



AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

Open Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday 16 March 2026

Time: 9.30am - 10.10am

Venue Large Exhibition Hall
War Memorial Centre
Marine Parade
Napier

Present: **Chair:** Cr Isaac-Sharland
Cr Simpson (NCC), Crs McIlroy and Parsons [online] (HBRC),
Joseph Reti, Parris Greening and Evelyn Ratima [online] (Mana
Ahuriri Trust)

In Attendance: **Napier City Council**
Executive Director Water Services (Russell Bond)
Strategic Project Lead (Laura Rolls)
Strategic Project Lead (Phillipa Tocker)
Portfolio Lead – Open Spaces (Antony Rewcastle)
Head of Strategy and Investments (Stephen Moratti)
Regional Park Planner (Bart Leslie) (HBRC)
Environmental Manager Gareth Boyt (Mana Ahuriri Trust)

Also in Attendance Cameron Drury (Stradegy) Consultant
Cr Morley

Administration Governance Advisor (Carolyn Hunt)

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

The meeting was opened by the Executive Director Water Services, Mr Bond in the Chair, pending the election of the Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee.

Karakia

The meeting opened with the Council karakia.

Apologies

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Parris Greening / Councillor Isaac-Sharland

That the apology for absence from Peter Eden (MAT) be accepted.

Carried

Conflicts of interest

Nil

Public forum

Nil

Announcements by the management

Nil

Confirmation of minutes

Nil

AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

<i>Type of Report:</i>	Procedural
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	Local Government Act 2002
<i>Document ID:</i>	1897512
<i>Reporting Officer/s & Unit:</i>	Phillipa Tocker, Strategic Project Lead

1.0 Executive Summary - Te Kaupapa me te Whakarāpopototanga:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair for the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee in line with the existing Terms of Reference for the 2025-2028 triennium.

At the meeting

The Executive Director Water Services, Mr Bond called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee.

Election of Chair

Councillor Isaac-Sharland was nominated as Chair by Parris Greening and seconded by Councillor McIlroy.

Councillor Isaac-Sharland accepted the nomination as Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee. There being no other nominations, Councillor Isaac-Sharland was duly elected unopposed as Chair.

Councillor Isaac-Sharland assumed the role of Chair at 9.40am

Election of Deputy Chair

The newly appointed Chair, Councillor Isaac-Sharland called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee.

Peter Eden was nominated as Deputy Chair by Councillor McIlroy and seconded by Joseph Reti. There being no other nominations, Peter Eden was duly elected unopposed as Deputy Chair.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Joseph Reti / Councillor McIlroy

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- Receive** the report titled Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair dated 16 March 2026.
 - Approve** Councillor Isaac-Sharland (Napier City Council) be appointed as Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee for the 2025-2028 triennium.
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- c) **Approve** Peter Eden (Mana Ahuriri Trust) be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Carried

2. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK - PROJECT UPDATE

<i>Type of Report:</i>	Information
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	N/A
<i>Document ID:</i>	1901269
<i>Reporting Officer/s & Unit:</i>	Phillipa Tocker, Strategic Project Lead

1.0 Executive Summary - Te Kaupapa me te Whakarāpopotanga:

1.1 This report is to provide context and update the Committee on current status of the project.

At the meeting

The Strategic Project Lead, Ms Tocker supported by Mr Rewcastle spoke to the report summarising key points.

Ms Tocker advised that issues had emerged with the current Masterplan concept regarding:

- Preliminary results of permeability and infiltration testing suggest further interrogation of the current wetland concept will be required.
- Further investigation required on bird strike risk in conjunction with concept review.
- In addition, Napier City Council Waters group are investigating in-stream stormwater treatment options.

In response to questions the following was clarified:

- The draft bird strike assessment report, although complete, requires peer review due to the project's associated risks.
- The peer review is required because it is not fully clear whether the report reflects what is proposed in the Masterplan or whether it is intended to provide broader guidance.
- Additional specialist expertise may then be needed to clarify the report's implications for the Masterplan. Ahuriri Regional Park (ARP) was established to help restore the health and wellbeing of the Ahuriri Estuary, working Lagoon Farm Diversion project.
- The concept was to run stormwater through a wetland over a period of 48 hours. During that time, vegetation would draw nutrients and contaminants from the water. Initial geotechnical investigations found that on the eastern side, the ground proved too permeable, causing the water to pass through too quickly before reaching the Estuary. Further testing at sixteen sites has been undertaken, including one further west to determine whether the high permeability was widespread.
- The site testing will inform suitability for a low-permeability barrier. Initial concept design assumed the use of a clay liner as the primary method for reducing permeability. Further assessment is required to confirm whether sufficient clay material is available on-site or

nearby. A clay liner would be approximately 500mm deep, subject to design refinement. Alternative solutions may need to be explored if clay proves unsuitable or insufficient.

- Tonkin+Taylor have provided an update on recent geotechnical test results, noting that there is still a process to work through before the results can be released. It is anticipated that the groundwater and permeability reports will be available in April.
- Ms Tocker confirmed that Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) had deferred its capital funding contribution to after 2027, noting that no further detail was available at this stage as the funding had been included in the now superseded 2027 Long Term Plan. She advised that current project funding was being met through the Council's operational budgets, and that only very preliminary work had been undertaken on potential funding sources for future stages of the plan.
- Mr Rewcastle advised that the stormwater consent requirements were not contingent on the ARP, and that associated stormwater management would not necessarily occur on this site. He noted that HBRC has provided clear guidance regarding the treatment feasibility study.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Councillor McIlroy / Councillor Simpson

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee::

- a) **Receive** the memo titled Ahuriri Regional Park - Project Update and Lagoon Farm Stormwater Briefing dated 2 March 2026. (Doc Id 1901325)
- b) **Receive** the presentation titled Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion and Ahuriri Regional Park (Doc Id 1901325) to Napier City Council elected members (dated 15 December 2125).
- c) **Note** that investigations are in progress on bird strike risk and land treatment approach to inform design and costings for Lagoon Farm stormwater treatment.
- d) **Provide guidance** on the following considerations that may inform project activity or priorities:
 - Review the bird strike and geotechnical assessment reports and circulate as soon as possible.
 - Project officers to provide a forward meeting schedule for 2026 and planned effective work programme
 - Provide information on any other stormwater treatment work that can be done concurrently.
 - Officers to organise induction workshops, including external experts in Wetland and environmental restoration on the Ahuriri Regional Park for the Committee.
 - Officers to organise a site visit for Committee members of Lagoon Farm, led by mana whenua guide, to hear the cultural side as well as technical information.

Carried

Minor matters

There were no minor matters to discuss.

Joseph Reti closed the meeting with a karakia at 10.10am

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

Chairperson

Date of approval