



# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE Open Minutes

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Meeting Date: Monday 9 June 2025

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Time: 9.30am – 10.45am

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Venue Large Exhibition Hall  
War Memorial Centre  
Marine Parade  
Napier

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Present: **Chair:** Deputy Mayor Brosnan (NCC)  
Councillor Price (NCC)  
Councillor Ormsby and Williams (HBRC)  
Joseph Reti (Deputy Chair) and Evelyn Ratima (Mana Ahuriri Trust)

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In Attendance: **Napier City Council**

- Executive Director Infrastructure Services (Russell Bond)
- Strategic Planning Lead (Connie Whelan-Mills)
- Manager Water Strategy (Philip Kelsen)
- Project Manager (Antony Rewcastle)

**Hawke's Bay Regional Council:**

- Regional Park Planner (Bart Leslie)

**Consultants:**

- Cameron Drury (Stradegy)
- Greig Wilson (Beca)
- Rebecca Ryder (Boffa Miskell) [via Zoom]
- William Hatton (Boffa Miskell) [via Zoom]

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Administration Governance Advisor (Carolyn Hunt)

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# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

## – Open Minutes

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### Karakia

Mr Reti opened the meeting opened with a karakia.

### Apologies

An apology from Nick Flack, Chief Executive, Hawke's Bay Airport Limited was noted.  
Chad Tareha and Peter Eden, Mana Ahuriri Trust were not present at the meeting.

### Conflicts of interest

Nil

### Announcements by the Chairperson

Nil

### Announcements by the management

Nil

### Confirmation of minutes

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Deputy Mayor Brosnan / Joseph Reti

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That the Minutes of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting held on 17 February 2025 were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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Carried

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# AGENDA ITEMS

## 1. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK - PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE

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*Type of Report:* Procedural

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*Legal Reference:* N/A

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*Document ID:* 1855846

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*Reporting Officer/s & Unit:* Connie Whelan-Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a Project Managers update.

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#### At the meeting

The Project Manager, Mr Drury spoke to the report providing a summary and overview of the progress made since the Workshop held on 23 May 2025 to date and that direction for minor changes confirmed at the workshop had been made to the Masterplan.

A meeting had been held with the Hawke's Bay Airport Limited to discuss the project and clarified a misunderstanding that the project had been consented. It was noted that the airport had been advised that the Masterplan was progressing with the management of bird strike identified as a major risk. The scope for an avian risk assessment had been developed based on feedback from the Hawke's Bay Airport.

Mr Drury advised that now the spatial design has been completed, focus will be made to the land status in terms of classification of different parts of the layout, concept development of the sites entrance, wetlands and stormwater priorities. Once the concept design is scoped cost estimates and funding could be established.

#### In response to questions the following was clarified:

- The Hawke's Bay Airport have given the impression that they are neutral at this stage until further certainty is provided on the bird strike risk, the project team will provide copies of the avi-fauna risk assessment (once available) for the airport staff to review and are continuing to collaborate at a TAG level.
  - The Chair advised that a meeting had been held between herself the Mayor and Jon Nicholls (Chair of the Hawke's Bay Airport) where it had been established that the project was supported however, they needed to be satisfied the risk to aviation and Air New Zealand were satisfied. It was noted that the project would not proceed if there was an increase in bird strike risk.
  - The site is zoned as Ahuriri Estuary Stormwater and Ecology under the Proposed District Plan owned by Napier City Council, and is not currently under the Reserves Act 1977.
  - Cost estimates would be clarified more in-depth as move into the further stages and through the engineering process the level of accuracy increases and contingency decreases.
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## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Councillor Ormsby / Councillor Williams

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a. **Receive** the report titled “Ahuriri Regional Park – Project Manager’s Update” dated 9 June 2025.

Carried

## 2. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK MASTERPLAN ENDORSEMENT

*Type of Report:* Procedural

*Legal Reference:* N/A

*Document ID:* 1855926

*Reporting Officer/s & Unit:* Connie Whelan-Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 2.1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks the Joint Committees endorsement of the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan.

#### At the meeting

**The Strategic Planning Lead, Ms Whelan-Mills** provided a summary of the report including the vision set by the Committee, key project drivers, development process and roadmap. Ms Whelan-Mills highlighted that through endorsing the Masterplan is not endorsement to construct but instead to continue the projects development. As part of the endorsement process, officers request directions from the Committee to:

- Direct Joint Councils to continue with their budget placeholders within long term funding allocation of \$13.2m from Napier City Council from 2028 for the implementation of the masterplan and \$9m from Hawke’s Bay Regional Council from 2030.
- Direct officers to progress with a detailed phasing plan for budget and resource certainty.
- Prepare an information pack to each partner organisation.

Ms Whelan-Mills highlighted that feedback on the Masterplan from the public had identified that the use of the word “Park” indicated a recreational space, which was not the intent. Investigation into the naming convention process would be undertaken together with input from Te Waka Rangapū.

**Ms Ryder, Desing Lead from Boffa Miskell** displayed the PowerPoint presentation on the Masterplan (Doc Id 1858393) highlighting some changes following the workshop held on 23 May 2025.

- The Masterplan includes a record of engagement, optioneering and narratives shaping points and the delivery.

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- Add a mihi at the beginning of document from Mana Ahuriri Trust.
  - Minor changes in the Executive Summary
  - Placeholder for the description of site significance from Mana Ahuriri Trust required updating.
  - Analysis diagrams previously presented to the Committee.
  - Including context on how the project came to fruition.
  - Following public feedback on the bird watchtowers, the height has been reduced.
  - Some of the imagery has been updated and what the visitor centre would look like.
  - Included imagery of other regional parks.
  - Adjustments made to the masterplan staging and colour coded the maps to assist with understanding the timeframes.
  - For a project of this lifespan things will change and pieces have been appendicised so the full document does not have to be released if it changes.

**In response to questions the following was clarified:**

- The main changes to the Masterplan following engagement were in the core projects staging and being able to communicate through the Masterplan that the core driver of the projects is a stormwater wetlands project.
- Refocussed on ecological and biodiversity enhancement which meant public activities were relooked at and moved to Stage 3.
- Stage 1 is fully focussed on the entrance and creation of the wetlands as well as earthworks and the native plant nursery to support the installation of the wetlands.
- The word “freedom camping” has been removed and could be addressed in the future if Council wished to reconsider their Freedom Camping Bylaw. Confusion around camping which was educational camping for scout and school groups within the Park it is not freedom camping.
- Mr Rewcastle advised that once completed the wetlands will treat stormwater from all catchments discharging to Te Whanganui-a-Orotu via the Westshore Tidal Gates (Taiapo and Pandora have separate discharge points).
- Until a Water Entity is created and a model agreed between the partner Councils it is not known who would be responsible for this asset.

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**COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION**

Councillor Ormsby / Councillor Williams

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The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- Endorse** the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan (Doc Id1858393) with minor amendments.
  - Direct** officers to progress a detailed phasing plan to provide a greater level of certainty of timeframes and resources required for the works programme of each phase.
  - Direct** officers to prepare an information pack to partner councils prior to the next Long Term Plan development (April 2026) which
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provides details on the programme of works, budget required for each project, and procurement processes.

- d) **Recommend** to Partner Councils and Mana Ahuriri Trust to Adopt the Masterplan, to note the phasing plan including detailed costing stages, to continue commitment to high level funding placeholders in each respective councils Long Term Plan budgets prior to end of August 2025.

**ACTION:** *Direct officers to provide a map of water catchments into the Estuary and points of disposal for the City.*

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Carried

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**Minor matters**

The Chair advised that this would be the final meeting of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee for this triennium and that she would not be seeking re-election. She suggested that for the new triennium in the Terms of Reference including possibly having a rotating chair between Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Mana Ahuriri Trust.

Deputy Mayor Brosnan said that this co-governed project was one of the biggest highlights of her career to rezone the estuary for conservation to return it back to the environment and deliver something intergenerationally good for the community.

*Mr Reti closed the meeting with a karakia at 10.45am*

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Approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairperson .....

Date of approval .....