



**NAPIER**  
CITY COUNCIL

*Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri*

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# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

## Open Minutes

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Meeting Date: Monday 15 June 2026

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Time: 9.30am – 10.55am

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Venue Large Exhibition Hall  
War Memorial Centre  
Marine Parade  
Napier

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Present: **Chair:** Councillor Isaac-Sharland (NCC)  
Councillor Simpson (NCC), Councillors McIlroy [zoom] and  
Parsons (HBRC)  
Peter Eden (Deputy Chair), Marina Toatoa and Evelyn Ratima  
(Mana Ahuriri Trust)

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In Attendance: **Napier City Council**  
Executive Director Water Services (Russell Bond)  
Executive Director Strategy & Development (Rachael Bailey)  
Head of Strategy and Investments (Stephen Moratti)  
Strategic Project Lead (Phillipa Tocker)  
Mana Whenua Project Advisor (Andrew Dunning)  
Communications, Marketing & Engagement Manager (Julia  
Stevens) [zoom]

**Hawke's Bay Regional Council:**  
Regional Park Planner (Bart Leslie)

**Mana Ahuriri Trust:**  
Environmental Manager (Gareth Boyt)

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Taiao Project Lead (Chan Collin)

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Also in Attendance: Councillor Morley (NCC alternate)  
Nick Flack (Chief Executive) and Ben Hutton (Hawke's Bay  
Airport Limited)  
Angie Denby, Sue Macdonald and Clare Plug (Ahuriri Estuary  
Protection Society)

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Administration Governance Advisor (Carolyn Hunt)

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*NCC (Napier City Council); HBRC (Hawke's Bay Regional Council ) and MAT (Mana Ahuriri Trust)*

# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

## Open Minutes

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### Karakia

The meeting opened with the Council karakia.

### Apologies

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

##### Evelyn Ratima / Councillor Simpson

That the apology for absence from Joe Reti be accepted.

**Carried**

### Conflicts of interest

Nil

### Public forum

#### Announcements by the Mayor

Nil

#### Announcements by the Chairperson

Nil

#### Announcements by the management

Nil

### Confirmation of minutes

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#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

##### Councillor Simpson / Councillor Parsons

That the Minutes of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting held on 16 March 2026 were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Carried**

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# AGENDA ITEMS

## 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE - CONFIRMATION

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*Type of Report:* Operational

*Legal Reference:* N/A

*Document ID:* 1914099

*Reporting Officer/s & Unit:* Phillipa Tocker, Strategic Project Lead  
Stephen Moratti, Head of Strategy and Investments

### 1.0 Executive Summary - Te Kaupapa me te Whakarāpopototanga:

1.1 The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) were adopted in 2025 (Attachment 1) to the report. This paper recommends the Committee note the ToR and details of arrangements for Napier City Council (NCC) as Council responsible for Joint Committee Administration

1.2 Inclusions:

- Membership of Technical Advisory Group (TAG);
- Recognition of internal NCC project arrangements;
- Clarification of remuneration and updating of reimbursement policy.

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### At the meeting

The Strategic Project Lead, Ms Tocker supported by Mr Moratti presented the report.

The Terms of Reference Quick Reference, attached at the front of the agenda Item, identifies the delegated authority, purpose and fields of activity of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee. It also outlines the make-up of the Committee and rules of engagement. This Quick Reference will form part of all future Agendas.

### Points highlighted:

The Committee discussed the following paragraphs in the Terms of Reference and agreed that its overarching objective should be the restoration of water quality in the Estuary, with the development of a park its particular focus.

- 8.1.6 *To facilitate collaboration in planning and design for all waterways, drainage and stormwater networks where they discharge into the ARP.*
  - 8.1.7 *To work with Te Komiti to establish processes and collaborate together on actions to restore the mauri of the Ahuriri Estuary through the development of the ARP on Lagoon Farm.*
  - 8.1.7 *To keep each Partner Council, MAT and Te Komiti regularly updated on the ARP Joint Committee's progress.*
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- The Executive Director of Water Services, Mr Bond, confirmed that Napier City Council's water team is already progressing work to address water discharge issues and contaminants entering the Estuary.
  - It was noted that officers are already engaging with high-risk businesses to monitor activities and ensure discharges are appropriately treated. The Council has commissioned a study to explore options for in-stream treatment, with the resulting report expected to be available in July 2026.
  - The Ahuriri Regional Park is a joint park development with three parties involved, with the underlying Lagoon Farm land owned by Napier City Council. As well as the Masterplan concept, preliminary work has focused on planning assessments, particularly identifying where stormwater will be directed and determining viable treatment options for managing the water.
  - Restoring the mauri of Te Whanga is important, and understanding the current state of the environment is essential to track and demonstrate improvements over time.
  - The Government's Head Start programme is focused on local government structural reform. It allows councils to propose new unitary authorities that combine regional and territorial council functions, to simplify governance and reduce duplication.
  - If NCC and HBRC amalgamate, HBRC is disestablished, the ARP would likely reduce to two partners. The government target for implementing any changes is 2028 to allow for any flow on structure.
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## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

### Evelyn Ratima / Councillor Parsons

#### The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a) **Receive** the Terms of Reference (Doc Id 1915264) Confirmation dated 15 June 2026.
- b) **Note** the internal NCC project arrangements.
- c) **Note** the membership and status of the Technical Advisory Group.
- d) **Note** the updated arrangements for remuneration of Mana Whenua members

**Carried**

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*The meeting adjourned at 10.35am and reconvened at 10.45am*

## 2. LAGOON FARM STORMWATER PROJECT – CONCEPT DESIGN REVIEW

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*Type of Report:* Operational

*Legal Reference:* N/A

*Document ID:* 1914655

*Reporting Officer/s & Unit:* Stephen Moratti, Head of Strategy and Investments  
Phillipa Tocker, Strategic Project Lead

### 1.0 Executive Summary - Te Kaupapa me te Whakarāpopototanga:

- 1.1 Seek Joint Committee endorsement to:
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- Reassess the current Lagoon Farm stormwater concept design, and
  - Pause Ahuriri Regional Park (ARP) recreational development until a viable stormwater solution is confirmed
- 1.2 Lagoon Farm is central to Napier's stormwater system, managing flood flows and urban runoff.
- Over 70% of Napier's stormwater discharges to Te Whanganui-a-Orotū, degrading water quality and ecological health.
  - The project is a key opportunity to:
    - (a) Improve water quality
    - (b) Restore wetlands and biodiversity
    - (c) Deliver outcomes aligned with Te Tiriti settlement and Mana Ahuriri kaitiakitanga
- 1.3 Recent investigations show the current concept design is not viable due to:
- Highly permeable soils: wetlands will not retain water without extensive lining
  - Significant cost escalation: Clay or engineered lining adds ~\$23M, pushing project costs over \$56M
  - Bird strike risk near Hawke's Bay Airport requiring design modifications and/or an ongoing management plan
- 1.4 Officers' recommendation is to pause ARP recreational works and to return to optioneering for the stormwater solution using nature-based stormwater designs aligned with the site constraints
- Benefits include
    - (a) Lower capital cost
    - (b) Reduced bird strike risk
    - (c) Strong alignment with Te Tiriti partners
  - Risks include
    - (d) Project delay
    - (e) Additional concept design costs

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### At the meeting

The Head of Strategy and Investments, Mr Moratti, supported by Ms Tocker and Mr Boyt, took the report as read. He noted that, if the recommendations were endorsed, it was proposed to establish a working group to develop the concept design in alignment with the existing landforms.

Mr Moratti tabled two reports at the meeting - the Bird Strike Risk Assessment (Doc ID 1916349) and the Tonkin & Taylor Lagoon Farm Interim Site Investigation (Doc Id 1916350). Both these reports had previously been discussed at a Committee workshop held on 18 May 2026 and will be attached to the Minutes.

### Points highlighted:

- Lagoon Farm spans 289 hectares and is a vital component of the city's drainage system. While the area was engineered to protect the city, stormwater contaminants have posed a threat to the Estuary's ecosystem.
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- It is recommended that the regional park current concept design that was driving other recreational activities be paused until the concept design for the Lagoon Farm Stormwater diversion and treatment has been completed.
  - Identify alternative treatment options taking into account bird strike considerations. This should include moving away from open water bodies, to be less favourable to large migratory birds such as swans and Canada geese.
  - Mr Moratti confirmed that funding for this project was included in the NCC budget and that the project was ratepayer funded.
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## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

**Evelyn Ratima / Councillor Parsons**

**That Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:**

- a. **Receives** the report titled Lagoon Farm Stormwater Project – Concept Design Review dated 15 June 2026.
- b. **Endorses** a reassessment of the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Project concept design, informed by recent technical investigations.
- c. **Endorses** to put the Ahuriri Regional Park recreational developments concept on hold until the stormwater concept is fully defined.

**Carried**

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## Attachments

- 1 Bird Strike Risk Assessment (Doc Id 1916349)
  - 2 Tonkin and Taylor - Lagoon Farm Interim Site Investigation (Doc Id 1916350)
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## Minor matters

There were no minor matters to discuss.

*The meeting closed with a karakia at 10.55am*

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

Chairperson .....

Date of approval .....