



## Eketāhuna Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board held in the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall, corner of Jones Street and State Highway 2, Eketāhuna on Monday 4 May 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

### 1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay (Deputy Chairperson), and D J Smith

#### In Attendance

Mayor S M Gilmore

Mr C Haines – Chief Executive  
Mrs A Dunn – Manager – Democracy Services  
Mrs S Anthony – Democracy Support Officer

### 2. Apologies

*That the apologies from Councillor C L Corlett and Board member M A Corlett be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.*

*Barclay/Smith*

*Carried*

### 3. Public Forum

Nil

### 4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

**5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in relation to this Meeting's Items of Business**

Nil

**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 23 February 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Smith/Barclay*

*Carried*

**7. Tararua District Council Report**

**7.1 Report from Tararua District Council**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report from the Tararua District Council meetings held 25 February 2026 and 25 March 2026.

*That the report from the Tararua District Council meetings held 25 February 2026 and 25 March 2026 be received.*

*Barclay/Smith*

*Carried*

**8. Reports**

**8.1 Management Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 March 2026 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest as reported at the Community Connections Committee meeting held on 18 February 2026 and the Infrastructure and Projects Committee meeting held on 15 April 2026.

*That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 March 2026 concerning the Management Report be received.*

*Smith/Barclay*

*Carried*

**8.2 Decision Action Items for Eketāhuna Community Board**

*That the report providing an update on decision action items be noted.*

*Barclay/Smith*

*Carried*

### 8.3

#### **Annual Plan 2026-27 and Early Engagement on Long Term Plan**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 09 April 2026 that informed the Board that the Council resolved not to consult on the 2026-27 Annual Plan and encourages the community to provide feedback in the upcoming early engagement for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

It was advised that the only change to the Annual Plan (AP) is a significant rate reduction, and it is possible to continue deliver within that. Focus has shifted to the Long Term Plan (LTP) and affordability. The LTP will require substantial community engagement. Budget challenge packs have been provided to Board members. Historically, consultation submissions have been low, so Council requested a more engaging and interactive approach, which has been successful to date. Central Government reform has strongly influenced the process, reinforcing the need to focus on affordability and trade-offs—doing more in one area means doing less in another.

Pre-engagement is intended to understand community priorities before developing the LTP. Community Boards are asked to engage with their communities to understand how residents would allocate funding, including what services to keep, stop, or start. This feedback will inform Council’s prioritisation decisions, guided by the question: “What matters most when everything matters?”. Multiple feedback channels are available, including online tools, the Bush Telegraph, service centres, and an interactive option. The Chair advised he will promote this in the next community newsletter. Pre-consultation will run for six weeks to test whether this increases feedback.

Formal consultation will place greater responsibility on Community Boards to support engagement and test ideas with the community. Members are encouraged to suggest creative and meaningful engagement approaches, noting that traditional methods can sometimes attract limited public interest. Markets, such as the Eketāhuna market, were noted as potential opportunities. During both pre-engagement and formal consultation, members are encouraged to use all interactions with the public to promote the budget challenge tool and capture community feedback.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 09 April 2026 concerning the Annual Plan 2026-27 and Early Engagement on Long Term Plan be received.***

***That the Eketāhuna Community Board notes that the Tararua District Council resolved not to consult on the 2026-27 Annual Plan and encourages the community to provide feedback in the upcoming early engagement for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.***

***Barclay/Smith***

***Carried***

#### 8.4 **Portfolio Programme Project Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 23 April 2026 that provided an update on key portfolios, programmes and project statuses reported at the Infrastructure and Projects Committee meeting held 15 April 2026.

A concern was raised about the recent closure of the Alfredton Bridge and the importance of keeping the Board and community informed about decisions and processes surrounding this. The Chief Executive acknowledged the difficulty of the decision but confirmed it was necessary for health and safety. Options are being explored, including a Bailey bridge, while also considering long-term solutions, particularly given school access for local children. The bridge is approximately 97 years old and requires resolution while ensuring safety. The community is encouraged to use the Antenna app for updates and to provide feedback to the Council. It was advised that the bridge damage photos highlighted the seriousness of the issue; Cr Corlett visited the bridge during site assessments as the local representative and will remain updated. The Chair also advised he is willing to attend any further site visits, noting he has access to local expertise, and supports gathering on-the-ground knowledge to share back with the community.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 23 April 2026 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.***

***Barclay/Smith***

***Carried***

#### 8.5 **Eketāhuna Community Board Budget Update**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 23 April 2026 that provided an update of the status of the Board's discretionary budget.

It was noted that, after covering the costs of the Alf Rowden Humanitarian Award presentation, some funding would remain available. The Board was invited to consider whether there are any additional projects it wishes to allocate these funds to before the end of the financial year on 30 June 2026.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 23 April 2026 concerning the Eketāhuna Community Board Budget Update be received.***

***Smith/Barclay***

***Carried***

### 9. **Reports from Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities**

**Emergency Management Committee** - The first meeting was held directly following a weather event. All members present were happy with the Emergency

Management timing, media releases, and civil defence updates. Ongoing training has been organised. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 May 2026.

**Hamua Hall and Domain Board:** Denise Gavin has raised concerns regarding funding for the Hall and expressed appreciation that the Domain Board has received some funding to support maintenance issues and undertake necessary repairs.

**Road Safety Committee:** Discussion was held on stock crossings, with the view that further education for farmers is required. Bridge inspections were also discussed. The Nireaha Priest Road intersection is currently under review, with a response expected by 2 July. The Chair advised that he has since been made aware of an additional safety incident at this intersection, and a CRM has been lodged. A copy of the committee minutes will be circulated to all Board members.

## **10. Correspondence**

### **10.1 Correspondence**

The Board noted that NZTA has been approached on two occasions regarding speed limit signage, with both requests declined. The Board discussed whether, in the absence of additional signage, existing signs could be relocated onto the highway rather than being positioned before the roundabout. It was noted that motorists are more likely to observe speed signage once they are on the highway rather than within the town. It was suggested that NZTA may be required to install signage at the point where the speed limit commences, subject to a legal and gazetting process. The Board agreed that, for future consideration, a 100 km/h speed limit through a roundabout is not practical and that clearer signage is required on the highway. The Board recommended that NZTA consider relocating the speed limit signs to the point where the speed limit begins on the highway, rather than near the town boundary. The Board acknowledged that there may be legal constraints to this approach. It was agreed to submit a further letter to NZTA requesting that the speed limit signage be relocated onto the highway.

The Board acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the Eketāhuna Radio Station to re-establish the station. It was noted that the station is currently reviewing its structure and organising its music files. The radio station was recognised as a valuable community asset and an important communication tool for Emergency Management during emergency events.

***That the correspondence as listed be received.***

☐ ***Letter of response from NZTA regarding speed limit signs on Te Ahu a Turanga***

☐ ***Minutes – Eketāhuna Radio Station meeting 26 March 2026***

***Barclay/Smith***

***Carried***

## 11. Discussion Items

- 11.1 Feedback on Proposed Relocation of Recycling Station** - The Board supported the concerns raised in the feedback received, noting the high health and safety risk posed by broken glass in areas where children play or near the pool. It was noted that recycling bins are provided for town residents, and that many users of the station travel by car, meaning relocation would not cause significant inconvenience.

It was suggested that the Marchant Street landfill site be considered as an alternative location, noting that the site is monitored by a camera. The Board requested that Officers investigate and report back on the cost implications of relocating to the Marchant Street site.

The Mayor advised that he is comfortable with the matter being worked through, but emphasised the need to consider priorities, stating that “when everything matters, what matters most?” It was further noted that where significant costs are identified, proposals should include consideration of external funding sources.

***That the Eketāhuna Community Board requests officers to investigate the cost implications of relocating the proposed recycling station to the Marchant Street site and report back to the Board..***

***McGhie/Smith***

***Carried***

- 11.2 Early Engagement - Long Term Plan** - this item was discussed at item 8.3.

## 12. Chairperson’s Remarks

The Chair noted that the New Residents Meeting was well attended, positive, worth doing and very successful. The ANZAC service was also a success with the valued support of 10 Transport. A request was made for the Mayor to attend the Eketāhuna ANZAC service for next year’s event, and it was advised that it was the Mayor’s intention to attend as many locations as possible within the district throughout his term, the invitation was appreciated and will be considered.

The Chair had recently viewed a photo of an incident on the narrow Waiwaka bridge on the outskirts of Eketāhuna , a truck had hit the wing mirror of another truck as they passed on the bridge, this safety concern has been reported to NZTA.

He raised a concern about the quality of pothole repairs as there are multiple visits to the same potholes. He noted a presentation in the past from an engineer who advised his opinion of quality was the result of traffic management costs and rushing repairs. An explanation was sought as to why potholes are reopening

in a short time. A request was a made to bring back a report in the next management report on the potholes process for better understanding. It was advised that financial constraints has an impact, for context, repairs are a band aid until the road can be adequately repaired

**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:*

***Nominations for Alf Rowden Humanitarian Award***

*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>Nominations for Alf Rowden Humanitarian Award</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.***

***McGhie/Barclay***

***Carried***

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10:13am and resumed open session at 10:24am.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:25am.