer or the organisation they represent);
- if remuneration is determined separately within approved budgets and documented in individual or collective agreements (for example, Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako and chairperson roles of committees and working groups – see **Appendixes 2 and 3**); and
- if remuneration is provided under consultancy contracts or other separate contractual arrangements (for example, Council staff or consultant).

5. Te Pou Tarāwaho o te Utu | Remuneration Framework

5.1. The five contribution levels set out below form Council's Remuneration Framework for External Members. It is intended to ensure that roles with comparable contributions, responsibilities and time commitments are treated consistently, while allowing Council to respond to the particular circumstances of each role.

5.2. The Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 removes External Members from voting and being counted as part of a quorum. Council may continue to appoint External Members to its committees and sub-committees but make changes to its relevant Council governance documents.

5.3. Daily rates are used where roles involve substantial overall time commitment and responsibility extending beyond a scheduled meeting.

5.4. Flat fees are intended primarily for meeting-based roles with consideration given to preparation, attendance and post-meeting follow-up work.

5.5. The Remuneration Framework has been informed by the Cabinet Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest.[1] The Cabinet Fees Framework is used as a reference point for benchmarking purposes only and does not apply directly to Council's External Members unless otherwise required by legislation or another applicable fee-setting framework.

Level	Contribution Level	Daily Rate	Flat Fee
Level 1	Independent governance or statutory roles that significantly influence Council's decision-making	$500-$600	-
Level 2	Specialist, technical, or professional input that materially influence Council's decision-making	$450-$500	-
Level 3	Strategic or policy contributions to Council decision-making	-	$250
Level 4	Advisory or engagement participation supporting Council decision-making	-	$200
Level 5	Community feedback, local knowledge or lived experience input to Council decision-making	-	$175

5.6. The applicable remuneration level and fee for each External Member role will be determined by Council, or by a person or body delegated by Council to make that determination, having regard to the Factors to be Considered (**Section 6**) and the External Member Remuneration Matrix (**Appendix 1**).

5.7. Remuneration will be determined based on the role rather than the individual appointed. This supports the consistent application of the Remuneration Framework, while allowing Council to maintain discretion, where appropriate.

[1] Cabinet Office Circular CO (25) 2: Cabinet Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest - July 2025 - Cabinet Office

5.8. The Policy and Governance Team can provide further guidance on the application and implementation of the Remuneration Framework, if required.

6. Ngā take kia whakaarotia I Factors to be Considered

6.1. The following factors should be considered when applying the Remuneration Framework to decide whether remuneration (monetary payment) or recognition (non-monetary payment) is more appropriate for an External Member, and where consistency or discretion may apply:

- Nature of Contribution - Whether the participant is providing specialist, technical or cultural expertise, governance or advisory input, community representation, general feedback or consultation input.
- Level of Responsibility - Whether the participant has accountability, consultation or iwi representational obligations.
- Time and Commitment Required - Whether requirements around preparation, travel, duration of engagement, and any follow-up work between meetings need to be considered.
- Representation and Equity - Whether the participant is representing a community, iwi/hapū entity, organisation, stakeholder group or providing their own individual perspective.
- Consistency, Transparency and Value for Money - Whether the approach is consistent with similar Council engagements and regularly reviewed.

6.2. These factors underpin the principles of Council's Remuneration Framework.

6.3. Remuneration should be considered where External Members provide significant expertise, carry formal responsibilities, or make substantial time commitments.

6.4. Recognition may be appropriate where participation is community-based, voluntary, consultative or focused on sharing community perspectives, provided that participation costs are not a barrier to engagement.

6.5. Examples of recognition include:

- Koha or gifts;
- Vouchers or gift cards;
- Catering and hospitality;
- Personal development opportunities;
- Certificates or letters of appreciation;
- Public recognition; and
- Reimbursement for vehicle kilometre allowance.

7. Te Pūtea I Expenses

7.1. External Members are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses in accordance with Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy. Expenses must be approved by the Council staff member responsible for the relevant area.

7.2. A vehicle kilometre allowance will generally be reimbursed at the applicable Inland Revenue rate for travel up to 100 kilometres return. Travel exceeding 100 kilometres return may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

7.3. External Members should lodge their expense claims by the 20th of each month to meet Council's monthly pay run. All expense claims must be submitted before the end of each financial year.

8. Te tukanga utu I Method of Payment

8.1. Payment to External Members will be made once the Council staff member responsible for the relevant area receives a tax invoice or application using the online portal for the specific committee or working group, which details:

- the name of the participant;
- the name of the meeting;
- the date of the meeting; and
- the total kilometres travelled to and from the meeting (where a vehicle kilometre allowance is provided).

8.2. Payments will be processed in accordance with applicable tax, GST and payment requirements. Where an External Member is required to provide a tax invoice, the invoice must meet the relevant requirements.

9. Te Tahua I Budget

9.1. Council allocates budgets for External Member remuneration through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. Costs that are attributable to specific areas are included in those budgets. Costs that are attributable to multiple areas of Council are included in governance budgets.

10. Te tikanga Whanonga I Code of Conduct

10.1. External Members must comply with the standards of behaviour and conduct requirements applicable to their role as determined by Council, and as set out in the relevant Council governance document of the committee or working group.

11. Take Taharua | Conflict of interest

11.1. External Members will declare any conflicts of interest prior to the commencement of the appointment process and excuse themselves from the meeting or agenda item if the conflict is likely to affect, or Council reasonably perceive it to affect, their impartiality.

11.2. External Members must declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict arising during their participation. The conflict will be assessed and managed in accordance with Council's applicable requirements.

11.3. In the rare event where exclusion is deemed impracticable, External Members must obtain formal written permission to proceed from the chairperson of the committee or working group, in consultation with Council's Legal Counsel.

12. Kaupapahere Te Mātaitanga, me te Arotakenga | Policy monitoring and review

12.1. The Policy and Governance team are responsible for the implementation of this Policy, including developing operational procedures. The Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years, however, Council may elect to review this Policy at any time.

13. Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More information

- Local Government Act 2002
- Matamata-Piako District Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy

Apitihanga 1 – Poukapa o Te Utu o ngā Mema mai i waho | Appendix 1 – External Member Remuneration Matrix

The External Member Remuneration Matrix provides a consistent and transparent guide for determining whether an External Member should receive recognition or remuneration, and the applicable level of Council's Remuneration Framework.

Council, or the person/body delegated by Council to make the determination, will assess each role against the two dimensions of the matrix:

- **Expertise and Contribution:** the type and significance of the contribution expected from the role, ranging from community feedback through to significant influence in Council decision-making.
- **Responsibility and Commitment:** the level of accountability, responsibility, preparation, attendance, and ongoing commitment required by the role.

The point at which the two dimensions intersect determines the appropriate classification.

Following classification, consideration must be given to consistency with similar roles, transparency of the decision, and value for money. Any departure from the matrix outcome should be supported by documented reasons (for example, market conditions, scarcity of expertise, statutory requirements or recruitment considerations).

External Member Remuneration Matrix

Responsibility & Commitment	Community Feedback	Advisory or Engagement	Strategic or Policy Advice	Specialist, Technical or Professional Input	Governance or Statutory Roles
	Expertise & Contribution				
Very High Responsibility	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 2	Level 1
High Responsibility	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 2
Moderate Commitment	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2
Low Commitment	Recognition	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3
Minimal Commitment	Recognition	Recognition	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3

Legend

Recognition | Level 5 | Level 4 | Level 3 | Level 2 | Level 1

Apitihanga 2 – He rārangi o ngā rōpū mahi me ngā komiti o te Kaunihera | Appendix 2 – Schedule of Council Committees and Working Groups

The following table lists committees and working groups covered by this Policy. The Levels correspond to the contribution levels set out in the Remuneration Framework (**Section 5**).

Any future committees and working groups established or endorsed by Council and covered by this Policy, will be added below.

Committee / Group	Level	Notes
District Licensing Committee	Not Applicable	Fees are set by the Cabinet Fees Framework (see **Appendix 4**)
Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata Piako	Not Applicable	Fees are determined in the Heads of Agreement
Hearings Commission	1	Covered under this Policy
Risk and Assurance Committee	2	Covered under this Policy
Plan Change 49 - Waharoa Governance Group	3	Covered under this Policy

Other Council documents containing information relevant to the committees and working groups above, include:

- Governance Structure and Roles;
- Matamata-Piako District Council Risk and Assurance Committee Charter; and
- Heads of Agreement between Te Mana Whenua Forum Mō Matamata-Piako and Matamata-Piako District Council.

In the case of Council's Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee, under the Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014, each appointer (Council and Ngāti Hauā) will meet the expenses of its appointees.

Apitihanga 3 – Ngā tohutohu o te utunga Tiamana | Appendix 3 – Guidance for Remunerating Chairpersons

Chairpersons or deputy chairpersons of Council's committees and working groups will generally receive a higher meeting fee than ordinary members, recognising their additional duties, responsibilities and accountability.

Chairperson fees should generally be calculated at a fee **33% higher** than the ordinary member fee. In particular circumstances, it may be deemed more appropriate to pay a chairperson an annual fee or retainer.

Level	Member Fee	Chairperson Fee
Level 1	$500-$600 per day	$665-$800 per day
Level 2	$450-$500 per day	$600-$665 per day
Level 3	$250 per meeting	$330 per meeting
Level 4	$200 per meeting	$265 per meeting
Level 5	$175 per meeting	$235 per meeting

Most Councils have established audit and risk committees (or their equivalent). All (or almost all) the chairpersons of these committees are external. Due to the skill and expertise required of external chairpersons and the complexity of the matters on which they advise, **discretion will apply** to pay more than the standard 33% loading. The Audit Office provides further advice on this topic.[2]

[2] Setting up a council's Audit and Risk Committee — The Audit Office

Apitihanga 4 – Kōmiti Tuku Raihana ā-Rohe | Appendix 4 – District Licensing Committee

Council is required to establish and maintain a District Licensing Committee under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. Section 195 provides that members are entitled to remuneration for services at a rate and of a kind determined in accordance with the applicable fees framework, including reimbursement of expenses.

The functions of the District Licensing Committee include, considering and determining applications for licences, manager certificates, renewals, temporary authorities, special licences, variations, suspensions and cancellations etc.

The fees for District Licensing Committee chairpersons / commissioners and list members must be considered under the Cabinet Fees Framework, which provides guidance on the classification and remuneration of statutory and other bodies, including tribunals and authorities.

Although remuneration for the District Licensing Committee is governed by the applicable Cabinet Fees Framework, this section records Council's assessment and rationale for setting fees within those ranges.

District Licensing hearings are best assessed as Group 2, because the committee exercises a specialist statutory jurisdiction, considers evidence and submissions, applies legislation and relevant case law, and makes quasi-judicial decisions affecting applicants, objectors and the wider community.

District Licensing Committee Chairperson / Commissioner aligns with Group 2, Level 3 which has a daily fee range of $825–$1,115, or $103.13–$139.38 per hour.

District Licensing Committee List Member aligns with Group 2, Level 3 which has a daily fee range of $525–$730, or $65.63–$91.25 per hour.

Council confirms the following fees apply:

Role	Rate
Chairperson / Commissioner	$115 per hour
List Member	$70 per hour

Nothing in this section prevents Council from reviewing District Licensing Committee fees when there is a material change to the Cabinet Fees Framework, the workload of the Committee, or the level of responsibility and expertise required.

Elected Members on the District Licensing Committee are an exception to this Policy and will receive the fee above in addition to their annual remuneration.

Apitihanga 5 – Kōmihana Whakawātanga | Appendix 5 – Hearings Commission

Council's Hearings Commission conducts fair and effective hearings and makes determinations on a range of Council quasi-judicial functions under legislation and other matters as referred to by the Committee. This includes objections under the Dog Control Act 1996 and pool regulation waivers under the Building Act 2004.

Council may appoint External Members on dog classification and gambling hearings and will nominally compensate them for their time, according to the Remuneration Framework (**Section 5)** and as identified in the Schedule of Council Committees and Working Groups (**Appendix 2**).

Independent Commissioners for Resource Consent Hearings are remunerated at rates agreed between Council and the Commissioner.

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.7 Multi-Year Community Grant Applications - Long Term Plan 2027-37

CM No.: 3212525

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and decide on all 2027/28-2029/30 funding round Multi-Year Community Grant applications, received as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 (LTP). Note these allocations will remain draft until after consultation with the community early 2027 with final confirmation on approval of the final Long Term Plan in June 2027.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council decides Multi-Year Community Grant funding every three years as part of the LTP process.

- On 1 October 2026, Council received all completed applications to review.
- On 7 October 2026, Council heard from applicants for the 2027/28-2029/30 funding round who presented additional information in support of their applications. Following the workshop, elected members completed individual spreadsheets outlining initial funding allocations. Staff reviewed and consolidated amounts and comments provided into a single spreadsheet.
- On 21 October 2026, Council workshopped the consolidated spreadsheet as a starting point to refine and agree the funding allocations to be included in a draft schedule of decisions. Total values for other Council grants that are distributed annually were also determined.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The information be received.**

2. **Council confirms all allocations of Multi-Year Community Grant funding in the Schedule of Decisions (attached), noting that these allocations will remain draft until after community consultation in early 2027 with final confirmation on approval of the Long Term Plan in June 2027.**

3. **Staff inform each applicant of the decision as above.**

4. **The Schedule of Decisions (attached) be incorporated into the draft Long Term Plan 2027-37 for adoption for community consultation, noting that partnership arrangements will be presented separately from other grants.**

Horopaki | Background

On 26 August 2026, Council adopted the Multi and Single-Year Community Grants Policy to apply from 1 July 2027, alongside the new LTP.

Multi-Year Grant applications were open from 28 August 2026 until 23 September 2026, with targeted communications sent early August, to provide notice to previous grant recipients and interested parties.

On 1 October 2026, Council received all completed applications to review.

On 7 October 2026, Council heard from applicants for the 2027/28-2029/30 funding round who presented additional information in support of their applications. Following the workshop, elected members completed individual spreadsheets outlining initial funding allocations. Staff reviewed and consolidated amounts and comments provided into a single spreadsheet.

On 21 October 2026, Council workshopped the consolidated spreadsheet as a starting point to refine and agree the funding allocations to be included in a draft schedule of decisions. Total values for other Council grants that are distributed annually were also determined.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Council to consider and decide on all Multi-Year Community Grant applications and staff to record these decisions in a draft Schedule of Decisions for approval.

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

Council is not legally required to distribute grants. However, if some of these groups or organisations are not funded by grants, the responsibility of the services, facilities, and activities provided may fall back on Council to deliver to the community.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Staff will inform each applicant of Council's decision noting that any allocation is draft until after community consultation in early 2027 with final confirmation on approval of the Long Term Plan in June 2027.

Timeframes

Staff are working to the following timeframes for this project:

Key Task	Dates
Targeted communications sent to previous recipients of Single-year and Multi-year grants	Early August 2026
Calling for Multi-Year Community Grant applications	28 August - 23 September 2026
Council workshop on applicant presentations	7 October 2026
Council workshop to determine allocations and total values of grants	21 October 2026
Council meeting to confirm decisions	28 October 2026
Draft Partnership agreements developed (subject to final Council confirmation)	Early 2027
Consultation on Draft Long Term Plan	April 2027
Final Long Term Plan adopted	June 2027

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

The LTP is being developed using the Vision and Community Outcomes developed by Council in early 2026.

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

The LTP draft budget for all grants is **$769,020** per year. This includes:

- Multi-Year Community Grants;
- Single-Year Community Grants;
- Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grants; Mayoral Fund;
- Pan Charge Remission Fund; and
- Te Kōtuitui Grant.

Applications received (including other grants budgeted), total:

- **2027/28 -** $968,816
- **2028/29 -** $992,541
- **2029/30 -** $996,891

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. FINAL - Schedule of Decisions -Multi-year Community Grants

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Manisha Tritscher **Kaitohu Kaupapahere | Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

Schedule of Decisions - Multi-Year Community Grants Applications 2027/28-2029/30										
Draft Budget per year $769,020										
No.	**Group/Organisation**	**Description**	***Previous funding 2026/27***	**Amount requested 2027/28**	**Council Allocation 2027/28**	**Amount requested 2028/29**	**Council Allocation 2028/29**	**Amount requested 2029/30**	**Council Allocation 2029/30**	**Council comment**
1	Future Te Aroha	Support overheads incl. 50% of admin wages for afterschool activities, school holiday programmes and bookings, insurance, power and rates	*$ 6,000.00*	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		
2	United Matamata Sports Club Inc	Turf and field maintenance supplies for the upkeep of 3 rugby fields.	*$ 6,000.00*	$ 7,721.00		$ 7,721.00		$ 7,721.00		
3	Te Aroha Croquet Club	Maintain club's turf incl. mowing, irrigation, fertilisation, disease, insect and week control, turf treatments etc.	*$ 5,000.00*	$ 7,500.00		$ 7,500.00		$ 7,500.00		
4	Piako Waihou Catchment Trust	Partial wages	*$ 20,000.00*	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00		
5	Matamata Community Patrol	Ongoing patrol for community safety and wellbeing, aiding MM police	*$ 3,000.00*	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		
6	Sustainable Matamata	Event: Sustainability fun days to promote sustainable living	*Single-year*	$ 8,000.00		$ 8,000.00		$ 8,000.00		
7	Waikato Screen NZ - Regional Film Office	Delivery of regional film office, promotion of the district etc.	*Declined - subsequently funded through separate budget in 2026/27*	$ 37,600.00		$ 37,600.00		$ 37,600.00		
8	Hamilton and Waikato Tourism	Access to an established specialist team delivering domestic and Australian destination marketing and media; business event attraction; visitor sector and operator capability development; digital destination platforms promoting Matamata-Piako district and the mighty Waikato; destination management and regional tourism coordination; and regional and national visitor sector advocacy	*$ 125,000.00*	$ 150,000.00		$ 157,000.00		$ 165,375.00		
9	Te Aroha Business Association	$3000 will be used to cover Road Closure costs for the "Arts Under the Mountain festival. $1500 will be used to cover entertainment and advertising costs for the "Santa Parade" at Boyd Park	*Single-year*	$ 4,500.00		$ 4,725.00		$ 4,960.00		
10	Te Tamawai Trust	Partial wages	*New applicant*	$ 5,000.00		$ 8,000.00		$ 10,000.00		
11	Matamata Historical Society Incorporated	Partial wages	*$ 12,000.00*	$ 12,000.00		$ 12,000.00		$ 12,000.00		
12	Life Education Trust Waikato East	Ongoing operational costs incl. wages	*$ 15,000.00*	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00		
13	Te Aroha Community Patrol Incorporated	Petrol and running of vehicle	*$ 3,000.00*	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		
14	Tangata Marae Trust	Carnival rides	*$ -*	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		
15	Citizens Advice Bureau Te Aroha Incorporated	Ongoing operational costs	*$ 4,000.00*	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		
16	Te Aroha College	Prize giving items	*$ 300.00*	$ 375.00		$ 375.00		$ 375.00		
17	Te Aroha Domain Day Committee	Providing entertainment incl. face painters, story time and performances etc.	*Single-year*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
18	Te Aroha and District Museum Society Inc	Wages	*$ 17,500.00*	$ 21,000.00		$ 21,000.00		$ 21,000.00		
19	Te Aroha Group NZ Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	Ongoing operating costs	*Single-year*	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		
20	Keep Te Aroha Beautiful	Purchase 15 automated traps	*$ 3,000.00*	$ 3,000.00		$ 3,000.00		$ 3,000.00		
21	Campbell Park Charitable Trust	Ground maintenance	*$ 6,000.00*	$ 7,000.00		$ 7,000.00		$ 7,000.00		
22	Matamata Community Resource Trust (Railside by the Green)	Ongoing operating and admin costs	*$ 5,000.00*	$ 5,750.00		$ 5,750.00		$ 5,750.00		
23	Citizens Advice Bureau, Matamata	Ongoing operating costs, particularly the annual rent to MM Community Resource Trust	*$6,000.00*	$ 8,000.00		$ 8,000.00		$ 8,000.00		
24	Te Miro Mountain Bike Club	Maintenance of tracks ad facilities i.e. signage etc.	*$ 7,000.00*	$ 10,000.00		$ 12,500.00		$ 15,000.00		
25	Matamata Athletic Club	Line marking	*New applicant*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
26	Keep Matamata Beautiful	Potting mix and bluebell bulbs	*$2,000.00*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
27	Break the Circuit Trust	Weekly programme at Pitt St Chapel for venue hire, facilitator costs, materials etc.	*New applicant*	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00		
28	Morrinsville Historical Society	Ongoing operating costs, incl. wages and compliance costs	*$ 20,000.00*	$ 30,000.00		$ 30,000.00		$ 30,000.00		
29	Matamata Dramatic Society Inc.	Operating costs incl. insurance, power, inspection and compliance costs, lawn mowing and grounds maintenance etc.	*Single-year*	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		
30	Matamata Blue Light	Operating costs incl. annual blue edge and other youth development programmes i.e. fishing trips	*Single-year*	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		
31	Te Aroha BMX Club	Essential operating costs, ongoing track maintenance, and regulatory compliance	*$ 2,500.00*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
32	~~Te Aroha College Old Boys Rugby & Sports Club Inc~~	~~Requested $7,755.00~~ Ineligible	~~$ -~~			~~$ -~~		~~$ -~~		
33	Sport Waikato	Partial wages, resource for relationships $50,000 Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan $9,020	*$ 59,020.00*	$ 59,020.00		$ 59,020.00		$ 59,020.00		
34	Morrinsville Community Patrol Incorporated	Ongoing patrol for community safety and wellbeing, aiding MV police	*$ 3,000.00*	$ 3,000.00		$ 3,000.00		$ 3,000.00		
35	Matamata Chamber of Commerce Incorporated	Ongoing operating costs, incl. wages, utilities and insurance and running of the information centre	*$135,000.00*	$ 150,000.00		$ 156,000.00		$ 162,240.00		
36	Morrinsville Community House Inc	Help towards the administration costs of the Donny Van and Health Shuttle transport booking service.	*$ 5,000.00*	$ 6,000.00		$ 6,000.00		$ 6,000.00		

37	Creative Waikato	Ongoing operating costs, advisory services for placemaking, public and soft infrastructure	*$ 10,000.00*	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		
38	Te Aroha Community Dinner committee under Mountain View Church umbrella	Bi-Monthly Free Community Dinner - funds will be used towards food costs	*New applicant*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
39	Morrinsville College Board of Trustees	Prize giving	*$ 300.00*	$ 350.00		$ 350.00		$ 350.00		
40	Morrinsville RSA Bowling Club Inc	Help towards funding the greenskeeper	*$ -*	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00		
41	Waharoa Together Greatness	Playground equipment	*Single-year*	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		$ -		
42	Morrinsville Art Gallery Charitable Trust	Ongoing operating costs, incl. wages and rent	*$ 30,000.00*	$ 60,000.00		$ 60,000.00		$ 60,000.00		
43	Matamata Centennial Drive Development Society Inc	Redevelop and enhance area where a tree was felled due to storm	*$ 1,500.00*	$ 2,500.00		$ 2,500.00		$ 2,500.00		
44	Morrinsville Croquet Club Incorporated	Partial annual insurance costs	*New applicant*	$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		$ 2,000.00		
45	Morrinsville Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing operating costs, incl. wages, utilities and insurance and running of the information centre	*$ 135,000.00*	$ 140,000.00		$ 145,000.00		$ 150,000.00		
	Single-Year Community Grant		*$30,000*	$30,000		$30,000		$30,000		
	Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant		*$20,000*	$20,000		$20,000		$20,000		
	Pan Charge Remission Fund		*$7,500*	$7,500		$7,500		$7,500		
	Te Kōtuitui Grant		*$5,000*	$5,000		$5,000		$5,000		
	Mayoral Fund		*$15,000*	$15,000		$15,000		$15,000		
		TOTAL	*$ 724,620.00*	**$ 968,816.00**	$ -	**$ 992,541.00**	$ -	**$ 996,891.00**	$ -	

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.8 Iwi Aspirations

CM No.: 3232947

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formally receive the Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) Iwi Aspirations Statement as an expression of the aspirations of Te Manawhenua Forum, and seek agreement for a joint Council and TMF process to develop practical guidance for considering the aspirations across Council functions.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council is being asked to formally receive the Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) Iwi Aspirations Statement as an expression of the aspirations of Te Manawhenua Forum.

Feedback from Councillors has identified a need to develop a shared understanding of how the aspirations may be considered in practice across Council functions and decision-making processes.

It is therefore proposed that Council and Te Manawhenua Forum undertake a collaborative process to develop a practical framework that identifies existing alignment, opportunities, gaps, potential actions and measurable outcomes.

Any resulting framework and associated recommendations would be reported back to Council for consideration.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Council receive the Iwi Aspirations Statement as an expression of the aspirations of Te Manawhenua Forum.**
2. **Council support a joint Council and Te Manawhenua Forum process to develop a shared understanding of the practical applications of the aspirations.**
3. **Staff to develop a practical framework or template that identifies existing alignment, opportunities, gaps and measurable outcomes.**
4. **Staff to return to Council with findings and any proposed next steps for consideration.**

Horopaki | Background

Te Manawhenua Forum has developed an Iwi Aspirations Statement to articulate the aspirations of Tangata Whenua within the Matamata-Piako District.

The Statement has been the subject of Councillor review, workshop discussions and subsequent correspondence. During these discussions, Councillors generally acknowledged the importance of the Statement as a document expressing the aspirations of TMF.

Feedback highlighted that Councillors did not wish the Statement to be interpreted as a joint Council and iwi statement. It was also noted that attempting to amend wording within the document may not provide significant value given its purpose as an expression of iwi aspirations.

Workshop discussions noted that many existing Council and iwi relationships and engagement practices are functioning effectively, particularly at an operational level. However, there was recognition that documenting how aspirations may be considered across Council processes could improve consistency and provide continuity over time.

Subsequent discussions identified a preference to focus efforts on practical implementation rather than further refinement of aspiration wording.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Through workshop discussions and subsequent feedback, several themes emerged.

There is broad agreement that the Iwi Aspirations Statement should be recognised as the aspirations of Te Manawhenua Forum and that those aspirations should not be diluted or amended to align with Council's own vision or priorities.

Councillors also sought greater clarity regarding the practical implications of the aspirations, including:

- how aspirations may be considered in Council decision-making
- what Council is already doing that supports or aligns with the aspirations
- where potential opportunities or gaps may exist
- what actions may be realistic and achievable
- how progress could be measured

Several Councillors expressed a preference for focusing on practical implementation rather than further discussion regarding wording or terminology.

A collaborative process involving both Council and TMF would provide the most effective mechanism for developing a shared understanding of the aspirations and their practical application. This would also avoid staff interpreting the aspirations on behalf of TMF.

The proposed process would seek to identify:

- existing legislative obligations
- existing engagement and relationship practices
- opportunities for improvement
- practical actions and responsibilities
- measurable outcomes that could be considered by Council.

Feedback also indicated a preference for keeping the process relatively simple and avoiding unnecessary complexity.

Mōrearea | Risk

There are limited operational or financial risks associated with receiving the Aspirations Statement.

There is a relationship and reputational risk if expectations regarding the meaning, application or implementation of the aspirations are not clearly understood by either Council or Te Manawhenua Forum.

The proposed collaborative process mitigates this risk by providing an opportunity for Council and TMF to jointly develop a shared understanding of the aspirations and their practical application.

There is also a risk that aspirations may be interpreted inconsistently across different Council activities if guidance is not developed. The proposed framework would provide greater consistency and clarity for both Council staff and elected members.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Option One – Status Quo	
Description of option	
Receive the Aspirations statement and undertake no further work.	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
No additional staff time or resources required.	Limited understanding of practical applications.
Aspirations are formally acknowledged.	Potential for inconsistent interpretation across Council.
	Potential for staff who are currently undertaking processes to leave, and the processes are no longer carried out.

Option Two – Develop a Joint Council and TMF framework	
Description of option	
Receive the Aspirations statement and undertake a collaborative process with TMF to develop practical guidance and implementation measures.	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
Identifies existing alignment and opportunities.	Requires staff time and participant commitment.
Provides clarity for staff and elected members.	May require several workshops or engagement sessions.
Creates measurable outcomes.	
Supports stronger Council and iwi relationships.	

Recommended option

Option Two – Develop a joint Council and TMF Framework

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

Receiving the Aspirations Statement does not create any new statutory obligations for Council. The proposed framework development process would assist Council in identifying where statutory obligations, plans and engagement processes already align with the aspirations and where opportunities for improvement may exist.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low level of significance.

Policy Considerations

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 Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

The proposed process will require ongoing engagement between Council and Te Manawhenua Forum. Updates will be provided through existing governance and relationship channels. Any agreed framework or recommended actions will be formally reported back to Council and TMF for consideration.

No wider public consultation is proposed at this stage.

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:

- He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa | A place with people at its heart
- He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hanganga | A place to belong and create

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

The recommendations can be implemented with existing staff resources and operational budgets.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. AMENDED Iwi Aspiration Statement 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

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

Approved by	Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene **Pou Tūhono | Iwi Relationship Manager**	
	Ally van Kuijk **Hautū Kaitiaki, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Whakawhanake | Group Manager Kaitiaki, Partnerships and Develo**	

Introduction

With a shared commitment to building a strong and inclusive community, Te Manawhenua Forum members and the Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) have come together to develop an aspirational vision for the district's future. This document reflects the collective aspirations and priorities identified by Manawhenua representatives via the Forum to guide the long-term growth and development of the district while intending to honour the Te Tiriti.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is widely recognised as a founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand. It reflects an enduring relationship between iwi and the Crown and affirms the place of iwi as tangata whenua within this district.

While Te Tiriti was an agreement between Iwi and the Crown, its significance extends to everyone who calls this place home. It provides a foundation for how we can live and work together, recognising Manawhenua identity, authority, and connection to place, while creating space for all communities to belong and contribute.

In this context, Te Tiriti offers an opportunity to build a shared future grounded in respect, partnership, and active participation, where the aspirations of Manawhenua help guide the wellbeing of the whole district.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to highlight iwi aspirations as a written statement that outlines the goals and ideas of iwi who contributed to the vision for our statement.

Vision

A thriving and inclusive community in the Matamata-Piako District that values and incorporates Te Ao Māori, fostering strong partnerships and recognising the potential of Māori Economic Development for long-term district growth.

Aspirational Values

1. Tiriti-based Relationship

We envision a district where the relationship between Manawhenua and Council is founded on the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This relationship is characterised by mutual respect, open communication, and collaborative partnerships that support the interests of both parties.

We aim to maintain a strong and genuine partnership between the Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) and Manawhenua. Ensuring the obligations to Te Tiriti are acknowledged with a commitment to support, empower, and actively engage so iwi voices are heard and aspirations are considered in all Council processes, including decision-making.

We will allocate resources within the Council to support Manawhenua engagement priorities and foster collaborative relationships.

2. Puāwaitanga o Te Ao Māori - Cultural Vibrancy and Respect

Recognising the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, we aim to understand its implications and acknowledge our responsibilities today. Our district values and celebrates Māori culture, language, and heritage. We prioritise the encouragement and support of Te Reo Māori, creating an environment where it is spoken and appreciated.

We strive to integrate Mātauranga Māori and Tikanga Māori into everyday life, promoting and fostering a district-wide awareness and appreciation through initiatives, such as local history education in schools and cultural awareness programmes, including the upskilling for Councillors and staff.

Toi Māori (Māori art) holds a special place in our district. We encourage the presence of Tāmoko, Toi, Pūoro in public spaces, and celebrations that showcase Māori culture. It is our goal to ensure Māori expression an integral part of our district's identity.

3. Kaitiakitanga – Environmental Stewardship

Embed Mātauranga Māori where appropriate into MPDC's environmental strategy (including climate resilience) and planning processes, ensuring that the district's landscapes, parks, reserves and infrastructure reflect shared environmental values.

Collaborate with Manawhenua on sustainable planning, water management, consents, waste management, and other initiatives that protect and enhance the environment.

4. Tū Rangatiratanga – Meaningful Representation

Ensure that Manawhenua perspectives and priorities are clearly included in Council strategies, policies, and decision-making processes. Explore opportunities for strengthened partnership approaches, including co-governance arrangements (where appropriate) and continue to build Manawhenua representation within governance structures.

Build relationships with major stakeholders within the district to support shared outcomes for the district.

5. Pakihi Whakawhanaketanga – Economic Development

Support iwi-driven economic development as a meaningful contributor to the growth and prosperity of the Matamata-Piako District. Encourage developers to engage with Manawhenua, recognise historical context, and contribute positive outcomes for Manawhenua.

Recognise and appropriately resource Manawhenua for their perspectives and expertise, ensuring a mutually beneficial relationship.

6. Ngākau Pūmau - Act in Good Faith

Act in good faith in all interactions, doing what we say we're going to do, and supporting transparency and trust between the Council and Manawhenua.

Conclusion

This aspirational vision represents a shared commitment to support a district that embraces cultural vibrancy, respect and inclusivity. By working together, we can strengthen the long-term prosperity, well-being, and sustainable development of the Matamata-Piako District, nurturing a community where the aspirations of Manawhenua and the wider district are bought together.

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.9 Reclassification of Haig Road Reserve

CM No.: 3238531

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

(a) consider submissions on the proposal to reclassify Haig Road Reserve, a Recreation Reserve, as a Local Purpose Reserve; and

(b) to decide on the proposed reserve classification.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Haig Road Reserve is currently classified as a Recreation Reserve and is an undeveloped reserve used mainly for grazing purposes. Part of the Reserve, along with adjacent areas of Local Purpose Reserve (Road), has been identified as a future road in the Eldonwood South Structure Plan.

The remainder of the Reserve has been identified as a suitable site for stormwater infrastructure to accommodate planned residential development in Eldonwood South, and to address existing stormwater issues on Haig Road. The proposal would require modification to the Reserve to create a stormwater basin and other stormwater soakage devices. Once constructed, it is intended that the Reserve would serve a dual purpose of accommodating stormwater and providing an area for passive recreation.

To provide for this dual purpose, reclassification of the remainder of the Reserve to a Local Purpose Reserve (Stormwater and Recreation) is required.

On 22 April 2026, Council resolved to consult the Commissioner and give public notice about the proposal, as required under the Reserves Act 1977. Consultation with the Commissioner was completed and the proposal was publicly notified on 25 August 2026. Submissions closed on 28 September 2026. No submissions were received. There is no requirement for a hearing as no objections were received. Council must now decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposed reclassification.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report is received;

2. Council resolves to reclassify Haig Road Reserve to Local Purpose Reserve in accordance with the following purposes:

i. For that part of the Reserve shaded yellow in the plan attached as Attachment A of the report- "road purposes".

ii. For that part of the Reserve shaded grey in the plan attached as Attachment A of the report – "stormwater and recreation purposes";

3. Council authorises Staff to undertake the necessary administrative actions to give effect to the decision, including notification of the decision in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Horopaki | Background

Haig Road Reserve is currently classified as a Recreation Reserve and is an undeveloped reserve used mainly for grazing purposes.

Part of the Reserve, along with adjacent areas of Local Purpose Reserve (Road), has been identified as a future road in the Eldonwood South Structure Plan. To enable the future dedication and formation of this indicative road, the portion of the Recreation Reserve over which the road is intended to go must first be reclassified as a Local Purpose Reserve (Road). A plan of the proposed road, including a small portion of Haig Road Reserve, shaded in yellow, is shown on the plans attached as Appendix A to this report.

The remainder of the Reserve has been identified as a suitable site for stormwater infrastructure to accommodate planned residential development in Eldonwood South, and to address existing stormwater issues on Haig Road. The proposal would require modification to the Reserve to create a stormwater basin and other stormwater soakage devices. Once constructed, it is intended that the Reserve would serve a dual purpose of accommodating stormwater and providing an area for passive recreation. To provide for this dual purpose, reclassification of the remainder of the Reserve to a Local Purpose Reserve (Stormwater and Recreation) is required. The delegated authority to make this decision rests with Council as Administering Body of the Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and this power has not been further delegated to a committee or Council Staff.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

On 22 April 2026, Council resolved to consult the Commissioner and give public notice about the proposal, as required under the Reserves Act 1977.

Consultation with the Commissioner was undertaken. This process confirmed that the land is not regarded as ‘Crown derived’ and that Council has the authority to reclassify the land.

The proposal was publicly notified on 25 August 2026 by placing a public notice in the *Waikato Times*. The notice was repeated on the Council website.

The period to receive submissions closed on 28 September 2026.

No submissions were received.

As no submissions were received, there are none for Council to consider, and there is no need for a Hearing.

Council must now decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposed reclassification.

A resolution is required to record Council’s decision.

If Council decides to proceed with the reclassification, a notice will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette* to formally give effect to the decision.

Once it has been reclassified, Council may consider dedicating the road.

Mōrearea | Risk

Risks have been minimised by consulting with the Commissioner and publicly notifying the proposal in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

There is a risk that some people may not agree with the proposed reclassification or future use or development of the reserves. No submissions were received which suggests public interest in the proposal is low.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Option One – Status Quo	
Description of option	
Not proceeding with the proposal to reclassify the Reserve.	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
No additional costs.	Council would be unable to dedicate the road.
	Residential development would be delayed.
	Stormwater issues would remain unresolved.

Option Two – <Insert Option>	
Description of option	
To proceed with the proposal to reclassify the Reserve.	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
The proposed use of the reserve would align with its classification.	Administrative costs associated with public notice in the *Gazette*.
Council would be able to dedicate the road.	
Residential development would not be significantly delayed.	
Stormwater issues could be mitigated.	

Recommended option
The recommended action is to proceed with the proposal to reclassify the Reserve.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations
Reserves Act 1977

Reclassification
Council may, pursuant to its delegation from the Minister of Conservation, change the classification of all or part of the Reserve by publishing a notice in the Gazette under section 24(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. However, before it can reclassify the purpose of a Reserve, it must first:

1. Notify the Commissioner in writing of the proposal to reclassify the Reserve under Section 24(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977.

2. Publicly notify the proposed reclassification pursuant to Sections 24(2)(b) and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977. Section 119(1)(b) requires publication of the notice once in a newspaper circulating in the area where the Reserve is located, and elsewhere as the administering body decides.

3. Allow one month from the date of public notification for any objections to be made (Section 24(2)(c)).

4. Hold a hearing if any objector requests to be heard Section 24(2)(c) and 120 of the Reserves Act) and in any event, consider any objections received and make a decision on the proposed reclassification (pursuant to the ministerial delegation of the decision-making power in Section 24(2)(e)).

The requirements have been addressed as follows:

Step	Action	Legislative reference	Key requirement	Action undertaken
1	Notify the Commissioner	Section 24(1)(b)	Provide written notice to the Commissioner of the proposal to reclassify the reserve.	The Commissioner was notified in writing on 19 May 2026. A Land Status Check was undertaken which confirmed the land is not 'Crown derived' and that Council has the authority to reclassify it. A formal response from the Commissioner was received in August 2026.
2	Public Notification	Sections 24(2)(b) and 119	Publicly notify the proposed reclassification. The notice must be published once in a newspaper circulating in the area where the reserve is located, and by any other method the administering body considers appropriate.	The proposal was publicly notified on 25 August 2026 by placing a public notice in the *Waikato Times*. The notice was repeated on the Council website.
3	Receive submissions	Section 24(2)(c)	Allow a period of one month from the date of public notification for objections to be submitted.	The period to receive submissions closed on 28 September 2026.
4	Consider submissions and make decision	Sections 24(2)(c), 24(2)(e) and 120	Hold a hearing if requested by any objector. Consider all objections received and make a decision on the proposed reclassification under	No submissions were received. As no submissions were received, there are none for Council to consider, and there

			the delegated decision-making authority.	is no need for a Hearing. Council must now decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposed reclassification.

If Council decides to proceed with the reclassification, a notice must be published in the New Zealand Gazette to give effect to the decision (Attachment C).

Dedication
Section 111 of the Reserves Act 1977 provides that any land held as Local Purpose (Road) Reserve can be dedicated as road by resolution of the local authority and by lodging the resolution with the Registrar-General of Land.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision-making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low level of significance.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with Reserves Act requirements.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above. This issue is assessed as having a low level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	The proposal was publicly notified in accordance with Reserves Act requirements.

Policy Considerations

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 Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

The Commissioner (i.e. Department of Conservation) was consulted in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

The proposal was publicly notified on 25 August 2026 by placing a public notice in the *Waikato Times* (Attachment B). The notice was repeated on the Council website.

The period to receive submissions closed on 28 September 2026.

No submissions were received.

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:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO | OUR PLACE</td><td colspan="2">MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI | STRATEGIC DIRECTION</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA | OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>  </td><td>  </td></tr>
<tr><td>He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa | A place with people at its heart</td><td>He wāhi puawaitanga |
A place to thrive</td><td>He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao |
A place that embraces our environment</td><td>He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga | A place to belong and create</td></tr>
</table>

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

The remaining work can be funded from existing budgets.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Attachment A - Scheme Plan

B⇩. Attachment B - Public Notice

C⇩. Attachment C - Draft Gazette Notice

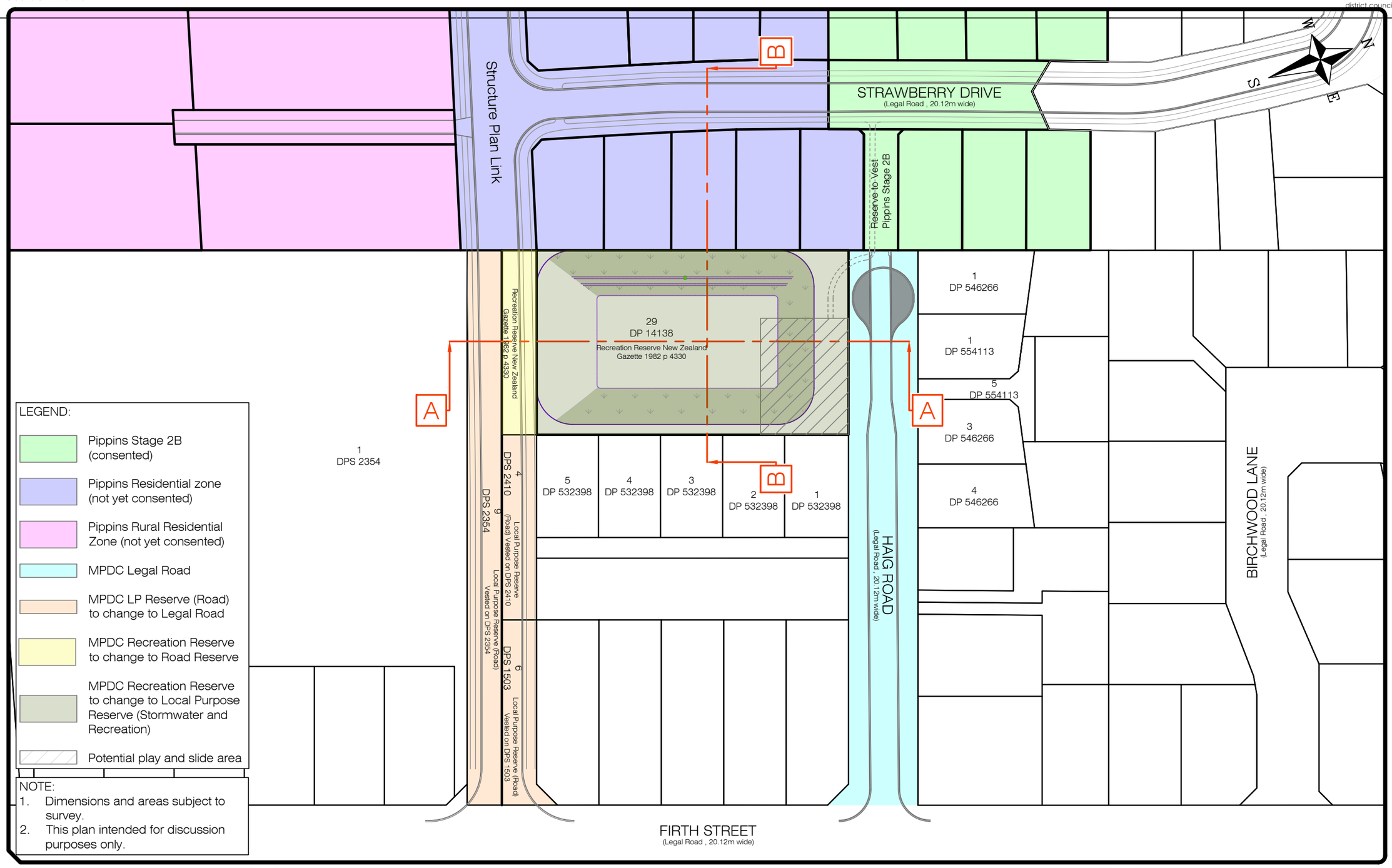
Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Mark Naudé **Kaiārahi Mahere Paparēhia me ngā Taiwhanga | Parks & Facilities Planning Team Leader**	

Approved by	Susanne Kampshof **Pou Rawa me ngā Kaupapa | Assets and Projects Manager**	
	Fiona Vessey **Hautū Hanganga me ngā Wāhi Hapori | Group Manager Community Places and Infrastructure**	

Item 7.9

Attachment A



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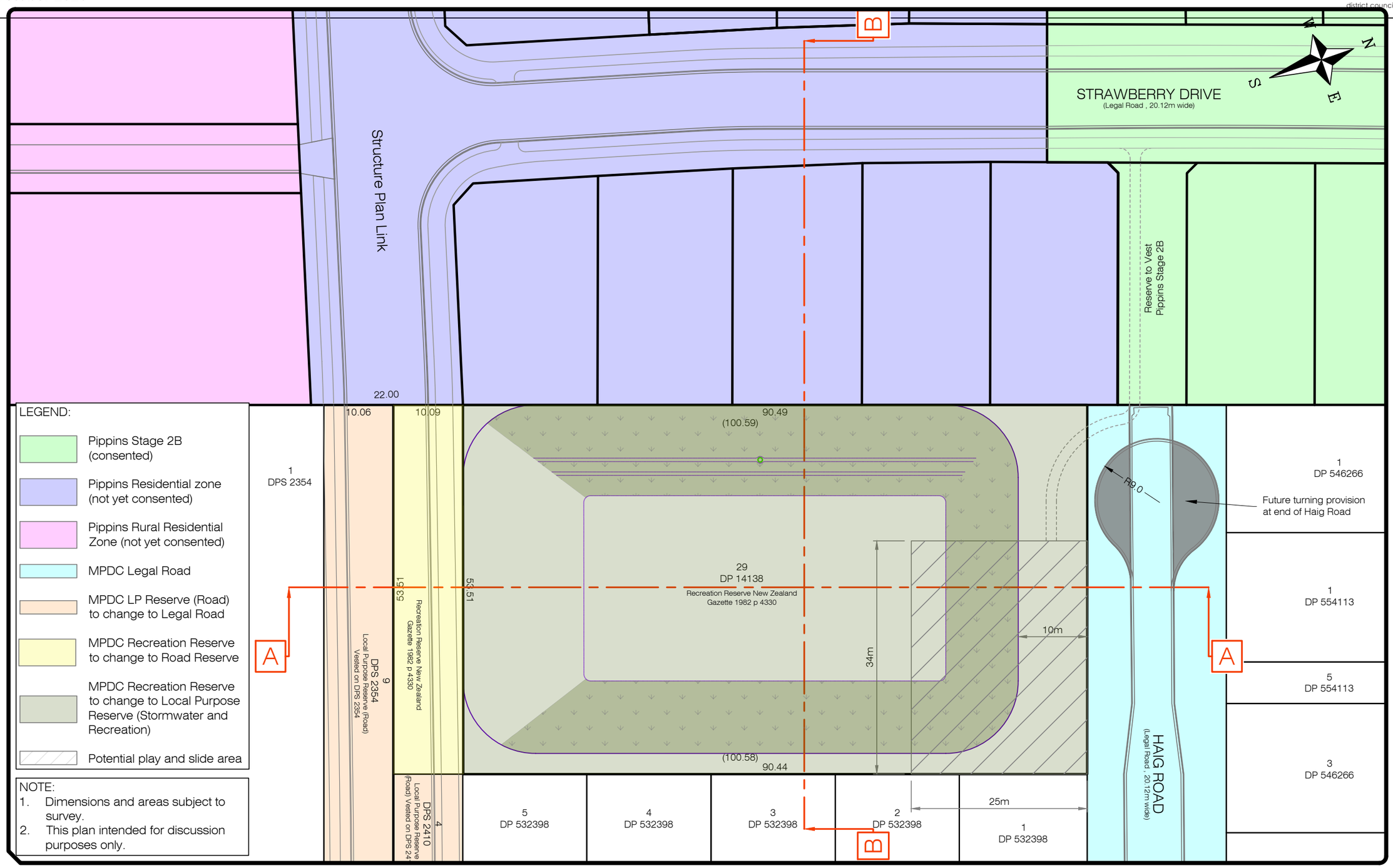
MPDC ROAD AND RESERVE LEGALISATION AREAS
LOT 29 DP 14138, LOT 4 DPS 2410, LOT 6 DPS 1503 AND LOT 9 DPS 2354

I:\Drawings\19over3060\3069 Bennett Homes Ltd\MPDC Reserve Legalisation\3069 - res01 RevA.dwg

CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:
Jan 2026	3069	@A3 1:1000

DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
S Goundar	3069 - res01a	A



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SURVEYORS LIMITED

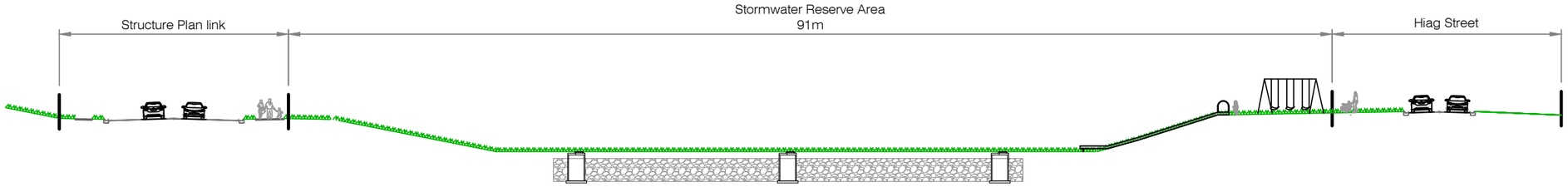
MPDC ROAD AND RESERVE LEGALISATION AREAS
LOT 29 DP 14138, LOT 4 DPS 2410, LOT 6 DPS 1503 AND LOT 9 DPS 2352

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

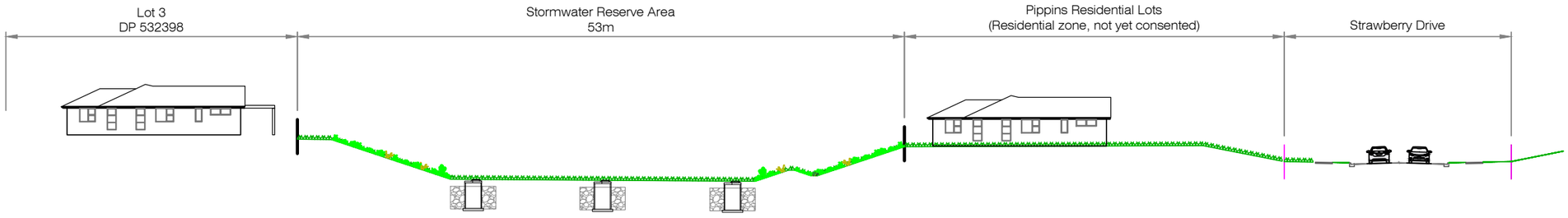
DATE:	REF:	SCALE:
Jan 2026	3069	@A3 1:500

DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
S Goundar	3069 - res01b	A



Indicative subsurface stormwater soakage/storage, Rock filled trench with infiltration tunnels. Reserve to remain dry in ten year one hour rain event.

SECTION A-A



Indicative subsurface stormwater soakage/storage, Rock filled trench with infiltration tunnels. Reserve to remain dry in ten year one hour rain event.

SECTION B-B

NOTE:
1. Dimensions and areas subject to survey.
2. This plan intended for discussion purposes only.

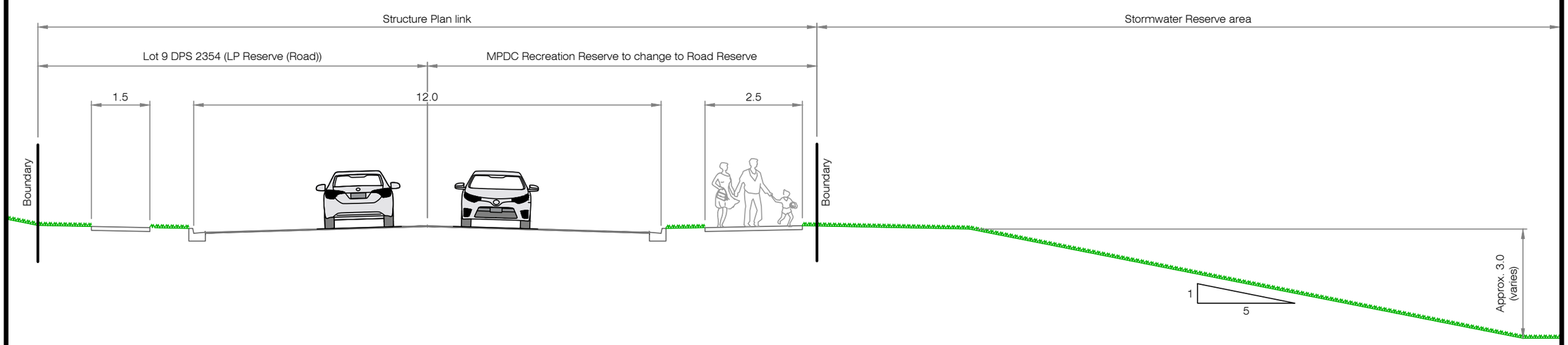
BARR HARRIS SURVEYORS LIMITED

MPDC LOT 29 DP 14138
RECREATION RESERVE LEGALISATION

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:	DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
Feb 2026	3069	@A3 1:400	S Goundar	3069 - res02	A



ENLARGED DETAIL THROUGH SECTION A-A

NOTE:
1. Dimensions and areas subject to survey.
2. This plan intended for discussion purposes only.

BARR HARRIS
SURVEYORS LIMITED

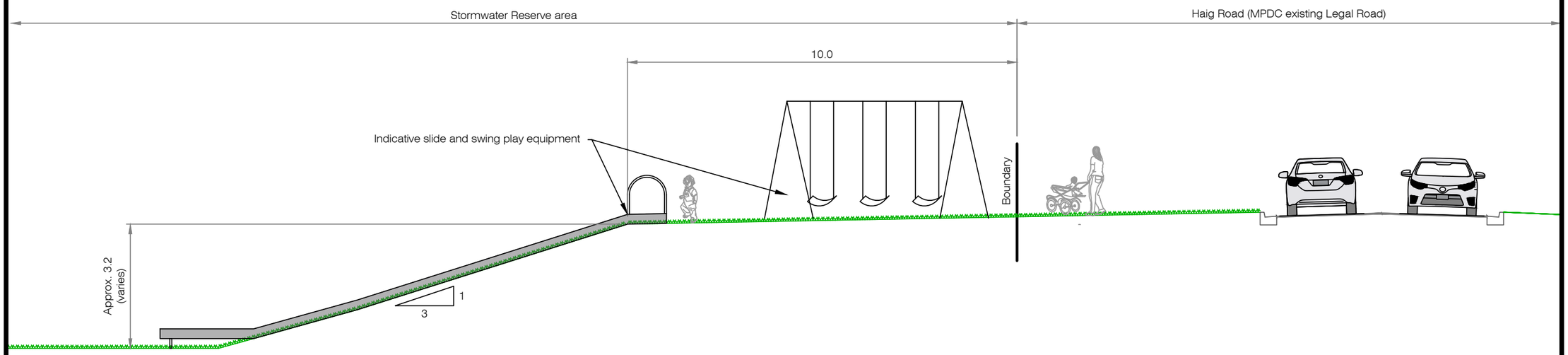
MPDC LOT 29 DP 14138
RECREATION RESERVE LEGALISATION

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:
Feb 2026	3069	@A3 1:100

DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
S Goundar	3069 - res02	A



ENLARGED DETAIL THROUGH SECTION A-A

NOTE:
1. Dimensions and areas subject to survey.
2. This plan intended for discussion purposes only.

BARR HARRIS
SURVEYORS LIMITED

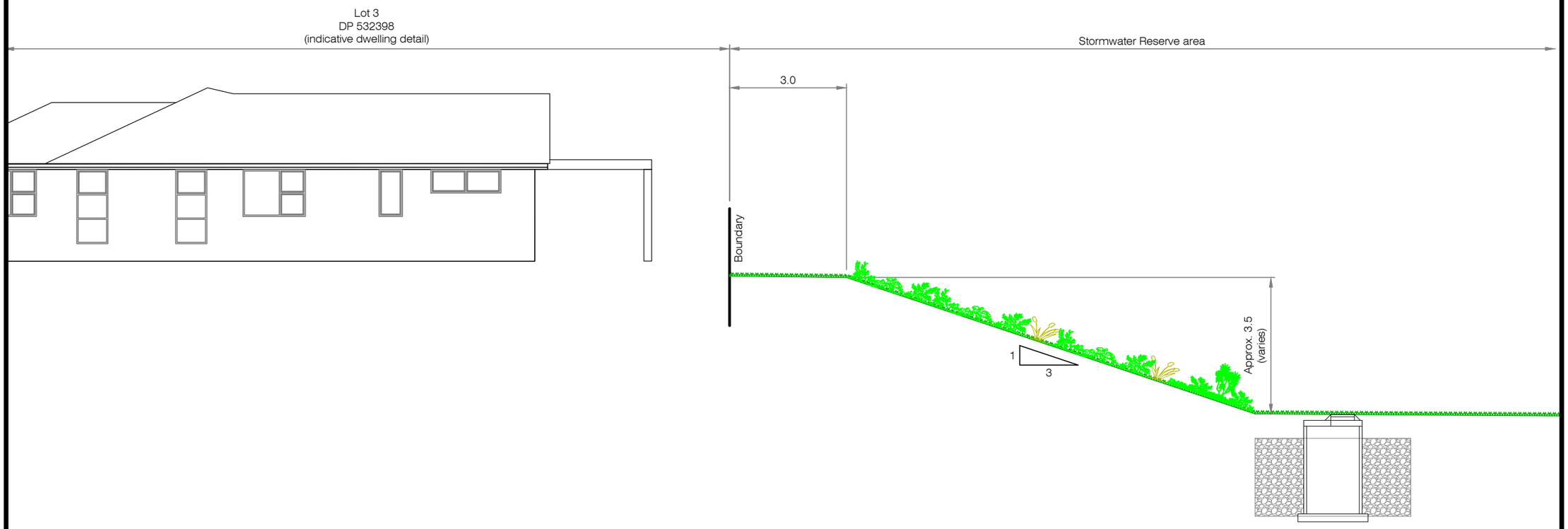
MPDC LOT 29 DP 14138
RECREATION RESERVE LEGALISATION

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:
Feb 2026	3069	@A3 1:100

DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
S Goundar	3069 - res02	A



ENLARGED DETAIL THROUGH SECTION B-B

NOTE:
1. Dimensions and areas subject to survey.
2. This plan intended for discussion purposes only.

BARR HARRIS
SURVEYORS LIMITED

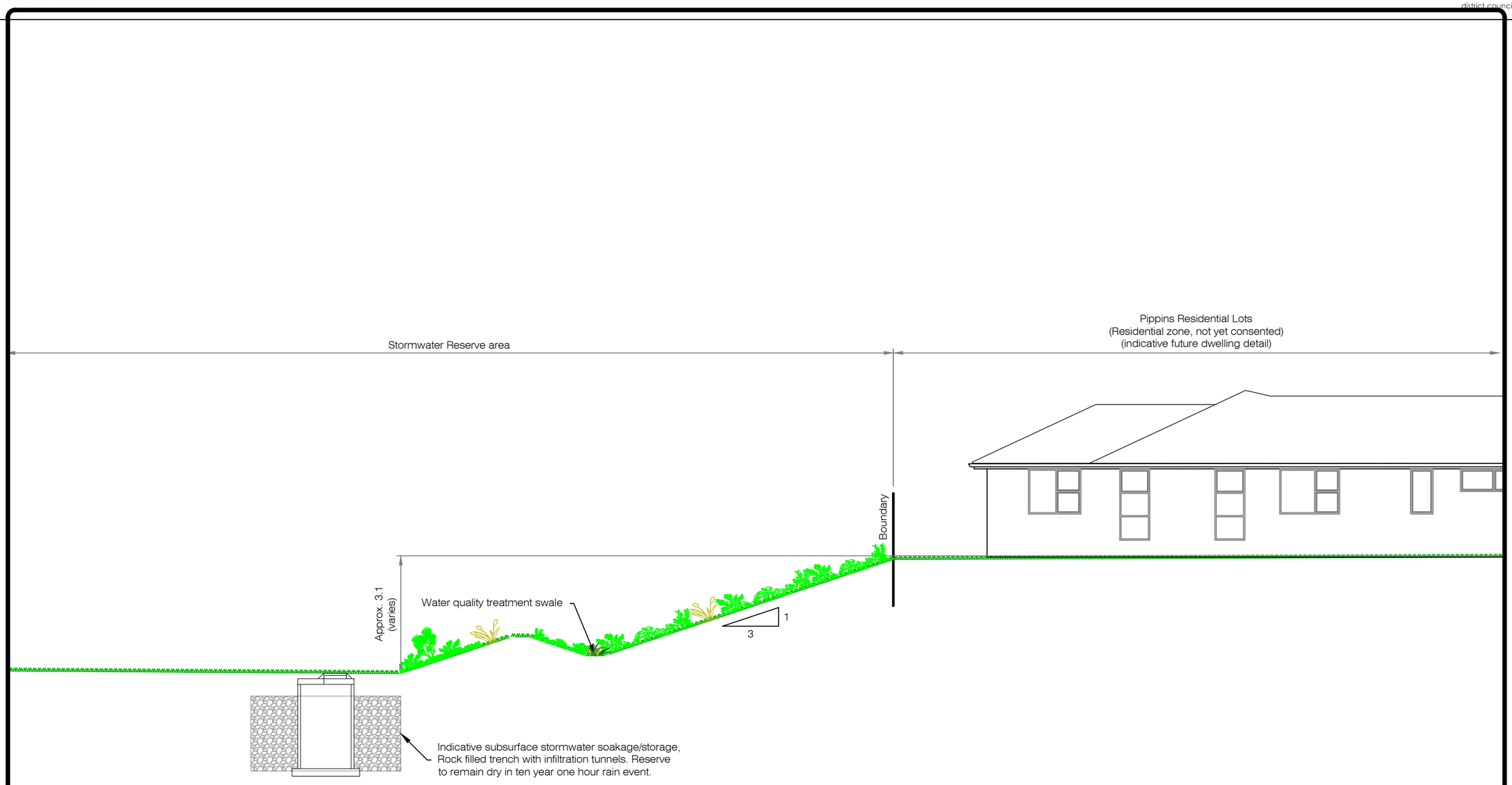
MPDC LOT 29 DP 14138
RECREATION RESERVE LEGALISATION

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:
Feb 2026	3069	@A3 1:100

DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
S Goundar	3069 - res05	A



ENLARGED DETAIL THROUGH SECTION B-B

NOTE:
1. Dimensions and areas subject to survey.
2. This plan intended for discussion purposes only.

BARR HARRIS SURVEYORS LIMITED

MPDC LOT 29 DP 14138
RECREATION RESERVE LEGALISATION

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CLIENT: MPDC
HAIG ROAD - MATAMATA

DATE:	REF:	SCALE:	DRAWING BY:	DRAWING NUMBER:	REV:
Feb 2026	3069	@A3 1:100	S Goundar	3069 - res06	A

te kaunihera ā-rohe o matamata-piako district council

Public Notice – Proposed Reserve Reclassification, Matamata

Pursuant to section 24(2)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, Matamata-Piako District Council, as administering body for the recreation reserve located at 7 Haig Road, Matamata, hereby gives public notice of its intention to reclassify the reserve as Local Purpose (Road) and Local Purpose (Stormwater and Recreation) as per the schedule below:

Name of Reserve	Legal Description	Area (m^2)	Current Classification	Proposed Classification
Haig Road Reserve / Eldonwood Reserve	Lot 29 DP 14138	5,382.04	Recreation Reserve	Local Purpose (Road) (539.92 m2 area adjacent to existing Local Purpose (Road) reserve Local Purpose (Stormwater and Recreation) (balance of the reserve comprising approximately 4,842.12 m2

Reason for reclassification: The proposed reclassification of part of the reserve as Local Purpose (Road) is to facilitate a future road link from Firth Road as identified in the Eldonwood South Structure Plan in the District Plan.

The remainder of the reserve is intended to fulfil a stormwater function, while also continuing to serve a recreation purpose. The reclassification to Local Purpose (Stormwater and Recreation) will more accurately reflect the proposed dual purpose of the reserve.

Submissions / Objections

Any person wishing to object or make a submission on the proposal may do so in writing to:

Matamata-Piako District Council

PO Box 266

Te Aroha 3342

Attention: Parks & Facilities Planning Team

Or Email: info@mpdc.govt.nz

Submissions must be received no later than **5pm** on **28 September 2026**

For further information or plans, please visit www.mpdc.govt.nz

Privacy Statement

Information provided in submissions will be held and used by Matamata-Piako District Council for the purposes of this process. Submitters' information may be subject to release under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

M Te Wiata
Chief Executive

Land Notices

Reclassification of Reserve Land

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, acting under delegation from the Minister of Conservation and a resolution passed at its ordinary meeting on 28 October 2026, Matamata-Piako District Council hereby:

Pursuant to section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977, changes the classification of the reserve described in the Schedule from recreation reserve to local purpose reserve.

Schedule

Legal Description	Area (m^2)	New Classification
Lot 29 DP 14138	539.92	Local Purpose (Road)
	4,842.12	Local Purpose (Stormwater and Recreation)

Dated at Te Aroha this _____ day of _____2026.

M Te Wiata
Chief Executive

(CM#3238531)

DRAFT

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.10 Submission on Waikato Waters Ltd Proposed Significance and Engagement Policy 2026

CM No.: 3241115

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

For Council to review and approve the draft submission to Waikato Waters Ltd on their proposed Significance and Engagement Policy.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Waikato Waters Ltd is consulting on its proposed Significance and Engagement Policy. A draft submission will be circulated separately.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The report be received.**
2. **Council approves the submission to Waikato Waters Ltd on its proposed Significance and Engagement Policy, subject to any amendments, and delegates authority to the Mayor to sign the submission.**

Horopaki | Background

Waikato Waters Ltd is required to develop a Significance and Engagement Policy as a water provider under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and is consulting on the policy until 30 October 2026.

The draft Significance and Engagement Policy is attached. Further information is available on the Waikato Waters Ltd website: https://www.waikatowaters.co.nz/en/about-us/have-your-say

The Significance and Engagement Policy sets out when and how Waikato Waters Ltd will seek input from customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations and stakeholders before making big decisions.

Council staff, from the Policy and Governance and Assets and Projects teams developed a draft submission for Council review at the 21 October 2026 workshop which was open to the public. The draft submission will be circulated separately.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The draft submission supports the overall direction of the proposed policy but recommends amendments that address the following:

- clarify the distinction between strategic and critical assets, including strategic land interests;
- give appropriate weight to impacts on individual districts and local communities;
- explain how an overall significance rating is reached when individual criteria receive different ratings;

- recognise landscape, heritage, recreational, cultural and wider community values;
- update references to Māori engagement arrangements and acknowledging other applicable legislation;
- written significance assessments and engagement reports should be publicly available and provided to relevant shareholding councils for high-significance matters wherever practicable;
- assess development agreements case by case rather than automatically treating them as low significance; and
- clarify responsibilities where shareholding councils undertake engagement for, or jointly with, Waikato Waters Ltd, including reporting back on decisions and feedback.

The draft submission will be circulated separately.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Council can approve the draft submission to Waikato Waters Ltd or can seek amendments to the draft submission. Providing a submission will ensure Council's feedback is provided on the policy.

Council can decide not to make a submission on the proposed Significance and Engagement Policy.

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

Waikato Waters Ltd is required to develop a Significance and Engagement Policy under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. Waikato Waters Ltd is required to consult in line with this Act and do not have the same requirements as Council under the Local Government Act 2002.

The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 sections 35 to 37 set out what a water organisation must include in its Significance and Engagement Policy, and that it must engage with shareholding Councils, consumers, any communities identified by shareholders (for example iwi) when preparing its first Significance and Engagement Policy.

Waikato Waters Ltd staff contacted Council staff when the Policy was available for public consultation and were invited to provide a submission and promote the consultation to our communities.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low level of significance.

Policy Considerations

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

A⇩. Waikato Waters Ltd Proposed Significance and Engagement Policy 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard **Kaitohu Kaupapahere | Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team Leader**	
	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

Waikato Waters

Proposed Significance and Engagement Policy

October 2026

Purpose

As a council-controlled water services organisation, we put forward proposals and make decisions that can affect public health, environmental outcomes and community wellbeing. The purpose of this policy is to ensure we engage externally on our proposals and decisions in a manner that is proportionate to their significance.

Not every proposal or decision requires public consultation. However, where a proposal or decision may have material consequences, we will engage in a way that reflects the significance of that proposal or decision.

We recognise that effective engagement leads to better decision-making. Customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations and stakeholders often have valuable insights into local conditions, service needs, and future aspirations. Meaningful engagement helps us to understand these perspectives and, where appropriate, incorporate them into our decision-making.

Through this process, engagement helps to build trust, improve understanding, and strengthen relationships with the communities we serve.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (the Act) and sets out:

- our general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions
- our criteria and procedures for determining the significance of proposals and decisions
- our general approach to engaging communities, including iwi, hapū, and other Māori organisations within our service area, and when engagement will be undertaken by our shareholders
- how we will respond to community preferences regarding engagement on decisions, including the forms of engagement that may be preferred.

The purpose of the policy, as set out in s.35(3) of the Act, is to:

- enable us, along with our customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations and stakeholders, to identify the degree of significance attached to issues, proposals, water services infrastructure, decisions and activities
- enable us to develop a flexible and locally appropriate approach to engagement which recognises and accommodates the preferences and expectations of our customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations and stakeholders
- provide clarity about how, when and by whom people can expect to be engaged on decisions
- inform us at the start of the decision-making process about the extent of engagement required, who will be involved, and the method of engagement.

Scope

This policy applies to proposals and decisions where there is or likely to be an impact on the community, environment or infrastructure within our area of operation.

There are circumstances where engagement is not required or is not practical. For example, where proposals or decisions are:

- routine or operational
- urgent or required in an emergency
- required to meet legal obligations necessary to protect health, safety or infrastructure
- commercially sensitive
- situations where we already have a clear understanding of community views from recent engagement on the same issue.

In these circumstances, we will act in a manner consistent with our statutory obligations, good governance practices and commercial responsibilities.

Policy statement

We will assess the significance of our proposals and decisions; and we will undertake timely engagement proportionate to their significance. We will ensure that the views of affected parties are understood, considered and reported on.

Principles

We recognise that engagement is broader than consultation.

Consultation is a formal process used to seek feedback on a specific proposal. Engagement includes a wider range of activities that help build understanding, share information and maintain relationships with communities and stakeholders.

We will apply the following engagement principles:

- **early:** where practicable, before key decisions have been finalised
- **genuine:** where there is a real opportunity for feedback to influence outcomes
- **transparent:** with clear information about the decision, its purpose and any constraints
- **inclusive:** involving those most affected by a proposal
- **proportionate:** matched to the significance of the matter.

Policy requirements

General approach to assessing significance

Significance is a measure of the importance of a proposal or decision and its likely impact on customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations, stakeholders and Waikato Waters.

Assessing significance helps determine the level of analysis, governance oversight and community engagement that is appropriate for a particular matter.

Significance is not determined solely by financial value. A proposal or decision may be significant because of its effect on a community, the environment or infrastructure.

Similarly, the significance of a proposal or decision may vary between communities. A matter that appears relatively minor from a regional perspective may be of considerable importance to a particular town, neighbourhood, catchment, iwi or customer group. We will consider both regional and local impacts when assessing significance.

Criteria for assessing significance

Proposals and decisions will be assessed against each of the criteria below and rated as low, medium, or high significance. Where the overall significance is assessed as medium or high, a written assessment will be prepared outlining the basis for the rating and the proposed engagement approach.

- **Affects strategic assets** including infrastructure critical to the delivery of safe, reliable and sustainable water services.
- **Affects consumers and communities** including impacts on service delivery, customer experience, network reliability, growth capacity or community wellbeing.
- **Affects levels of service** including material increases, reductions or changes to service performance.
- **Has financial consequences** including significant expenditure, borrowing requirements, long-term contractual obligations or impacts on consumer charges.
- **Affects environmental outcomes** including the health of waterways, ecosystems and receiving environments.
- **Affects Māori interests** including iwi and hapū interests, settlements, agreements and obligations.
- **Creates risks** including risks to public health, service continuity, environmental outcomes or organisational performance.
- **Generates public interest** including matters likely to attract sustained public attention or concern.
- **Affects strategic direction** including decisions that materially influence our long-term ability to deliver on our obligations and strategic objectives.
- **Is difficult to reverse** if circumstances change in the future.

What is a significant proposal or decision?

While each proposal or decision must be considered on its own merits, significant proposals or decisions are likely to include:

- major changes to levels of service
- significant infrastructure investments
- decisions relating to strategic water assets
- long-term contractual commitments of strategic importance
- major changes to customer charging approaches
- decisions with substantial environmental consequences
- decisions that materially affect Māori interests or community outcomes.

There is no single financial threshold that automatically determines significance. We must consider the overall consequences of a proposal or decision and the degree to which people may reasonably expect an opportunity to be informed about, contribute to, or influence that decision.

SPECTRUM OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low significance

People will be informed of decisions.

Likely to include decisions which:

- have limited financial impacts
- result in minimal change to levels of service
- are consistent with existing policies, plans or standards
- are of little public interest.

Medium significance

People can expect opportunities to provide feedback before decisions are made. Their input may help to shape the proposal.

Likely to include decisions which:

- have moderate financial impacts
- result in noticeable but not substantial changes to levels of service
- may deviate from existing policies or plans in ways that are material but not substantial
- are expected to be of interest to specific communities or stakeholder groups.

High significance

People will have the opportunity to participate in formal consultation.

Likely to include decisions which:

- have significant financial impacts
- result in major changes to levels of service or infrastructure
- represent a substantial departure from existing policies, plans or standards
- are of significant public interest
- may have long-term impacts on communities, the environment or taonga.

Additional statutory considerations

Contracts

The Act places obligations on us in respect of significant contracts. When determining whether a proposed contract is significant, we will consider:

- the significance criteria in this policy
- whether the proposed contract is of high value relative to our revenue
- whether the contract would create a public-private partnership
- the impact on our ability to meet statutory obligations.

A contract will not ordinarily be considered significant where the proposal or project to which the contract relates has already been approved through the Water Services Strategy.

Where a contract is determined to be significant, we will undertake consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Joint water service provider arrangements

We must assess whether a proposed joint water service provider arrangement is significant using the criteria in this policy.

Where such an arrangement is determined to be significant, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Act.

Strategic water services assets

We will comply with all statutory requirements concerning strategic water services assets, including any requirements to consult where ownership or control of a strategic asset may be transferred, received or otherwise materially affected.

Broadly, under the Act, strategic water services assets are defined as assets that are necessary for us to:

- meet our regulatory requirements, or
- maintain our capacity to achieve the outcomes set out in the Water Services Strategy.

We consider water supply networks and wastewater networks to be strategic water services assets.

In general, each network constitutes the strategic asset, rather than the individual components within it. However, a component within a network may constitute a strategic asset if it is integral to the operation of the network. For example, a water treatment plant that supplies an entire network.

Changes to levels of service

When considering a proposed change to levels of service, we will assess the significance using the criteria in this policy.

Approach to engaging with communities

We are committed to engaging with our customers, communities, iwi, hapū, other Māori organisations and stakeholders in ways that are practical, accessible and proportionate to the significance of the matter being considered.

We recognise that different communities may have different interests, expectations and preferences for engagement. The methods we use will depend on the significance of the proposal or decision, who may be affected, and the opportunities available for community input to influence the decision.

Engagement may be undertaken directly by us, through our shareholding councils, or through a coordinated approach where this is considered the most effective way to engage affected communities.

The engagement approach adopted in a particular situation will depend on the circumstances. We may choose to undertake a higher level of engagement where this is considered beneficial or appropriate.

Where engagement is undertaken, we will communicate:

- the purpose of the engagement
- what aspects of the proposal are open to influence
- any legislative, regulatory, financial or operational constraints
- how feedback will be considered
- the next steps in the decision-making process.

Approach to engaging with iwi, hapū and other Māori organisations

We recognise iwi and hapū as strategic partners in water services and commit to engaging early where decisions may affect their taonga, interests, settlements, agreements (for example, joint management agreements) and obligations (for example Te Ture Whaimana).

We will consider cultural impacts in decision-making and document how the views of iwi, hapū and other Māori organisations have been considered.

Approach to engaging with our shareholders

We will maintain constructive relationships with our six shareholding councils.

Shareholders play an important governance role and have responsibilities under Act in relation to certain significant decisions.

We will:

- keep shareholders informed of significant issues and emerging risks
- engage early on matters likely to require shareholder approval
- support alignment between the Water Services Strategy and shareholder expectations
- work collaboratively with shareholders where community engagement responsibilities overlap.

Nothing in this policy limits the statutory responsibilities of either Waikato Waters or our shareholders.

Reporting back

Where engagement is undertaken, we will, where appropriate:

- communicate the outcome of the engagement process
- summarise key themes raised
- explain how feedback was considered
- communicate the final decision and the reasons for that decision.

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Tier 2	Ensures policy requirements are implemented
People Leaders	Ensure staff compliance
All Staff	Follow policy
Governance	Maintains register and publication

Compliance

As non-compliance with this policy may result in legal consequences for Waikato Waters, this policy must be adhered to.

Definitions

Significance	The degree of importance of a proposal or decision based on its impact.
Consultation	A process generally required by statute or triggered by the Significance and Engagement Policy framework. This process is generally timebound, transactional, and asks for feedback on a proposal to enable citizen participation. This process aids and informs decision-making.
Engagement	Communication to inform or seek input from stakeholders.

Legislation and related documents

Legislation

- Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

Documents

- Attachment 1: Process to apply the Significance and Engagement Policy

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner following significant organisational change.

Attachment 1:

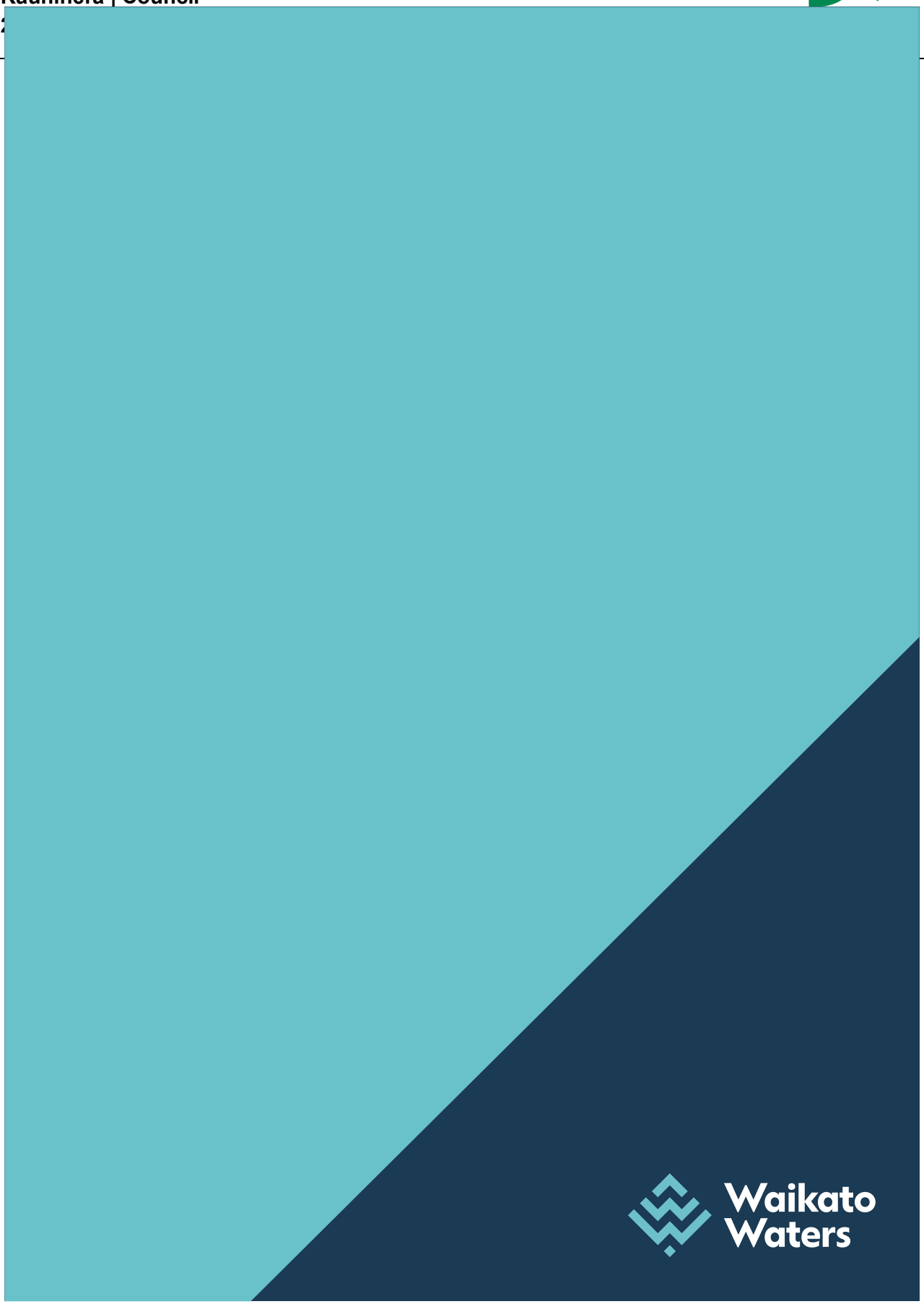
Process to apply the Significance and Engagement Policy

Step 1: Determine significance

Low significance proposal or decision by Waikato Waters	Medium significance proposal or decision by Waikato Waters	High significance proposal or decision by Waikato Waters

Step 2: Determine engagement approach

Low or no levels of engagement	Medium levels of engagement	High levels of engagement
Examples: • Any contract to implement any part of the Water Services Strategy • Submissions to external processes • Land acquisitions • Renewals and maintenance programmes • Development agreements	**Examples:** • Water Service Bylaws • External policies, such as the Waiver Policy	**Examples:** • Water Services Strategy
Channels we may use: • Website • Social media • Public signage • Letters/emails • Newsletters/flyers	**Channels we may use:** In addition to channels used for low significance decisions, we may also use: • Focus groups • Surveys • Hui • Targeted stakeholder engagement	**Channels we may use:** In addition to channels used for low and medium significance decisions, we may also use: • Online or in-person events


Waikato
Waters

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.11 Council and Committee Meetings Planner 2027

CM No.: 3221835

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek confirmation of the attached 2027 meeting schedule for Council and Committee meetings and workshops.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council is asked to confirm their schedule for 2027. Other committees including Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako, Risk and Assurance and Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee will be asked to confirm their relevant meeting dates. A full meeting planner is attached for information.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The information be received.**

2. **Council confirms the meeting planner for 2027.**

Horopaki | Background

Generally meetings are scheduled according to the following, with amendments made for particular projects:

- Council meet the 4th Wednesday of the month.
- Council workshops every 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month, with the 3rd Wednesday booked as tentative dates depending on projects.
- Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako meet every two months on the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of the relevant month.
- Risk and Assurance Committee meet quarterly on the Tuesday one week prior to Council.
- Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee meet two-three times a year on the 3rd or 4th Thursday of a month.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Other committees of Council including Te Manawhenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako, Risk and Assurance Committee and the Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee, will be asked to confirm their relevant meeting dates at their next scheduled meeting.

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.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. 2027 Meeting Planner

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tamara Kingi **Kaiārahi Kāwana | Governance Team Leader**	

Approved by	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	

te kaunihera ā-rohe o matamata-piako district council

Item 7.11

Attachment A

MPDC Meeting Planner 2027

Adopted:

	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		
SUN															1										SUN
MON					1										2						1				MON
TUES					2						1				3						2				TUES
WED					3	Workshop					2				4	Workshop	1	Workshop			3	Workshop	1	Workshop	WED
THURS					4		1				3	15th agenda close	1		5		2				4		2		THURS
FRI	1	New Year's Day			5		2	13th agenda close			4		2		6		3		1	12th agenda closes	5		3		FRI
SAT	2				6		3		1		5		3		7		4		2		6		4		SAT
SUN	3				7		4		2		6		4		8		5		3		7		5		SUN
MON	4	Day after New Year's Day	1	Auckland Anniversary	8		5		3		7	King's Birthday	5		9		6		4		8		6		MON
TUES	5		2		9		6		4		8		6		10	TMF	7		5		9		7	TMF / RAC	TUES
WED	6		3	Workshop	10	Workshop	7	Workshop	5	Council (LTP)	9	Workshop	7	Workshop	11	Workshop	8	Workshop	6	Workshop	10	Workshop	8	Council	WED
THURS	7		4	16th agenda closes	11		8		6		10		8		12		9		7		11		9		THURS
FRI	8		5		12		9		7		11	22nd agenda closes	9		13		10		8		12		10		FRI
SAT	9		6		13		10		8		12		10		14		11		9		13		11		SAT
SUN	10		7		14		11		9		13		11		15		12		10		14		12		SUN
MON	11		8	Waitangi Day	15		12		10	19th agenda close	14		12	21st agenda close	16	25th agenda close	13	22nd agenda close	11	*20th agenda closes*	15	24th agenda close	13		MON
TUES	12		9	TMF	16		13	TMF	11	20th agenda closes	15	TMF	13		17		14	23rd agenda close	12	TMF	16		14		TUES
WED	13		10	Workshop	17	*Workshop TBC	14	Workshop	12	Workshop	16	Workshop	14	Workshop	18	*Workshop TBC	15	*Workshop TBC	13	Workshop	17	*Workshop TBC	15		WED
THURS	14		11		18	31st agenda closes	15		13		17		15		19		16		14		18		16		THURS
FRI	15		12		19		16	28th agenda closes	14		18	30th agenda closes	16		20		17		15	27th agenda closes	19		17		FRI
SAT	16		13		20		17		15		19		17		21		18		16		20		18		SAT
SUN	17		14		21		18		16		20		18		22		19		17		21		19		SUN
MON	18		15	24th agenda closes	22		19		17		21		19	28th agenda closes	23		20		18		22		20		MON
TUES	19		16	RAC	23		20		18		22	RAC	20		24		21		19		23		21		TUES
WED	20		17	Workshop TBC	24	*Workshop TBC	21	*Workshop TBC	19	Council	23	*Workshop TBC	21	*W/S TBC / *CEPC TBC	25	Council	22	Council	20	RAC / *W/S TBC	24	Council	22		WED
THURS	21		18		25		22		20	WMAC	24		22		26		23	WMAC	21		25		23		THURS
FRI	22		19		26	Good Friday	23		21		25	Matariki	23		27		24		22		26	7th Dec agenda closes 7th Dec agenda closes	24		FRI
SAT	23		20		27		24		22		26		24		28		25		23		27		25		SAT
SUN	24		21		28		25		23		27		25		29		26		24		28		26		SUN
MON	25		22		29	Easter Monday	26	ANZAC Day observed	24		28		26		30		27		25	Labour Day	29	8th Dec agenda closes	27	Christmas Day	MON
TUES	26	9th Feb agenda closes	23		30		27		25		29		27		31		28		26		30		28	Boxing Day observed	TUES
WED	27	Workshop TBC	24	Council	31	Council	28	Council	26	*Workshop TBC*	30	Council	28	Council			29		27	Council			29		WED
THURS	28		25				29		27				29				30		28				30		THURS
FRI	29		26				30		28				30	10th Aug agenda close					29				31		FRI
SAT	30		27						29				31						30						SAT
SUN	31		28						30										31						SUN
MON									31																MON
TUES																									TUES
	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		

Key		Public Holidays	**Workshop** *Frequency: 1st and 2nd Wednesday per month *3rd Wednesday is TBC*	**Council** *Generally: 4th Wednesday of every month*	**CEPC** Chief Executive Performance Committee *Frequency: Annual *informal as required*	**TMF** Te Manawhenua Forum *Frequency: bi-monthly*	**TMF Workshop** *Te Manawhenua Forum* *Frequency: on request*	**RAC** Risk and Assurance Committee *Frequency: Quarterly per annum*	**WMAC** Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee **Frequency:** *2-3 meetings per annum*
Agenda Close dates			5 working days before workshop	7 working days before meeting	7 working days before meeting	7 working days before meeting	5 working days before workshop	7 working days before meeting	7 working days before meeting

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 Legislative Tracker and Submissions Report

CM No.: 3227161

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To provide Council with the latest updates from the legislative tracker, along with an overview of any significant submissions lodged since September 2025.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council staff utilise an internal, operational legislative tracker to record submission opportunities, capture decisions on whether to submit, and provide a central record of the location of submission documents.

The attachment to this report is a consolidated version of the submission tracker, exported on 8 October 2026.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Council receives the report.**

2. **Any feedback on the Legislative Tracker and Submissions Report is provided [*feedback to be specified*].**

Horopaki | Background

Council periodically makes submissions to external organisations, such as Parliament or government departments to contribute to the development of laws and regulations. These submissions enable Council to advocate for legislative outcomes that reflect the needs and interests of the district.

In addition, Council engages with external reforms, studies, and projects occurring at both regional and national levels, providing feedback and perspectives to help shape broader policy and planning initiatives.

The legislative tracker has been implemented since mid-2025 to strengthen oversight of submission activity, ensure consistency in decision-making, and provide a transparent record of opportunities considered and responses made. The tracker also enables easier access to past submissions and supports accountability in how Council engages with legislative processes.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The legislative tracker is informed by weekly updates received from Taituarā. These updates highlight open, upcoming, and recently closed submission opportunities relevant to local government.

The tracker serves as a central record of submission opportunities and is maintained weekly.

It is intended the tracker is presented to Council on a regular basis, accompanied by a summary report, this has not occurred since September 2025 due to competing work demands on staff.

Council is currently implementing a new legislative compliance system called Complywith. This could replace the existing legislative tracker, with a more automated system. Staff are currently working through this.

Summary of recent submissions made:

Initiative Title	Closure Date	Reason for Submitting
Fast Track Approvals Amendments Bills	17/11/2026	A number of procedural changes to the Fast Track Act that seek to reduce timeframes and affect the ability of councils and community to participate in the process.
Building and Construction Sector (Self Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill	08/01/2026	Self certification of Plumbers and drainlayers Speeds up the construction of new homes by reducing the number of inspections that must be completed for plumbing and drain laying work.
Natural Environment Bill	13/02/2026	Significant implications for local government planning, infrastructure, service delivery, and regulatory responsibilities.
Planning Bill	13/02/2026	Significant implications for local government planning functions, infrastructure provision, plan-making processes, compliance responsibilities, and relationships with iwi and Māori.
Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill	20/02/2026	Increased administrative cost for implementing system. Subsidisation issues between Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha.
Simplifying Local Government	20/02/2026	Removal of regional elected members – replaced by Mayors or Crown Commissioners (impacting on MPDC Mayor if proceeds) Regional re-organisation plan to be developed and implemented within 2 years after legislation– possibly leading to potential amalgamation of Councils, major changes to the local government structure signalled as the intent.
FENZ Code of Practice for firefighting water supplies	29/04/2026	The submission sought clarification on several technical requirements, particularly where proposed standards may be difficult to achieve with existing water infrastructure or could have significant cost and implementation implications for local government and development.
Rating Valuations Rules 2008: Proposed New Rule 9 - Reporting Requirements for	24/06/2026	Although we support the proposal from LINZ, we believe the proposal could be strengthened by ensuring that the solicitors complete all required Notice of Sale fields and if possible making this

Initiative Title	Closure Date	Reason for Submitting
Nature of Sale		information mandatory. This would ensure that our District Valuation database is complete for auditing purposes and will save significant staff time in following up solicitors when insufficient data has been supplied.

Summary of submissions supported:

Initiative Title	Closure Date	Reason for Submitting
Local Government Rating (rate capping) Amendment Bill	TBC	The Waikato CDEM Group provided feedback on the proposed Rates Target Model because of its potential impacts on councils' ability to fund emergency management activities and meet statutory obligations. Submission made with Waikato CDEM Group.
Natural Environment Bill	13/02/2026	As above – submission also made with Waikato CDEM Group.
Emergency Management Bill	15/02/2026	Given Council's role and responsibilities under current legislation, the proposed direction, and our identification of disaster response and recovery as one of our top risks, staff recommended submitting on the new legislation. Submission made with Waikato CDEM Group.
Simplifying Local Government	20/02/2026	As above – submission also made with Waikato CDEM Group.

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.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Legislative Tracker September 25 to October 26 Export

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Charlotte Espin **Kaitohu Kaupapahere Paetahi | Graduate Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team Leader**	
	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

Legislation Name	Agency Engaging	Description	Feedback/Submission Due	Taituara Action	MPDC action	Reason for action
Fast Track Approvals Amendment Bill	Environmental Committee	Amends the principal Act to promote competition in the grocery sector and ensure the Act is procedurally and operationally efficient.	Monday, 17 November 2025	Submit	Submit	A number of procedural changes to the Fast Track Act that seek to reduce timeframes and affect the ability of councils and communmity to participate in the process
Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill	Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee	The bill aims to introduce an opt-in scheme, allowing qualified plumbers and drainlayers to self-certify that their work complies with the terms of a building consent. This is intended to remove the need for a building consent authority inspection.	Thursday, 08 January 2026	Submit	Submit	Self certification of Plumbers and drainlayers Speeds up the construction of new homes by reducing the number of inspections that must be completed for plumbing and drain laying work.
Natural Environment Bill	Environment Select Committee	One of two Bills to replace the RMA. The purpose of the Bill is to manage impacts from the use of natural resources and protect the environment from harm. Awaiting second reading - Select Committee reported on 20 July.	Friday, 13 February 2026	Submit	Submit Submission also made with Waikato CDEM Group	Significant implications for local government planning, infrastructure, service delivery, and regulatory responsibilities.
Planning Bill	Environment Select Committee	The other of the two Bills to replace the RMA. The purpose of the Bill is to enable development and regulate how land is used. Awaiting second reading - Select Committee reported on 20 July.	Friday, 13 February 2026	Submit	Submit Submission also made with Waikato CDEM Group	Significant implications for local government planning functions, infrastructure provision, plan-making processes, compliance responsibilities, and relationships with iwi and Māori.
Emergency Management Bill	Government Bill	The Government will implement a programme of changes in five broad areas: • Give effect to the whole-of-society approach to emergency management. • Support and enable local government to deliver a consistent minimum standard of emergency management across New Zealand. • Professionalise and build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce. • Enable the different parts of the system to work better together. • Drive a strategic focus on implementation and investment to ensure delivery.	Sunday, 15 February 2026	Submit	Submission made with Waikato CDEM Group	Given Council's role and responsibilities under current legislation, the proposed direction, and our identification of disaster response and recovery as one of our top risks, staff recommended submitting on the new legislation.
Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill	Department of Internal Affairs	Material engages on the replacement of development contributions with a system of levies. It includes a consultation document, a partial exposure draft of the Bill, and asks for views on the Commerce Commission as the regulator.	Friday, 20 February 2026	Submit	Submit	Increased administrative cost for implementing system. Subsidisation issues between Morrinsville Matamata and Te Aroha

Simplifying Local Government	Department of Internal Affairs	Proposal to replace regional councils with combine boards of Mayors and to require those boards to produce a reorganisation plan for the region.	Friday, 20 February 2026	Submit	Submit	Removal of regional elected members – replaced by Mayors or Crown Commissioners (impacting on MPDC Mayor if proceeds) Regional re-organisation plan to be developed and implemented within 2 years after legislation– possibly leading to potential amalgamation of Councils, major changes to the local government structure signalled as the intent.
FENZ Code of Practice for firefighting water supplies	Standards New Zealand	This bill amends the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022. Its objective is to improve the effectiveness of health services delivery to patients.	Wednesday, 29 April 2026	TBC	Submit	The submission sought clarification on several technical requirements, particularly where proposed standards may be difficult to achieve with existing water infrastructure or could have significant cost and implementation implications for local government and development.
Rating Valuations Rules 2008: Proposed New Rule 9 - Reporting Requirements for Nature of Sale	Land Information New Zealand	Cabinet has agreed to amend the Rating Valuations Regulations 1998 to improve the quality of sales data and create efficiencies in the rating valuation system. The Rating Valuations Rules 2008 also need to be amended to align with those changes and to support mandatory data requirements for property sales information.	Wednesday, 24 June 2026	TBC	Submit	Although we support the proposal from LINZ, we believe the proposal could be strengthened by ensuring that the solicitors complete all required Notice of Sale fields and if possible making this information mandatory. This would ensure that our District Valuation database is complete for auditing purposes and will save significant staff time in following up solicitors when insufficient data has been supplied.
Local Government Rating (rate capping) Amendment Bill	TBC	Introduces a target range for movements in rates (as measured by a formula set in legislation). The range will be set by the Minister of Local Government. Rates set to fund water services in whole or in part are excluded from the calculation.	TBC	Submit	Submission made with Waikato CDEM Group	The Waikato CDEM Group provided feedback on the proposed Rates Target Model because of its potential impacts on councils' ability to fund emergency management activities and meet statutory obligations.

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.2 Long Term Plan 2027-37 Progress Update: October 2026

CM No.: 3240127

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to:

- receive an update on progress towards the development of the Long Term Plan 2027-37

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The key milestones from now until adoption of the Long Term Plan (LTP) are as follows:

Timeframe	Action
Oct - Nov 2026	Council to make key budget and planning decisions. Staff to develop LTP documents
Oct 2026 - Feb 2027	LTP Consultation Document developed
Nov 2026	Quality Assurance process (LTP documents)
Dec 2026	Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum to provide feedback on the draft Consultation Document
Dec 2026	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP documents for Audit
Dec 2026	Audit of LTP documents
Feb 2027	Quality Assurance process (LTP Consultation Document)
Feb 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee review and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document for Audit
Feb - Mar 2027	Audit of LTP Consultation Document
Mar 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee review and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document and LTP documents for public consultation
Apr - May 2027	Public consultation (including in person sessions)
May 2027	Council Deliberations
May 2027	Quality Assurance process (Final LTP)
Jun 2027	Final Audit
Jun 2027	Adoption of LTP 2027-37 Setting of the Rates for 2027/28
1 July 2027	LTP 2027-37 in force

Progress update

The development of the Long Term Plan is well underway and is generally on track, however timeframes are under pressure. Budget discussions have recently begun, after a delay of several weeks due to competing demands on staff time, and key documents are still be progressed past rough draft stage also due to staff capacity.

Updates on workstreams are provided below.

Further progress updates will be provided at Te Manawhenua Forum, Risk and Assurance Committee, Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee and Council meetings through the remainder of 2026, and the first half of 2027.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Council receives the Long Term Plan 2027-37 Progress Update: October 2026 report.**

2. **Council acknowledges the direction provided through workshops open to the public to inform the development of the Long Term Plan 2027-37.**

Horopaki | Background

Key risks

A Long Term Plan risk register has been developed and is reviewed and updated regularly by the project group. Please see the Risk section below for more detail.

Quality assurance

The quality assurance (QA) process has been further developed with a QA approach confirmed to support reviews ahead of each audit stage. QA on the financial model and the Asset Management Plans will be managed separately. Ongoing QA throughout the development of the Long Term Plan will be assisted by the use of Copilot, particularly to check for consistency between documents. The overall aim for the QA is to ensure the documents are of good quality before they are submitted to Audit, so as to keep the time and therefore cost of audit as low as possible. The updated plan was presented to the Risk and Assurance Committee at their October meeting.

Audit

The Audit Office is responsible for carrying out the audit of Council's Long Term Plan and Consultation Document. Council have received the second draft of the Audit Engagement letter (attached) which includes the fees of $103,300 to complete the three stages of Long Term Plan auditing. At the time of writing, staff were due to meet with the audit team to discuss some concerns and clarify some of the points raised. A verbal update can be provided at the meeting.

Legislative context

The Long Term Plan project group track the progress of legislative changes that could directly or indirectly impact the Long Term Plan. Key legislative changes that have occurred over the last month of relevance to the Long Term Plan are listed below.

1) Simplifying Local Government programme

Description: The government is aiming to reduce the total number of councils, remove regional councils and transition toward regional unitary authorities.

Long Term Plan Impact: On 24 September 2026 ministers advised that decision making would be delayed until after the 2026 general election.

The key impact on the LTP has been on staff and organisational capacity and the uncertainty inherent in the process. At this stage, the Long Term Plan is progressing as planned, with the usual 10-year planning horizon.

Next steps: The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis because of the uncertainty over outcome and timing of any change.

The ministerial statement is clear that if the current Government is re-elected, there will be no regional council elections in 2028, which is a clear signal that local government reorganisation plans will likely be a priority.

2) Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Act

Description: The Act changes the purpose of local government: cost-effective meeting of community needs replaces the well beings. Adds a core services provision. Enables the groups of activities proposal.

One of the changes falling out of the new Act, is setting new regulations for the LTP Group of Activities, through the Local Government (Local Authority Reporting) Amendment Regulations 2026. These take effect from 1 November 2026.

Council must include the groups of activities specified in the following table in its annual plan, annual report, and LTP as below:

- Adaptation and emergency management
- Community and recreational facilities
- Governance, planning, and reporting
- Parks and reserves
- Public regulatory services
- Roading and transport
- Waste management and minimisation
- Other

Long Term Plan Impact: The main implications for the Long Term Plan are progressing within agreed timeframes while adapting and responding to the provisions of the new Act.

Next steps: Staff are currently implementing the new mandatory groups of activities. Staff will work with elected members to ensure that the new requirements to take the purpose and core services into account in decision making are met.

3) Rates capping proposal

Description: The Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill has been introduced to the House. The Bill sets a rate cap with a target range of between 2-4% which Council would need to have regard to in Year 1 and 2 of the Long Term Plan and would then be required to adhere to from Year 3.

Long Term Plan Impact: The rates cap is likely to put pressure on levels of service.

Next steps: Council to have regard to the rates cap when developing the Long Term Plan budget for years 1 and 2, and to plan to stay within the cap from year 3 onwards.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Timeline

The key milestones from now until the adoption of the Long Term Plan are as follows:

Timeframe	Action
Oct - Nov 2026	Council to make key budget and planning decisions. Staff to develop LTP documents
Oct 2026 - Feb 2027	LTP Consultation Document developed
Nov 2026	Quality Assurance process (LTP documents)
Dec 2026	Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum to provide feedback on the draft Consultation Document
Dec 2026	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP documents for Audit
Dec 2026	Audit of LTP documents
Feb 2027	Quality Assurance process (LTP Consultation Document)
Feb 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee review and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document for Audit
Feb - Mar 2027	Audit of LTP Consultation Document
Mar 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee review and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document and LTP documents for public consultation
Apr - May 2027	Public consultation (including in person sessions)
May 2027	Council Deliberations
May 2027	Quality Assurance process (Final LTP)
Jun 2027	Final Audit
Jun 2027	Adoption of LTP 2027-37 Setting of the Rates for 2027/28
1 July 2027	LTP 2027-37 in force

A full timeline is available if you would like further information: Long Term Plan Gantt Chart August 2026 progress update.xlsx

Progress update

The development of the Long Term Plan is well underway and is generally on track, however timeframes are under pressure. Budget discussions have recently begun, after a delay of several weeks due to competing demands on staff time, and key documents are still to be progressed past rough draft stage also due to staff capacity.

The table below provides a high level of how the workstreams are currently tracking. Actions are grouped under the headings ‘Complete’, ‘In progress’, and ‘Upcoming’.

1.1 Long Term Plan items completed

Item	Summary of process	Status	How this item will inform the LTP
Trends and Analysis Report	Council has reviewed and adopted the report.	Complete	The report helps inform the assumptions that underlie the development

Item	Summary of process	Status	How this item will inform the LTP
			of the LTP.
Population Projections	Elected members received a presentation on population projections from Te Ngira and subsequently adopted the high growth scenario.	Complete	The projections underpin the growth assumptions in the LTP.
Vision and Community Outcomes	Council's Vision and Community Outcomes were developed and adopted early 2026.	Complete	The Vision and Community Outcomes have been used to inform the activity planning developed by staff. And will be used throughout the LTP to frame the discussion around Council's priorities.
Efficiency and enablement	Council has articulated as part of its vision that its key focus is on operating in a way that is efficient and enabling.	Complete	The focus on efficiency and enablement has been used to inform the activity and support service planning developed by staff. This focus will be discussed throughout the LTP.
Key Drivers	The key drivers have been workshopped with Council, and identified as - Affordability - Growth and Demand - Resilience - Regulation and Reform	Complete	The drivers will be used throughout the LTP to discuss the challenges over the period of the LTP and how Council will respond.
Direction on approach to consultation	Council has given direction that they would like to take a different approach to consultation, with face-to-face sessions during the consultation period to hear from submitters rather than holding a formal Hearing after the submission period has closed.	Complete	Staff will develop a communication and engagement process for the LTP and seek review and direction from elected members.
Grants policies review	The Multi-Year, Single-Year and Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grants Policies have been reviewed and updated by Council.	Complete	Applications have been received under the revised Multi-Year Grant Policy. The level of demand and funding requirements identified through this process will help inform grant funding provisions within the LTP.
Significance and Engagement Policy review	The updated policy has been adopted by Council.	Complete	The Policy will be used to help guide what topics are included in the Consultation Document.
Activity planning	Managers have presented their draft activity and support service planning to Council and received direction.	Complete	Council direction has informed development of the first cut budget. Staff

Item	Summary of process	Status	How this item will inform the LTP
			are updating their Activity Plans to reflect direction received. Summaries of this information will be included in the LTP documents.
Project prioritisation framework	Council have agreed on a methodology for prioritising projects, the 'must dos, should dos, could dos'. This methodology has been used for infrastructure investment planning.	Complete	Staff will describe and reflect this methodology in the Infrastructure Strategy.
Total items completed			
August		6	
September		10	
October		10	

1.2 Long Term Plan items in progress

Workstream	Key actions completed	Status	More Information
Capital and renewal programme	Programme has been developed by Council.	In progress	Will likely need further prioritisation following budget discussions.
LTP budget	First cut budget has been reviewed by Executive Team, workshopped with Council and direction given.	In progress	A series of further workshops will be held to refine the budget.
Rates structure review	Council have reviewed the rates structure and given direction that no substantial changes are needed	In progress	Council will review the Uniform Annual General Charge at a workshop in October/November, after which the rates structure can be formally adopted.
Groups of activities structure	Council have reviewed the groups of activities structure.	In progress	New mandatory groups of activities were released at the end of September which staff are now integrating into the LTP.
Revenue and Financing Policy review	Council have reviewed the funding of each of its activities.	In progress	An updated policy will be workshopped in October/November 2026.
Significant forecasting assumptions	Well-developed draft has been workshopped with Council.	In progress	Further updates will be made as required especially in response

Workstream	Key actions completed	Status	More Information
			to legislation.
Infrastructure and Financial strategies	Draft themes and key messages have been workshopped with Council.	In progress	Draft strategies will be workshopped with Council in October/ November 2026.
Māori engagement in decision-making	Te Manawhenua Forum have reviewed this content.	In progress	The section will be circulated again to the Forum on their request. A face to face session with marae in our district was held in mid-October, on the Forum's request.
Development contributions policy	Draft policy currently being developed. The first workshop has been held	In progress	Second workshop scheduled for October 2026.
Consultation planning including Consultation Document and coms and engagement plan	An initial workshop has been held with Council to give an overview of the process and requirements for LTP consultation and to discuss possible topics for consultation. A draft coms story has been circulated and elected members have provided feedback.	In progress	This work will continue through until adoption of the CD for public consultation.
Levels of service and performance measure framework.	Council reviewed performance measures as part of the activity plan workshops. Subsequently Council have workshopped the performance measure framework and given direction on a number of specific level of service definitions, performance measures and targets.	In progress	Council will review the full framework once the new groups of activities has been integrated.
LTP documents	Drafting of the sections of the LTP has begun.	In progress	Staff will bring these to Council for review as they are prepared.

1.3 Long Term Plan items upcoming

Workstream	Key actions completed	Status	More Information
Fees and charges	Council have agreed to move to a three yearly review of Fees and Charges.	Upcoming	Council will review the Fees and Charges in October/November in conjunction with further review of the

			Revenue and Financing Policy.
Rates remission and postponement policy	Updated policy scheduled for Council workshop in October/November.	Upcoming	
Liability management and Investment policies	Updated policies scheduled for Council workshop in October/November.	Upcoming	

Mōrearea | Risk

A Long Term Plan risk register has been developed and is currently under review. The key risks to the Long Term Plan project can be characterised as:

a) Strategic - Risk to project timeframes with flow on potential impacts on audit costs due to:

- Staff capacity
- Legislative change and uncertainty

b) People and Wellness - Risk to staff wellbeing from ongoing pressure in meeting project milestones.

These risks are being actively managed by the Long Term Plan project group with oversight at the Executive level and quarterly review by the Risk and Assurance Committee.

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

The Long Term Plan is a statutory requirement for Council under the Local Government Act 2002.

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

The Long Term Plan is being developed using the Vision and Community Outcomes developed by Council in early 2026.

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

The Long Term Plan is budgeted for within the Strategies and Plans budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Audit Engagement Letter (unsigned)

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Anne Gummer **Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua | Senior Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Niall Baker **Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere | Policy Team**	

	Leader	
	Sandra Harris **Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana | Policy and Governance Manager**	
	Kelly Reith **Hautū Tāngata me te Tutukinga | Group Manager People and Performance**	

The Audit Office
Te Mana Arotake

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88 Shortland Street, Auckland 1010
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11 October 2026

Ash Tanner
Mayor
Matamata-Piako District Council
PO Box 266
Te Aroha 3342

Dear Ash

Audit engagement letter: Audit of the consultation document and long-term plan for the period commencing 1 July 2027

This audit engagement letter is sent to you on behalf of the Auditor-General, who is the auditor of all "public entities", including Matamata-Piako District Council (the Council), under section 14 of the Public Audit Act 2001. The Auditor-General has appointed me, René van Zyl, using the staff and resources of The Audit Office, under section 32 and 33 of the Public Audit Act 2001, to carry out the audit of the Council's consultation document and long-term plan (LTP).

This letter outlines the terms of the audit engagement, including:

- Council's responsibilities;
- our responsibilities;
- our approach to the audit;
- areas of audit focus;
- audit logistics;
- professional fees; and
- personnel.

The letter seeks your agreement to the terms of the engagement.

Our audit is carried out in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised): *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical*

Financial Information. We also consider the requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards where applicable and refer to the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: *The Examination of Prospective Financial Information.*

1 Council's responsibilities

Our audit will be carried out on the basis that the Council acknowledges that it has responsibility for preparing the consultation document and LTP, by applying the Council's own assumptions, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) (in particular, the requirements of Part 6 and Schedule 10) and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

1.1 General responsibilities

The general responsibilities of the Council are consistent with those for the annual report, as set out in the audit engagement letter dated 13 February 2026. The general responsibilities set out in detail in Appendix 1 of that audit engagement letter are:

- responsibilities for compliance with laws and regulations; and
- responsibilities to establish and maintain appropriate standards of conduct and personal integrity.

1.2 Specific responsibilities

In addition to those general responsibilities, the Council is responsible for preparing the consultation document and the LTP including:

- Maintaining accounting and other records that:
    - correctly record and explain the forecast transactions of the Council;
    - enable the Council to monitor the resources, activities, and entities under its control;
    - enable the Council's forecast financial position to be determined with reasonable accuracy at any time; and
    - enable the Council to prepare forecast financial statements and performance information that comply with legislation; and
- Providing us with:
    - access to all information and assumptions relevant to preparing the consultation document and LTP, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
    - additional information that we may request from the Council for the purpose of the audit;

- unrestricted access to Council members and employees that we consider necessary; and
- written confirmation of representations made to us in connection with the audit.

We assume that elected members are familiar with those responsibilities and, where necessary, have obtained advice about them.

For clarity, we note the following statutory responsibilities as set out in the Act:

- Section 93 of the Act requires the Council to have an LTP at all times, and Part 1 of Schedule 10 prescribes the information that must be included in the LTP.
- Section 111 requires that information required to be included in the LTP is prepared in accordance with applicable generally accepted accounting practice standards, where relevant standards exist.
- Section 83 (with reference to section 93A) sets out the special consultative procedure that the Council is required to follow to adopt the consultation document and LTP.
- Section 93C(4) requires an auditor's report on the consultation document, and section 94 requires a separate opinion on the LTP.

Please note that the audit does not relieve the Council of any of its responsibilities.

1.3 Publication of the consultation document and adopted long-term plan on the Council's website

The Council is responsible for the electronic presentation of the consultation document and LTP on its website. This includes ensuring that there are enough security and controls over information on the website to maintain the integrity of the presented data.

2 Our responsibilities

2.1 Carrying out the audit

The Act requires us to provide separate reports on the consultation document (under section 93C(4) of the Act) and on the LTP (under section 94(1) of the Act).

For each document, our audit addresses the following overarching objectives:

- whether the document gives effect to its relevant statutory purpose; and
- the quality of the information and assumptions underlying the information included.

Our report on the LTP also addresses:

- the completeness and accuracy of the disclosures required by Part 2 of the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

Our work to assess the quality of underlying information and assumptions is expected to be aligned, as far as practicable, with the Council's programme of work throughout the LTP preparation period.

2.2 Statutory purpose

We assess whether the consultation document and the LTP meet their respective statutory purposes. Given the different purposes of each document, this involves considering different matters for each report.

2.3 Our independence

It is essential that the audit team remain both economically and attitudinally independent of the Council (including management personnel and the elected members). This involves being, and appearing to be, free of any interest that might be regarded, whatever its actual effect, as being incompatible with integrity, objectivity, and independence.

2.4 Quality of information and assumptions

We obtain evidence about the quality of the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document and LTP. This involves applying professional judgement, including assessing the risks of material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Our audit involves performing procedures that examine, on a test basis, evidence supporting assumptions, amounts, and disclosures in the consultation document and LTP, and evaluating the overall adequacy of the presentation of information.

We also review other information associated with the consultation document and LTP to identify whether there are material inconsistencies with the audited consultation document and LTP.

2.5 Materiality

Consistent with the annual audit, the audit of the consultation document and LTP is performed in accordance with the principle of materiality, as applied through the exercise of professional judgement. Materiality is considered across the 10-year period of the LTP (and, where relevant, beyond), recognising that the nature and level of materiality, and the auditor's assessment thereof, may differ between the initial and outer years of the forecast period. This reflects that the initial years are typically informed by more detailed and proximate assumptions, and the outer years subject to a wider range of potential variation due to the longer time horizon.

Materiality is a key factor influencing our judgement about the areas to be tested and the nature and extent of audit procedures performed. In planning and performing the audit, we aim to obtain assurance that the consultation document and LTP, and the information and

assumptions underlying them, are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that, in our judgement, are likely to influence a reader's overall understanding of the consultation document and LTP.

If material misstatements are identified and not corrected, we will refer to them in our audit report. Our preference is for any material misstatement to be corrected, thereby avoiding the need for such reference.

2.6 What our audit reports *do not* provide

Our reports on the consultation document and LTP:

- do not provide a guarantee of the absolute accuracy of the information in the relevant document;
- do not provide a guarantee that the Council has complied with all relevant legal obligations;
- do not express an opinion on the merits of policy choices;
- in the case of councils that are water organisations, do not express an opinion on any water services strategy adopted under section 230 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025[1]; and
- do not include an opinion on whether the forecasts will be achieved.

3 Our approach to the audit

3.1 The content of the consultation document

The Act emphasises the discretion of the Council to decide what is appropriate to include in the consultation document and the associated consultation process. In deciding what to include in the consultation document, the Council must have regard to its significance and engagement policy, and the importance of other matters to the district and its communities.

We will need to understand how the Council has approached the task of applying its significance and engagement policy, and how it has weighed the importance of other matters in deciding what to include in the consultation document. This will help inform our assessment of whether the consultation document achieves its statutory purpose.

[1] An opinion on a water services strategy adopted under section 230 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 may be provided under a separate engagement, if requested under section 239 of that Act.

3.2 Adopting and auditing the underlying information

Before adopting the consultation document, section 93G of the Act requires the Council to prepare and adopt the information that:

- is relied on by the content of the consultation document;
- is necessary to enable the Auditor-General to issue an audit report under section 93C(4); and
- provides the basis for the preparation of the LTP.

The information to be prepared and adopted needs to be sufficient to enable the Council to prepare the consultation document.

Consistent with the guidance of Taituarā, Local Government Professionals Aotearoa, our view is that the core building blocks of an LTP will be needed to support an effective consultation document. This will include, but not be limited to, draft financial and infrastructure strategies and the information that underlies them, including asset management information, assumptions, defined levels of service, funding and financial policies, and a complete set of financial forecasts at an activity level.

We will work with management to understand the information proposed to be adopted and assess whether it will enable us to issue an audit report under section 93C(4).

From a practical perspective, it will be important that the Council is well advanced with the preparation of the full LTP when it issues the consultation document. Otherwise, you may find it difficult to complete the work and adopt the full LTP before your deadline. The same is true for our audit work. The more audit work that can be completed at the first stage of the process, the less pressure there will be on you and our audit team at the end of the process.

3.3 Controls relevant to the preparation of the consultation document and LTP

The Council is responsible for establishing and maintaining accounting and internal control systems (appropriate to the size of the Council). This includes policies and procedures used to prepare the consultation document and LTP, and to provide reasonable quality information and assumptions underlying these documents. We will obtain an understanding of internal control over the preparation of the consultation document and LTP. In addition to talking to Council staff, we will evaluate the design of relevant controls and whether they have been implemented.

Our review of your LTP self-assessment response (see 3.5) and key controls relating to the underlying information and development of the LTP is useful to our initial assessment of audit risk and in designing the nature and extent of our overall audit work.

3.4 Project management, reporting deadlines, and audit progress

The development of the consultation document and LTP is a significant and complex project, requiring a comprehensive project plan to ensure they integrate the Council's plans, policy decisions, and assumptions. Successful delivery of an integrated plan on time requires a project commitment throughout the organisation including from the elected representatives.

We will discuss with you the Council's approach to preparing and completing the LTP, including when key information will be available for auditing, and work with the Council to agree the timing of our work.

3.5 Self-assessment

We intend to use a self-assessment to assist our audit planning. The self-assessment asks you to reflect on your most significant issues and risks, governance of the LTP project, the systems and processes you have in place (particularly to meet the purposes in the Act for the consultation document and the LTP), asset management, performance management and reporting, and financial management.

It can also be a useful tool for Council to identify key changes and judgements planned for the LTP, including those that significantly affect levels of service, asset investment, and the Council's long-term financial outlook. The self-assessment will be provided separately, and we ask that you please complete and return this assessment by 9 December 2026.

4 Areas of audit focus

The quality of the Council's financial forecasts is significantly affected by whether the assumptions they are based on are reasonable. The Act requires Councils to clearly outline the significant forecasting assumptions and risks that underlie the forecast financial statements in the LTP (Schedule 10, clause 17). Prospective Financial Statements (PBE FRS 42) also require the disclosure of significant assumptions.

We will assess whether the Council's significant assumptions are reasonable, clearly identified, complete, and consistently applied across the LTP, consultation document, and supporting information.

We will also assess whether the level of uncertainty associated with key assumptions is appropriately reflected and disclosed in the LTP.

Based on our planning to date, we have identified several focus areas where the related assumptions involve greater judgement and uncertainty and therefore present a higher risk of material misstatement. We outline these below.

4.1 Sector reforms

The Council will be preparing its LTP during a period of significant legislative and structural change. The Council will need to adopt the most appropriate assumptions based on the best available information about policy direction and legislative intent, with clear disclosure of those assumptions and the associated level of uncertainty.

A summary of the reforms already in place, or expected to affect the LTP, is set out below.

Our audit work will assess whether the Council's assumptions and disclosures reasonably reflect these changes and the associated uncertainty.

- **Structural reform:** Initial Cabinet decisions on reorganisation proposals are expected in 2027 for councils participating in early-stage reform processes. Councils not participating are expected to progress on a longer timeframe after the 2028 elections. While direct impacts on current LTP forecasts are likely to be limited, disclosures about the potential implications, significance, and associated uncertainty will be important.
- **Rates capping:** The Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill has been introduced to parliament. Final legislation is expected in 2027 and rates caps are proposed to take effect from 1 July 2029. A transitional period is planned from enactment until 30 June 2029. During this period, councils would be expected to have regard to the proposed target rates range of 2% to 4% when setting rates but would not be bound by it. Clear disclosure of the impact on forecasts, assumptions, risks and associated uncertainty will be important.
- **Water services reform:** LTP assumptions should be based on the adopted and approved water services delivery plan and associated investment programme. This includes consideration of transition issues arising from changes to service delivery arrangements, such as overhead allocation, debt and guarantee arrangements, targeted rates collection, and accounting and service level arrangements. For in-house delivery models, the Council should ensure that there is clear documentation supporting the allocation of overheads and shared costs, and that the LTP appropriately includes required information and excludes non-permitted information in accordance with legislative requirements.
- **Resource Management Act reform:** The new resource management legislation is progressing into implementation, introducing a new planning and environmental management framework that councils will need to implement during the LTP period. The reforms, together with the continuing use of fast-track consenting pathways, may affect infrastructure demand, growth patterns, development capacity, and related financial forecasts. Councils should consider the implications of implementing the new planning system, including capability and transition requirements and changes to planning processes. These should be reflected in the council's LTP planning and budgeting where relevant.
- **Development Levies and Infrastructure Financing Act changes:** The Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Act 2026 has been enacted. Councils will need to consider whether assumptions appropriately reflect the impact of these changes,

including the introduction of new levies from July 2028 where these funding mechanisms are available. Clear disclosure of the resulting impacts and associated uncertainty will be important.

- **Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act**:
  - The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 has amended the purpose of local government, increasing the focus on infrastructure, public services, regulatory functions, and economic growth, and removing reference to the four well-beings. The Council will need to ensure the LTP is aligned to the new purpose.
  - The Act also enables standardised groups of activities and council performance benchmarks to be set through regulations. and provides councils with better tools to recover growth-related infrastructure costs from fast-track developments. It modifies the Secretary for Local Government's powers to make rules related to performance reporting. The Council will need to consider the implications of new regulations or rules and ensure that the LTP appropriately reflects any new or amended performance reporting requirements.

4.2 Financial sustainability and prudence

An important function of a council's LTP audit is concluding whether the forecast financial information is financially prudent and based on reasonable assumptions.

There are several factors that the Council needs to consider when preparing the consultation document and LTP to ensuring the LTP is financially prudent. These include:

- The impact of rates caps on revenue over the forecast period.
- The impact on revenue, expenditure, and debt of structural changes (such as the removal of water assets).
- Changes to the Council's debt covenant and financial strategy limits.

Our audit work will focus on how the Council's forecasts have factored in these changes and funding constraints. At a minimum we will focus on:

- Whether the constraints have been appropriately reflected in the Council's levels of service.
- The adequacy of disclosures about the risk to critical assets if council defers asset maintenance.
- The consequential impact on financial prudence and balanced budget metrics and forecast cashflows trends.
- The reasonableness of key assumptions, such as:
  - revenue increases;

- cost reductions, including savings assumptions;
- asset sales or recycling;
- revenue assumed from third parties; and
- development levy/contributions.

4.3 Asset planning

Quality asset information is critical to supporting renewals and capital forecasts in the LTP. Sector observations indicate that renewals forecasts continue to be below depreciation on average, while the quality and reliability of condition and performance information for critical assets remains variable. Together, these factors increase the risk of suboptimal investment decisions and highlight the importance of evidence-based renewals and maintenance programmes.

Given the significance of infrastructure investment and management to the Council's activities, we will consider the reasonableness of the Council's asset forecasts in the context of the quality and reliability of asset condition and performance information.

Our work will include considering how Council has:

- explained any necessary trade-off between affordability and asset investment requirements, and the risks and implications of those trade-offs;
- factored in changes in levels of service to the financial forecasts;
- factored in the reliability of underlying asset data about condition and performance; and
- factored industry capacity constraints into assumptions about project delivery timing.

4.4 Performance framework

The Council's performance framework should be meaningful and appropriate in the context of its significant activities, investment decisions, and funding constraints. It is a key mechanism for accountability to ratepayers and other stakeholders over time. The Council will also need to consider how changes in activities affect the performance framework included in the LTP.

Our work will include:

- Obtaining a high-level understanding of how the council has applied its judgement in relation to the selection, aggregation, measurement, and presentation of the performance framework (noting that PBE FRS 48 requires disclosure of these judgements in the annual report).

- Considering whether the performance framework is clear, gives reasonable coverage of the local authority's activities, and covers the important dimensions of performance for each activity.

4.5 Climate change assumptions and responses

The Climate Change Commission recently released its 2026 national climate change risk assessment. Some of the most significant risks identified directly impact local authorities.

Council may need to develop strategies to adapt to climate change risks and ensure its strategies and plans are consistent with decisions in other key documents, such as infrastructure strategies (regarding managed retreat, infrastructure capacity, and the location of assets), financial strategies, and financial forecasts (regarding useful lives, insurability, and weather event recovery).

Our work will include:

- Assessing whether key climate-related assumptions are reasonable, supportable, and adequately disclosed.
- Understanding how the Council's adaptation strategies have been integrated into the LTP, including the financial forecasts, forecast levels of service, and performance information.
- Ensuring the LTP clearly explains significant trade-offs between risk and cost, including why the Council has adopted certain assumptions in establishing financial forecasts and, where relevant, how performance frameworks reflect investments in greenhouse gas emission reductions.

4.6 Financial strategy and infrastructure strategy

The infrastructure and financial strategies are central to the LTP framework, setting priorities for infrastructure investment and the Council's funding approach. High-quality strategies are essential to effective long-term planning and resource prioritisation.

Our work will include considering how the Council has:

- aligned the infrastructure and financial strategies;
- balanced the budget and been financially prudent;
- integrated the effect of key assumptions about demographic and population changes, and significant changes to levels of service;
- ensured the plausibility of key relationships in the forecasts, such as:
    - renewals and depreciation forecasts;
    - debt, interest, and capital expenditure relationships; and

- renewals, capital expenditure, and levels of service.

- developed and applied cost and inflation assumptions.

4.7 Financial model

The Council's financial modelling is a significant component of the underlying information that supports the financial strategy and infrastructure strategy. We will place particular emphasis on the integrity and logic of the Council's financial modelling.

5 Audit logistics

5.1 Audit timing

The key dates in the audit timetable are as follows:

Deliverable	Key date
Self-assessment provided to Council	17 September 2026
Self-assessment returned to audit team for consideration	30 October 2026
Significant forecasting assumptions provided to audit team	26 November 2026
Financial model (10-year budget) provided for audit, including income statements, balance sheets provided, cash flow statements, funding impact statements and benchmark calculations to audit team We expect consistency between Council's assumptions and financial model (budget) across the 10-years of the plan	26 November 2026
First audit visit (one week) - audit of the assumptions and financial model/10-year budget	30 November – 4 December 2026
Draft LTP provided to audit team (including groups of activities, proposed statement of service performance, details and audit support for key matters being consulted on, Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, and the CCO section, activity and asset management plans) We expect quality-checked documents and consistency across the activity and asset plans, strategies and LTP document	3 December 2026
Second audit visit (two weeks) – audit of the underlying information and consultation matters	7 – 18 December 2026

Deliverable	Key date
Complete draft consultation document provided to audit team We expect a quality-checked document and consistency between the CD and Council's underlying information	22 February 2027
Third audit visit (two weeks) – audit of the consultation document	1 – 12 March 2027
Audit clearance for the consultation document	22 March 2027
Draft audit report on consultation document	24 March 2027
Draft report to governors on consultation document engagement	24 March 2027
Council adoption of consultation document	31 March 2027
Complete draft LTP provided to audit team We expect a quality-checked document and consistency between the LTP and Council's underlying information required	31 May 2027
Fourth audit visit (two weeks) – LTP stage	8 – 18 June 2027
Audit clearance for the LTP	18 June 2027
Draft audit report on LTP	25 June 2027
Draft report to governors on LTP engagement	25 June 2027
Council adoption of the LTP	30 June 2027

Should we encounter any significant problems or delays during the audit, we will inform you immediately.

To ensure that we meet agreed deadlines, it is essential that the dates agreed are adhered to.

5.2 Workspace and information

The following should be made available to our staff during our audit:

- A suitable workspace for computer use (in keeping with the health and safety requirements discussed in Appendix 1).
- Electronic copies of key documents.

5.3 Provision of a report to Council

In addition to the audit report, at the end of the engagement we will provide a report to the Council communicating relevant matters that came to our attention. This may include significant weaknesses in the Council's systems and any uncorrected misstatements, as well as any identified and relevant breaches of laws and regulations during the audit.

Please note that the Auditor-General may refer to matters that are identified in the audit of consultation documents and LTPs in a report to Parliament if it is in the public interest, in keeping with section 20 of the Public Audit Act 2001.

6 Professional fees

Our audit fee, covering the consultation document and the LTP for the period commencing 1 July 2027, is $103,300 (excluding GST and disbursements).

As stated in the Public Audit Act 2001, fees must be reasonable to both parties, having regard to:

- the nature and extent of the services provided;
- the requirements of auditing standards published under section 23;
- the qualifications and experience of the persons necessarily engaged in providing the services; and
- any other matters the Auditor-General thinks fit.

We will discuss the proposed fee with you.

Once we have agreed a fee between us, we reserve the right to recover any costs incurred in good faith should a legislative change alter the audit requirements.

The proposed fee is based on the following assumptions:

- All documents and information required to complete the audit is complete and provided within the agreed timelines. This includes:
    - the draft consultation document;
    - the full draft financial strategy;
    - the draft infrastructure strategy; and
    - the key underlying assumptions and information that supports the draft consultation document.
- All documents provided will be subject to appropriate levels of quality review by the Council before they are submitted for audit.

- The consultation document and LTP will include all relevant disclosures.
- There will be an appropriate level of assistance from your staff.
- We will review, at most, two drafts of each of the consultation document and LTP during our audit.
- We will also review one printer's proof copy of the consultation document and LTP, and one copy of the electronic version of the consultation document and LTP (for publication on your website).
- Other than changes/potential changes known at the time the audit fee was agreed, there are no other significant changes in the structure or level of operations of the Council impacting on the audit – such as the establishment of a CCO to deliver core functions, or a major restructuring of groups of activities.
- The local authority is preparing forecast financial statements for the "Council parent" only, rather than including consolidated forecast financial statements for the Council and any controlled entities in the adopted LTP.

If the scope and/or amount of work changes significantly (such as a change in direction while developing the consultation document, or between the development of the consultation document and the LTP), we will discuss the issues with you at the time.

If information is not available for the visits as agreed, or the systems and controls the Council uses to prepare the underlying information and assumptions cannot be relied on, we will seek to recover additional costs incurred as a result. We will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible should such a situation arise.

This fee is exclusive of any subsequent amendments the Council might make to the adopted LTP under section 93D.

We wish to interim bill as work progresses. We propose the following billing arrangements:

	$
December	35,000
March	35,000
June	33,300
	$103,300

We need to begin our LTP audit work in a timely fashion to ensure that the LTP can be adopted before the statutory deadline. We understand there may be some uncertainty around the 2027-2037 LTP, but at this stage you are required by legislation to prepare an LTP.

If the Government decides to change the requirement for completing the 2027-2037 LTP after we have started our work, the fees we charge will be on a percentage completion

basis. The Audit Office will liaise with the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport should requirements change part way through the LTP production process to ensure these costs are considered as part of the legislative change process.

7 Personnel

Our personnel involved in the management of the audit are:

René van Zyl	Director
TBC	Engagement Quality Review Director
Erika Dadson	Manager
Bernard Lee	Audit Supervisor

We have endeavoured to maintain staff continuity as far as possible.

8 Agreement

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate that:

- it is in accordance with your understanding of the arrangements for this audit of the consultation document and LTP for the period commencing 1 July 2027; and
- you accept the terms of the engagement set out in this letter that apply specifically to the audit of the consultation document and LTP and supplement the existing audit engagement letter dated 13 February 2026.

If there are any matters requiring further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

René van Zyl
Director

cc Manaia Te Wiata - Chief Executive
Anne Gummer – Senior Policy Advisor/LTP project co-ordinator/manager
Kelly Reith – Group Manager People, Governance and Relationships

Sandra Harris – Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager
Larnia Rushbrook - Finance and Business Services Manager
Susanne Kampshof - Asset and Projects Manager
Niall Baker – Policy Team Leader

I acknowledge that this letter is in accordance with my understanding of the arrangements of the audit engagement. I also acknowledge the terms of the engagement that apply specifically to the audit of the consultation document and LTP, and that supplement the existing audit engagement letter dated 13 February 2026.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Ash Tanner
Mayor

Appendix 1: Other general terms and conditions

Health and safety of audit staff

The Auditor-General and The Audit Office take seriously their responsibility to provide a safe working environment for audit staff. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, we need to make arrangements with you to keep our audit staff safe while they are working at your premises.

We expect you to provide our audit staff with a safe work environment that is without risks to their health and safety. This includes providing adequate lighting and ventilation, suitable desks and chairs, and safety equipment where required. We also expect you to provide them with all information or training necessary to protect them from any risks they may be exposed to at your premises. This includes advising them of emergency evacuation procedures and how to report any health and safety issues.

Confidentiality and data storage

We will keep confidential the information we acquire in the course of the audit engagement. We are entitled to use or disclose confidential information where we have a legal or professional right or duty to do so.

You authorise The Audit Office to use any information we acquire in the course of the audit engagement as necessary to support the Auditor-General in the exercise of their functions, powers, and duties under the Public Audit Act 2001. This may include using information for in-house training, precedents for technical audit issues, benchmarking, and for quality improvement and efficiency initiatives.

The Office adheres to the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) requirements for storing up to and including RESTRICTED material in cloud services, using only the approved five-eyes nations. The GCDO has also provide endorsement for a further four countries, which the Office uses for secondary storage, back-ups or BCP environments. The Office can, based in detailed risk assessment approve other countries to be used, however this is done on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix 2: Respective responsibilities when using the Office's client portal tool

The Office has engaged Audit Dashboard Incorporated to provide a client portal, AuditDashboard.

AuditDashboard is a secure online tool that will make it easier for files to be shared between the Office and the Council and for your people to work with us. We will request and receive files from your organisation through AuditDashboard.

For more information, please refer to: Working with your auditor — The Audit Office

Your organisation's obligations when using AuditDashboard

AuditDashboard implements industry standard encryption and security controls to keep your organisation's data safe. However, each user of AuditDashboard is responsible for ensuring these controls can operate. Your organisation is responsible for your users' use of AuditDashboard.

Upon registering, each user will be required to read and accept individual Terms of Use. These are aligned with your organisation's obligations in this letter. The Terms of Use can be viewed at auditdashboard.com/Account/Terms.

We expect you to ensure that AuditDashboard users in your organisation know that they must only access AuditDashboard using devices that have been approved for work purposes by your organisation. By using approved devices in conjunction with complying with your organisation's own policy on computer use, users are more likely to comply with the Terms of Use that each user must agree to.

We expect your organisation to provide an environment that supports AuditDashboard users in your organisation to:

- use a secure network with firewall protection;
- use a modern, up-to-date browser, and an operating system that features integrated anti-virus and anti-malware software;
- use their own unique user account each time they access AuditDashboard, and comply with the password security measures in the Terms of Use;
- take the same precautions when using AuditDashboard as they would with other secure online transactions, such as ecommerce and banking;
- logout of AuditDashboard, lock their system and secure their computer when left unattended; and
- not misuse AuditDashboard.

Your organisation must inform the Office if a user leaves, or if a change in circumstances (for example, a change in role) means that a user should no longer have access to AuditDashboard. Once we have been informed, we will remove access for that user.

Your organisation must inform the Office of any information that should be restricted so it can only be viewed by specified users, such as payroll data.

Your organisation must notify the Office immediately of any unauthorised use of an AuditDashboard account or in the event that a user's account details are compromised.

We expect your organisation to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the content and technology of AuditDashboard to at least the same level of care required by your organisation in respect of its own confidential information, but in no event using less than a reasonable standard of care.

Your obligations when your agent uses AuditDashboard

Your organisation might engage an agent ("your agent") to perform some financial functions, for example, an external accountant to prepare your organisation's financial statements. In such circumstances, your agent might hold files, on behalf of your organisation, which are relevant to your organisation's audit.

If your organisation requests the Office to add your agent as an AuditDashboard user, your organisation is wholly responsible for your agent's use of AuditDashboard. Accordingly, your organisation must ensure that your agent:

- is aware of your organisation's obligations to the Office;
- is aware that they must agree to and abide by the Terms of Use that apply to AuditDashboard users;
- is required to be subject to a computer use policy, and work in a secure environment, which enables them to comply with the Terms of Use; and
- agrees to notify your organisation immediately of any unauthorised use of an AuditDashboard account.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for the security of the data provided by you to us for the purpose of an audit engagement.

We are responsible for obtaining assurance that AuditDashboard is secure for the classification and sensitivity of data that is involved. When we engaged AuditDashboard, we considered risk, security, privacy, functionality, and business requirements. These are all fundamental requirements for information governance and assurance[2].

[2] NZ Information Security Manual v3 – section 4.1.11 & 4.1.12

The Office does not guarantee the availability of AuditDashboard. We reserve the right to withdraw AuditDashboard at our discretion. Where possible, we will notify your organisation in advance.

If our contract with AuditDashboard is terminated, AuditDashboard will delete your organisation's data, except if you request its return, or such data is required by the Office to perform the audit engagement.

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.3 RMA & District Plan Update

CM No.: 3238060

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on work being carried out in the Matamata-Piako District Plan (MPDP) and the broader Resource Management (RM) Reform. The report will have a stronger focus on the RMA reform, including the transitional consenting regime and its implications.

This report also includes updates on Private Plan Change 62 (Calcutta), Private Plan Change 64 (Banks Road), Plan Change 65 (Minor Matters), Plan Change 49 (Waharoa), the MPDC Growth Strategy and Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

An update on the District Plan and Resource Management Reform is provided below. In addition, the update also covers Private Plan Change 62 (Calcutta), Private Plan Change 64 (Banks Road), Plan Change 65 (Minor Matters), Plan Change 49 (Waharoa), the MPDC Growth Strategy, Resource Management Act Reform and Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Jayshree Kanji, Carolyn McAlley, and Fiona Hill are available to present the update and respond to any questions.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The report be received.**

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

On 30 September 2026, the Planning Act and Natural Environment Act gained Royal Assent and became law.

Their enactment signals the start of a phased transition to the new planning system, with the RMA remaining in place while the new framework is progressively implemented.

Some provisions of the new Acts, particularly those relating to consenting processes, will come into effect on 30 October 2026, one month after Royal Assent. National policy direction, national standards, Regional Spatial Plans, Land Use Plans, and Natural Environment Plans are to be developed and implemented over time.

Further information on the consenting changes is provided in the Transitional Consenting section.

Transitional Consenting

Transitional consenting is the interim resource consenting framework that will apply during the transition from the Resource Management Act (RMA) to New Zealand's new planning system, allowing consent applications to continue being processed under the RMA while selected features of the new system are introduced.

What does this mean for resource consents?

From 30 October 2026, targeted parts of the new planning system changes will begin to take effect. Resource consent applications will still be processed under the Resource Management Act (RMA), but some assessment requirements and processes will change. These changes are designed to make the resource consenting process simpler, more consistent, and more efficient.

What are the changes?

For example, when assessing district land-use consents for residential activities, councils will no longer need to consider certain matters that were previously assessed through the consent process, including:

- Outdoor living space
- Presence or absence of balconies
- Internal layout
- Size of a residential unit
- Area of glazing
- Size of a landscaped area (except where permeability is relevant)

Historic heritage considerations will still apply.

Additionally, when assessing district land-use applications, councils will also be required to disregard:

- Effects on trade competition
- Effects on retail distribution
- Whether a project is financially viable
- Whether there is any lack of demand for the project
- The type of residents who may occupy a development
- Views from private property

The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) has published guidance to support implementation of the changes, which can be viewed here.

How will Council respond to these changes?

Council may choose to update their district plans to remove some existing provisions to align the District Plan with the new changes. The Planning Act enables this to occur without the need for submissions or any of the other steps under the First Schedule of the RMA.

During the transition period, Council may choose at any time:

- Remove district plan provisions that relate to matters that can no longer be considered under the transitional consenting process.

- Amend existing provisions where necessary so those matters are no longer applied or assessed.

At this point, staff are proposing to take a “wait and see” approach and are not looking at amending the Plan. This is particularly because after a review of the District Plan provisions affected by Section 104(A), staff consider there will be relatively few proposals that will become solely permitted because an out-of-scope matter has been disregarded. It is more likely that if a proposal does trigger consent requirements there will be other matters that also require consent. Staff also consider there are benefits with a wait and see approach at this time as the

interpretation of the new provisions is evolving and there may be further changes to the legislation post-election. Staff will continue to monitor the position and if implementation suggests amending the plan would add value, then the plan can be amended at a later date. This matter will continue to be reported on in future District Plan Update reports.

Council staff have also been working with other councils in this matter. While some are looking at making changes for 30 October, the majority are taking a similar wait and see approach. To guide the implementation of the new provisions in an efficient and consistent manner, an initial review of the District Plan has been completed to identify rules and provisions where the effects are likely to be disregarded. There is also an alternative permitted activity pathway tool available in the new Act to accommodate the new out of scope matters. This simplified consenting process is like others already in the RMA, including those for temporary or marginal non-compliances and deemed permitted boundary activities.

National Policy Direction

The Government is currently seeking public feedback on the Illustrative National Policy Direction (NPD), with consultation open from 25 August to 16 October 2026.

The NPD is a key tool for implementing the new planning system and provides direction on how national priorities may influence future planning decisions and regional spatial planning.

Council staff have engaged with internal teams, including Consents, Assets, Parks and Facilities, and Iwi Relationships to obtain feedback on the NPD. A separate feedback form was also provided to elected members to gather their views. Feedback received will be reviewed and incorporated into the preparation of Council's submission.

Some of the key issues included in the submission are:

- **Clarify the difference between high value growing areas and highly productive land under the NPS-HPL** - The NPD should clearly identify the difference between high value growing areas and highly productive land, and provide greater certainty on how both will be identified, assessed, and protected from inappropriate development.

- **Providing for infrastructure -** Providing for new infrastructure and the maintenance and upgrading of existing infrastructure is a priority for the district. However, given the broad definition of infrastructure, care is needed when considering development on highly productive land.

- **Provide clearer definitions and terminology** - The NPD should include clearer and more consistent definitions, particularly where terminology differs between the Planning Act and National Policy Direction.

- **Simplify the structure and improve usability of the NPD** - The current framework is complex and would benefit from better organisation such as using clearer cross-referencing between related provisions and a dedicated section for regional spatial planning to make the document easier to navigate.

- **Managing competing directives and conflicts** - Clearer identification and assessment of conflicts within the NPD is needed, including separate nationally consistent guidance on how competing directives should be reconciled to reduce uncertainty and support effective decision-making.

Updates on Plan Changes and Other Work Projects

Private Plan Change 62 – Calcutta (PPC62)

PPC62 seeks to rezone approximately 20ha of rural land on the southern side of Tauranga Road, Matamata, to General Industrial Zone. The proposal includes a development area plan showing roading layout, landscape buffers and the protection of pin oaks adjacent to Tauranga Road.

PPC62 was brought to the Council workshop on 12 August 2026. On 26 August 2026, Council resolved to accept the plan change and approve it for public notification. The plan change was publicly notified on 29 September 2026, and submissions will close at the time of the Council meeting on 28 October 2026. Staff will be able to provide a verbal update at the meeting on the number of submissions that have been received.

For more information about PPC62, please click here.

Private Plan Change 64 - Banks Road-Residential Zoning (PPC64)

PPC64 was lodged by KA Matamata Limited Partnership (KA Matamata) and seeks to rezone approximately 26.3ha of land on the south-eastern edge of Matamata, with associated updates to the Structure Plan. The site is located within the Banks Road to Mangawhero Road Structure Plan area and is identified as part of the Future Residential Policy Area.

Council resolved to accept the plan change for public notification on 29 July 2026. The plan change was publicly notified on 25 August 2026, with submissions closing on 22 September 2026. The proposal received 70 submissions with the majority being in opposition. The predominant matters raised in the submission centred on traffic, decrease in lot size, lack of facilities to serve the additional population such as medical facilities, supermarkets and green spaces and the ability of the site to be adequately serviced given the current issues where there are constraints on water in the summer and localised flooding and a highwater table. Submissions will be summarised and publicly notified for further submissions in due course.

For more information about Private Plan Change 64, please click here.

Plan Change 65 – Minor Matters (PC65) (Exemption Approved)

The plan change will be made operative on 4 November 2026, following the Council meeting on 23 September 2026.

Further information on PC65 is available here.

Plan Change 49 – Waharoa (Exemption Approved)

PC49 is a council-initiated plan change. It is being developed to enable the provision of healthy and safe housing and additional social services and employment opportunities for the Waharoa community.

On 11 August 2026, a decision was received from the Minister approving the application in part, with the plan amendments relating to the Kaitiaki Conservation Zone and the Shop Frontage Area not being approved. Staff met with the Governance group for the project on Wednesday, 7 October 2026, to present the draft work plan for their consideration and comment. The key direction from the governance group was to look into the possibility of expediting the progress of the plan change. The project is due to be presented to a council workshop on 4 November 2026, prior to making a public update on the project.

MPDC Growth Strategy

Council has endorsed staff progressing this work. Updated population and growth projections have now been received from Te Ngira, and Council has adopted the high-growth scenario. Work is advanced now on the Employment land assessment, and work has also begun on a revised housing assessment.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

The Hauraki Gulf Forum met on 14 September 2026 to discuss the findings of the *State of Our Gulf 2026* report and ongoing restoration work across Tīkapa Moana.

The report highlighted growing environmental pressures on the Hauraki Gulf, including:

- **86% of seabird species** are threatened or at risk.
- Nearly **40% of coastal reefs** have become kelp-depleted kina barrens due to overfishing.
- **100% of monitored estuaries** are affected by sedimentation from land-based activities.

Members also heard presentations on seabird conservation and acknowledged positive restoration efforts, including mana whenua-led rāhui and the return of native forest birds to more than 40 pest-free islands. The Forum also considered the Draft Hauraki Gulf Forum Work Plan 2027-2029, which identifies key priorities including education, seabird recovery, sustainable fishing, 30% marine protection, the RMS Niagara Wreck, biosecurity, sedimentation, pollution, and the marine park economy.

The full meeting minutes, presentations, and reports are available here: Resolve Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Jayshree Kanji **Kaitohu Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere | Growth and Planning Policy Advisor**	
	Fiona Hill **Kaiārahi Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere | Growth and Planning Policy Team Leader**	
	Carolyn McAlley **Kaitohu Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere Matua | Senior Growth and Planning Policy Advisor**	

Approved by	Nathan Sutherland **Pou Whakamahere | Planning Manager**	
	Ally van Kuijk **Hautū Kaitiaki, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Whakawhanake | Group Manager Kaitiaki, Partnerships and Develo**	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.4 Mayoral Diary for September 2026

CM No.: 3241899

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Mayoral Diary from the previous few months.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Attached is a summary of the Mayor's Diary for September 2026. This diary provides a high-level overview of scheduled meetings, events and engagements undertaken during the month. As part of the Mayor's role, there are also impromptu conversations, phone calls, community interactions and stakeholder engagements that occur throughout the reporting period that may not be captured in this summary.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information is received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A⇩. Mayoral Diary September 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Debbie Burge **Kaiārahi Tautoko i te Koromatua me te Tumu Whakarae | Mayor and Executive Support Team Leader**	

Approved by	Ash Tanner **Koromatua | Mayor**	

Mayoral Diary - September 2026

Date	Description
Tuesday 1 September	• Chief Executive Review committee workshop to discuss KPI's • Meeting with Matamata resident about a planning issue • Meeting with an event promotor • Waharoa Matamata Aerodrome Committee (WMAC) pre meeting preparation online • Meeting with Morrinsville property owners
Wednesday 2 September	• Field work with KVS team. Gardeners and Cleaning staff
Thursday 3 September	• Participated in LGNZ briefing re Pre-Election • Meeting with Te Aroha Riding for the Disabled committee members • Meeting re Business Night • Site visits with MPDC CEO Manaia Te Wiata. • Morrinsville Community Patrol AGM
Friday 4 September	• Attended Koroneihana 2026 celebrations at Tūrangawaewae Marae
Monday 7 September	• Met with Te Aroha resident about the Domain • Met with a Matamata business regarding a planning matter with our CEO Manaia
Tuesday 8 September	• Phone call with a journalist from the Waikato Times • Attended a public excluded Council session for WMAC • Mayor and Governance catch up; • On site meeting regarding a tree in a council reserve with our Parks and Reserves manager • Meeting with representatives from Te Aroha Croquet about the proposed Te Aroha Playground
Wednesday 9 September	• Council Workshop
Thursday 10 September	• Field work with KVS team. Gardeners, Mowers and Cleaning staff • LGNZ online briefing re approach to local government
Friday 11 September	• LGNZ online briefing with Brad Olsen on rates capping and latest quarterly insights • Meeting with Peter Revel from TCDC
Monday 14 September	• Attended Regional Transport Committee meeting and Public Transport Committee meeting • LGNZ online briefing re infrastructure and the RMA reform
Tuesday	• Te Mana Whenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako meeting

Date	Description
15 September	• Meeting and discussion with Sport Waikato CEO Matthew Cooper, MPDC CEO Manaia, and Matamata Futures Trust representative Frank Healy • Morrinsville BA5 business networking event hosted by House of Travel Morrinsville
Wednesday 16 September	• Participated in an online LGNZ briefing on Head Start decision announcements • Council Workshop • Discussion with Mayor Gary Petley • Matamata BA5 business networking event hosted by Ministry for Social Development
Thursday 17 September	• Met with journalist for an article in an upcoming issue in a publication about the district • Meeting with residents about plan changes • Filming with staff following Council meeting for online media • Afternoon tea meeting with new council staff
Monday 21 September	• Waikato Emergency Management Committee online meeting • Signing of WWL transfer documentation • Matamata Futures AGM
Tuesday 22 September	• Participated in Waikato Waters Ltd Director interviews
Wednesday 23 September	• Mayor and Governance team catch up • Council Meeting
Thursday 24 September	• Meeting with a Te Aroha resident about one of our council facilities • Filming with the communications team about Council activities coming up • Open Country Community Stadium property-related meeting • LGNZ online briefing with Mayors and CEO's
Friday 25 September	• Attended and spoke at the MPDC All Staff Meeting, Councillors Whiting and Marshall were also in attendance • Future Proof meeting • Meeting with Council staff • Supported the Shave for a Cure event at Te Aroha College
Saturday 26 September	• Spoke at Matamata Cultural Day at the Matamata Civic Centre.
Monday 28 September	• Attended farewell morning tea for long service MPDC staff • Meeting with CEO Manaia • Discussions regarding Waikato Waters Ltd matters



Date	Description
Tuesday 29 September	• Meeting with MPDC Governance team
Wednesday 30 September	• Waikato Waters Ltd meeting • Waikato Waters Ltd Shareholder Representative Forum



Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

C1 Morrinsville Refuse Transfer Station Upgrade

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Commercial Activities.	s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. Commercial sensitive estimates prior to going out to tender.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.