



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 26 November 2025 commencing at 9:30am.

## **1. Present**

Mayor – Mr S M Gilmore, Crs S M Wards (Deputy Mayor), A J Amboy, C L Corlett, P A Johns, E F Kennedy, P M Naylor, E L Peeti-Webber, K E R Te Waaka, and S A Wallace

### **In Attendance**

Mr D Batley	- Evergreen Consulting
Mr M Alexander	- Interim Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager – Operations
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Ms J Smith	- General Counsel
Ms T McDonald	- Chief Financial Officer
Mr N Brewin	- Internal Communications and Compliance Lead
Mrs A Charmley	- Planning Services Manager
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

## **2. Council Prayer**

Councillor Keshaan Te Waaka commenced the meeting with a karakia timatanga (opening prayer)

## **3. Acknowledgements**

The Mayor acknowledged White Ribbon Day that was observed on 25 November. He spoke about its importance as a day that aimed to lift awareness to domestic violence in the community. He acknowledged all the people who work very hard to bring awareness to that issue.

**4. Apologies**

There were no apologies

**5. Public Forum**

There were no requests for public forum.

**6. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

Nil

**7. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business**

Nil

**8. Confirmation of Minutes**

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 November 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Crs Wards/Wallace*

*Carried*

**9. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports**

**9.1 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board**

*That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 17 November 2025 be received.*

*Crs Peeti-Webber/Corlett*

*Carried*

**9.2 Minutes - Eketāhuna Community Board**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 10 November 2025 be received.*

*Crs Peeti-Webber/Corlett*

*Carried*

**9.3 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee**

*That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee Annual General Meeting and meeting held 1 October 2025, and meeting held 5 November 2025 be received.*

9.4 **Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee**

*That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 2 October 2025 be received.*

*Crs Peeti-Webber/Corlett*

*Carried*

**10. Reports**

10.1 **First Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 30 September 2025**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Senior Financial Accountant dated 10 November 2025 that provided the performance report for the first quarter ending 30 September 2025 and an indication of the expected year-end results.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the information within the report. She advised that the purpose of the report was to track progress on the 2025-26 Annual Plan. She explained that much of the capital programme expenditure took place over the summer periods and talked about how this was phased within the reporting.

In response to a question about the impact of any delays in the capital programme on contractors, it was advised that further information could be provided on that. However it was noted that seasonality was usually factored into contractors' planning.

She spoke about the hedging of interest rates and how this benefitted the Council.

In response to a question about operating expenses being higher than budget, and it was explained that this covered maintenance.

In response to a question related to increased expenditure on maintenance and service delivery activities, seeking an explanation of what "service delivery activities" covered and how that had increased council spending, it was advised that further information could be provided on that to provide better understanding on what has contributed to that variation.

It was noted that the graphic for Financial Performance Actual vs Budget variance could be reviewed to provide better clarity.

It was also suggested that budget information be provided to provide more clarity for how Council is tracking.

A question was asked regarding the underspend on personnel, and whether this was expected to continue and whether some of those savings could be banked,

the Chief Financial Officer noted that it was not expected to be underspent at the end of the financial year. It was noted this topic could be subject to a deeper dive.

With regard to emergency management, it was asked whether the carry forward of unspent recovery funding was that repaid to the provider. In response the Chief Financial Officer advised they would investigate and report back on the detail of that. It was suggested that this be reported to the Performance and Monitoring Committee.

With regard to waste management, it was asked whether the budget was adjusted each year to reflect decreasing amounts being brought to landfill. In response it was advised that trends would be reflected in the next budget. The Council expressed interest in looking at this in more detail and to see the relationship with fees and charges, against the cost for fly-tipping removal.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an explanation of how the Treasury Programme operated, with the aim of providing a better return on funds than simply depositing funds to the bank.

With regard to the interest cost performance, it was noted that the interest rate environment had been uncertain over the period, and some of the hedging had been helpful to provide better predictability.

With regard to service performance results, it was noted that this included some mandatory measures that Council was required to include.

Debtors report – it was noted that trends from previous years would be included in the next quarterly report. The Chief Financial Officer spoke about the actions that officers undertook prior to passing debt on to the Debt Management Company to recover on Council's behalf.

In response to a question about abandoned land, and the process for recovering rates, it was explained that the procedures had changed. Officers were now reviewing weekly and tracking the activity that was occurring on that aged debt.

With regard to forestry, it was asked that more work in budgeting be undertaken, as each year the actuals did not track to budget. An explanation on the unplanned contract costs was sought, and it was noted that better commentary could be provided in future reports.

With regard to the pensioner housing activity, it was noted that this was a self-funding activity. It was asked that a deep dive into the pensioner housing activity be undertaken. Clarity was sought on repayments from the rental income to replenish the reserve used for unit refurbishment.

It was recommended that the Council critically review its services going into the Long Term Plan. It was noted that forestry and pensioner housing provision did

not meet the new definition of core services in the systems improvement bill.

It was noted that the forestry activity related to plantings in the water catchment area, and part of a roading reserve. It was suggested that these could be better classified into the related activities rather than being treated as “forestry”.

It was noted that some performance measures were not currently measured until the end of the year, which made monitoring the performance difficult. It was noted that this would be reviewed.

With regard to waste management, and the reduced tonnage to landfill, a deep dive was suggested for consideration at the District Growth Committee.

***That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 10 November 2025 concerning the First Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 30 September 2025 be received.***

***Crs Johns/Corlett***

***Carried***

## 10.2

### **Tararua District Plan Review: Plan Stop**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Planning Services Manager dated 12 November 2025 that provided information on the recent changes to legal obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and sought a decision on the options for moving forward with the District Plan Review in light of impending Resource Management Act reform.

The Planning Services Manager and Mr Batley of Evergreen Consulting were in attendance. They noted that they had been 80% through the District Plan Review when the Plan Stop announcement was made. They noted the intent to lodge separate plan stop exemption applications. An explanation was provided on the proposed Plan Change 2 regarding designations, which was about reviewing and keeping designations up to date to provide protections. Plan Change 1 was intended to review zonings to provide for growth in the district.

It was asked whether feedback from iwi, farmers or developers had been received, and in response it was noted that this would be part of the consultation process on the plan changes if they were to proceed, and noted the work on engagement that had been undertaken prior to the plan stop announcement.

***That the report from the Planning Manager dated 12 November 2025 concerning the Tararua District Plan Review: Plan Stop be received.***

***That Council notes that the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 has:***

- ***Suspended the requirement under section 79(1)-(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) to review the District Plan every 10***

*years, until 31 December 2027.*

- *Prohibited Council from notifying any plan change to the District Plan until 31 December 2027, except where an exemption applies.*

*That Council notes the Government's intent to avoid council resources being used on work that will not be compatible with the intended new resource management system.*

*That Council notes the Government's intent for councils to begin implementing the new resource management system from mid-2027.*

*That Council suspends its review of the District Plan, which was commenced under section 79 of the RMA.*

*That Council adopts Option three to prepare and submit two separate Plan Stop exemption applications to the Minister for Approval:*

- *Plan Change One: To provide for rezoning of residential and industrial land across the four main town centres of Tararua District, including Dannevirke, Woodville, Pahiatua and Eketāhuna.*
- *Plan Change Two: To provide for designation plan change for our requiring authorities, including Tararua District as a local authority.*

*Cr Johns/Mayor Gilmore*

*Carried*

### 10.3 District Licensing Committee

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 11 November 2025 that sought appointment of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and List Member for the Tararua District Licensing Committee.

*That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 11 November 2025 concerning the District Licensing Committee be received.*

*That the Tararua District Council recommends that the Chief Executive appoints Mr David Lea as Commissioner of the District Licensing Committee with the functions, powers and duties of the Chairperson, for a period of one year expiring 26 November 2026.*

*That the Tararua District Council appoints Councillor Chris Corlett as Deputy Chairperson of the District Licensing Committee.*

*That the Tararua District Council appoints Mr Kerry Sutherland to the list of persons approved to be members of the Tararua District Licensing Committee, for a period of five years expiring 26 November 2030.*

*Crs Wallace/Wards*

*Carried*

#### 10.4 **Appointments by Council**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 10 November 2025 that sought formal appointments to the Council's Community Boards and also to external organisations where appointment of an elected member has been requested or is required.

***That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 10 November 2025 concerning the Appointments by Council be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council appoints the following Councillors to the Dannevirke and Eketāhuna Community Boards:***

***Dannevirke Community Board: Councillor Alison Amboy***

***Eketāhuna Community Board: Councillor Chris Corlett***

***That the Tararua District Council appoints the following Liaison Representatives to Community Committees:***

***Explore Pahiatua Community Committee: Councillor Elisabeth Kennedy***

***Positively Woodville Community Committee: Councillor Peter Naylor***

***That the Tararua District Council appoints Liaison Representatives to Rural Communities as follows:***

***Norsewood / Ormondville / Makotuku: Councillor Steve Wallace***

***Akitio / Pongaroa: Councillor Sharon Wards***

***Weber / Herbertville: Councillor Erana Peeti-Webber***

***Makuri: Councillor Chris Corlett***

***That the Tararua District Council confirms the following appointments to external organisations:***

***Regional Transport Committee: Mayor Scott Gilmore***

***Civil Defence Emergency Management Group: Mayor Scott Gilmore***

***Local Water Done Well Stakeholders Forum: Mayor Scott Gilmore and alternate Councillor Sharon Wards***

***Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group: Mayor Scott Gilmore and Councillor Peter Johns***

***Connect Tararua: Councillor Sharon Wards***

**10.5 Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 11 November 2025 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 11 November 2025 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.***

**11. Portfolio Reports**

- 11.1 The Mayor noted that the Council was still at the beginning of portfolio establishment, and acknowledged work being done to date.
- 11.2 Youth Portfolio: Councillor Te Waaka reported on her attendance at a Year 7 and 8 careers expo held at Tararua College, run by Wairarapa REAP. She was invited to speak at the expo and her speech was about finding a career in something you love and are good at, giving examples of what she was good at and how that helped in her career. She noted the upcoming Hui with Tararua Youth Services, and spoke about how she was looking forward to networking with those groups.
- 11.3 Marae, Kura Kaupapa Māori and Kohanga Reo Portfolio: Councillor Te Waaka reported that the Mayor, Councillor Peeti-Webber and herself had a hui on their plans for the next year. She will provide further information to Council as their plans develop, but noted that they were looking having more kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) hui going forward. She spoke about attendance at both the Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua annual general meeting, and the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua annual general meeting. She advised that both herself and Cr Peeti-Webber would be attending Te Maruata Hui on Thursday 27 November. Te Maruata is Local Government New Zealand’s Māori advisory group, providing guidance and support on Māori issues in local government. She spoke about the kaupapa she has been attending at the Woodville Marae each week, who will be taking a group of youth to Waitangi next year. She then spoke about the national grading held in Takapau recently for Mau Rakau that she attended. In conclusion she spoke about attendance at the White Ribbon event held in Eketāhuna.
- 11.4 Zone 3 meeting: Councillor Peeti-Webber spoke about attendance at the recent Zone 3 meeting, noting that Mayor Little from Wairoa District Council and Mayor Watson from Rangitikei District Council had been appointed as Co-Chairs for Zone 3. She advised that Mayor Little had been elected as the Zones



representative on National Council. At the Zone meeting each Mayor provided an update on events in their District, and a representative from the Department of Internal Affairs spoke about local government reform and rates capping. The Zone meeting had a visit to Te Ahu a Turanga – Manawatu Tararua Highway, where James Kendrick spoke about the relationship iwi had in that space.

- 11.5 Youth Portfolio: Councillor Amboy advised that on Friday 28 November she would be attending the Young Elected Members Conference, and was looking forward to making connections with other young elected members and learning from them. She advised she was unable to attend hui at Tararua Youth Services, however herself and Councillor Te Waaka were drafting a proposal for engaging with youth in the community.
- 11.6 Communications and Consultation Portfolio: Councillor Amboy advised that Councillor Naylor and herself were working together on how this could look going forward.
- 11.7 Councillor Wards spoke about attending the Pongaroa Way to Go meeting on Monday 24 November 2025. She advised there were a number of unresolved issues out there that she would follow up with the Chief Executive and Mayor. She spoke about her attendance at the official opening of the new Cancer Society Hub in Dannevirke, that had been gifted the name “Te Kiri Rākau” by Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua. She noted the depth of investment the society and those agencies it works with had made in the community, and acknowledged how everyone works together, including the work of the volunteers, which she felt was indicative of the value that agency had in the community.
- 11.8 Councillor Johns spoke about the Positive Woodville Christmas Parade. He provided background that Positively Woodville Community Committee had opted not to hold a parade this year due to the cost of traffic management, and were having a market day instead. In response some individuals had taken it upon themselves to organise a protest parade. NZTA had become aware and as a result a traffic management company has offered to carry out the traffic management for Positively Woodville at no cost and as a result the Christmas parade will take place as usual.
- 11.9 Councillor Wallace advised that on Friday 28 November he would be attending a service of re-dedication of the upgraded Boer War cenotaph at Norsewood. He advised he was also working with the Chamber of Commerce on the Christmas parade in Dannevirke. He would also be going down to the showgrounds this year to help out with the Radio Station Christmas event on 6 December.
- 11.10 Councillor Corlett spoke about his attendance at the recent Zone 3 meeting, noting he had stayed for the SIS report about securities and protections for New Zealand. He spoke about attendance at the White Ribbon Event in Eketahuna. He advised that the Eketāhuna Christmas Parade was being held on Saturday 29 November and on 5 December was an event with the Rapid Relief Team to support local farmers impacted by recent weather event.

- 11.11 The Mayor noted that in the New Year the Council agenda would include formal written reports for portfolio updates.

## **12. Mayoral Matters**

- 12.1 The Mayor spoke about his attendance at the recent Rural and Provincial sector meeting, where the Minister for Rural Communities had spoke about some upcoming changes for local government. The Mayor noted the upcoming changes included local government reform, rates capping, resource management reform. He also attended the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs meeting and both the Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua annual general meeting, and the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua annual general meeting. He spoke about the privilege of attending the White Ribbon Event to welcome the riders to Eketāhuna. He was also privileged to attend Dannevirke Host Lions Christmas party for seniors where senior citizens were treated to a Christmas lunch. In closing he advised that we have a lot to talk about with local government reform, and that this triennium would see the largest change to local government since the 1989 reforms.

## **13. Items not on the Agenda**

Nil

## **14. Public Excluded Items of Business**

*That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

### ***Confirmation of Minutes***

*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.*

<b><i>General subject matter to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></b>	<b><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></b>
<b><i>Confirmation of Minutes</i></b>	<b><i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i></b>	<b><i>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</i></b>

*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 or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:*

***s7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.***

The meeting went into public excluded session at 11:22am and resumed open session at 11:23am.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 11:23am