

# RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

### MINUTES

THE MEETING OF RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD  
IN THE PARK HOTEL, MILLAR STREET, NATIONAL PARK  
ON FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2022, AT 10:00AM

### PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

#### Present | Tuhinga

Councillors      Robyn Gram  
                         Janelle Hinch  
                         Channey Iwikau  
                         Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase  
                         Lyn Neeson  
                         Rabbit Nottage  
                         Brenda Ralph

#### In Attendance | I Tae Mai

Clive Manley	Chief Executive
Vini Dutra	Executive Manager Infrastructure
Natasha Poloai	Executive Manager People, Capability & Safety
Pauline Welch	Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
Paul Wheatcroft	Executive Manager Communications
Vivita Matanimeke	Strategy & Policy Advisor
Adrian Leineweber	AV and IT Technician
Tracy Norris	Governance Officer
Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager

Jo Kennedy	General Manager Visit Ruapehu
Anthony Gurr	Ōwhango-National Park Community Board
Murray Wilson	Ōwhango-National Park Community Board
Peter Zimmer	Ōwhango-National Park Community Board
Whānau and supporters of the Citizens' Awards Recipients.	

By Zoom	Fiona Ferrar	Acting Manager Finance, Strategy & Governance
	Aaron Pendergrast	Executive Manager Risk & Project Controls
	Holly Buckley	Housing & Facilities Support Manager
	Rina Hepi	Manager Community & Recreational Facilities
	Slade Rees	Strategy & Policy
	Anne-Marie Westcott	Environmental Manager

#### Absent | Ngaro

Mayor	Weston Kirton
Deputy Mayor	Vivienne Hoeta
Councillors	Korty Wilson

Council's Chief Executive called the meeting to order and advised, in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the meeting must elect a chairperson for the meeting. Mayor Kirton had recommended Councillor Nottage as chair.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Ralph

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

*Elects Councillor Nottage as Chairperson of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Friday, 16 December 2022.*

Councillor Nottage assumed his place as Chairperson of the meeting.

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening Karakia   Karakia Timatanga</b>
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Cr Ralph opened the meeting with a karakia.

<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
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The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Ralph

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Apologies from Mayor Kirton, Deputy Mayor Vivienne Hoeta, and Councillor Wilson be accepted.*

<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
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No conflicts of interest were declared.

<b>4</b>	<b>Notification of Additional Items</b>
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There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Meeting</b>
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The order of the meeting was confirmed. The Public Business will adjourn at 11:45AM for the presentation of the Ruapehu District Citizens' Awards and luncheon.

**6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**

Council temporarily suspended Standing Orders to allow Members and the public to address Council.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Ralph

Seconded: Cr Neeson

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**; and*
- 2 *Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:*
  - (a) *21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero*
  - (b) *21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and*
  - (c) *21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.*

Council received addresses as follows:

**6.1 Peter Zimmer**

Mr. Peter Zimmer opened by acknowledging the signing of the Deed of Settlement earlier in the week by mana whenua Uenuku before addressing Council on three topics:

- **Dust Health Hazards on Rural Roads.** Mr. Zimmer requested Council address the matter and suggested possible solutions including introducing signage and temporary speed restrictions, applying chemicals to bond the dust to the metal, and introducing an additional rate for rural rate payers to seal portions of the metal roads each year. Mr. Zimmer advised he would be submitting a Request For Service (RFS). Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure undertook to consider options to address the issue.
- **Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL).** Mr. Zimmer expressed his opinion of the value RAL brings to the region and suggested Council consider a Solidarity Contribution as an additional rate for two to three years to support the company.
- **Election Voting System Review.** Council is required to review its Election Voting System by September 2023; Mr. Zimmer feels the First Past the Post system is simpler and easier to understand and would like to encourage Council to engage with the community to explain the pros and cons of the two voting systems before Council makes its decision. Council's Executive Manager Communications noted that voter turnout rates had increased under Single Transferable Vote (STV).

**6.2 Councillor Nottage**

Councillor Nottage gave a verbal update on current issues including the increased refuse being dumped along rural roads. It was advised the best course of action was to take the registration number of the offending vehicle and report it to the police via \*555.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Ralph

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.*

<b>7 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting</b>
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**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Wednesday, 30 November 2022 as attached, a true and correct record*

<b>8 Elected Members' Remuneration 2022/23</b>
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Members received a report seeking Council's decision on the allocation of the governance remuneration pool specified by the Remuneration Authority (the Authority) for the remuneration of Councillors, based on the governance structure for the 2022-25 triennium. The report also sought agreement from Council to submit the proposal to the Remuneration Authority for the period October 2022 to 30 June 2023.

It was suggested that Councillors appointed to Community Boards receive additional remuneration equal to a community board member; Council's Chief Executive noted the Remuneration Authority had previously reviewed this approach and considered a Councillors' base salary allowed for attendance of other meetings, including those of a Community Board.

It was also noted that if the Governance Structure were to change to include additional committees, the allocation of the Governance Pool would need to be re-visited and, if applicable, a new proposal submitted to the Authority.

It was suggested that future reports include a comparison to other Councils' approach to allocating the Governance Pool.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Iwikau

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Elected Members' Remuneration 2022/23**;*
- 2 *Notes the Local Government Members (2022/23) Determination 2022 by the Remuneration Authority which came into effect 1 July 2022;*
- 3 *Notes the Mayor's Annual Remuneration from 15 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 as set out in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Members (2022/23) Determination 2022 as \$120,497;*
- 4 *Notes the Community Board Annual Remuneration from 15 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 as set out in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Members (2022/23) Determination 2022 as the following:*

Community Board	Position	Number of Members per Position	Annual Salary 2022/23
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	Chair	1	\$6,140
	Member	4	\$3,070
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	Chair	1	\$13,910
	Member	4	\$6,955
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	Chair	1	\$13,910
	Member	4	\$6,955

- 5 *Agrees the following Elected Member remuneration be proposed to the Remuneration Authority:*

Position Title	Number of Members per Position	Proposed Additional Remuneration	Proposed Annual Salary 2022/23
Deputy Mayor	1	\$11,293.50	\$50,000.00
Councillor Base Remuneration	8		\$38,706.50
<b>Total Governance Pool</b>			<b>\$359,652.00</b>

- 6 *Approves the following information relating to the positions of additional responsibilities be sent to the Remuneration Authority:*

Position Title	Additional Responsibilities
Deputy Mayor	Assist the Mayor in carrying out the statutory and leadership role of the Mayor. If the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, perform all the responsibilities and duties, and exercise any powers of the mayor (other than the powers under section 41A LGA 2002 and the role of Justice of the Peace). Ensure that the Mayor's view is conveyed to committee and other meetings when they are absent on Council business.

- 7 *Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to negotiate contract terms for the appointed Chairperson of the Risk and Assurance Committee and enter into a contract for the 2022-25 triennium.*

## 9 Elected Members' Allowances and Entitlements 2022/23

Members received a report seeking Council's decision to the Elected Members' Allowances and Entitlements provisions that will result in a change to the Elected Members' Remuneration and Expenses Policy (the Policy), that the Policy Team is currently reviewing, for the period 15 October 2022 to 30 June 2025. Officers recommended Council agrees to the allowances paid to eligible Elected Members in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's Determination.

Members decided not to approve the inclusion of a travel allowance as it was felt this should be considered as an exceptional circumstance beyond the Member's control.

### **RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Ralph

*That the Council:*

- 1 Receives the Report **Elected Members' Allowances and Entitlements 2022/23**;*
- 2 Adopts the following Elected Members' allowances to be paid to eligible Councillors, in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's Determination and the criteria set therein, as follows:*

Expense / Allowance	15 October 2022 to 30 June 2023
Mileage Allowance Petrol or Diesel	Mileage for eligible travel will be paid up to the maximum rate per kilometre as set out in the current Remuneration Authority Determination \$0.83 per km (first 14,000 km) \$0.31 per km thereafter
Mileage Allowance Hybrid	\$0.83 per km (first 14,000 km) \$0.18 per km thereafter
Mileage Allowance Electric Vehicle	\$0.83 per km (first 14,000 km) \$0.10 per km thereafter
Travel Time Allowances	Travel time allowance as per the rate set by the Remuneration Authority of \$40 per hour for each hour of eligible travel time, after the first hour of eligible travel time travelled in a day.

Threshold time on daily travel	The total amount of travel time payable within a 24-hour period is 8 hours.
Communication (ICT) Allowance	Councillors may claim an allowance in accordance with the following limits: (a) Use of a personal computer, tablet, or laptop, including any related docking station: \$400 (b) Multi-functional or other printer: \$50 (c) Mobile phone: \$200 (d) ICT Consumables: up to \$200 (e) Internet connection for the purpose of Council business: \$800 (f) Council related mobile phone services: \$500
Childcare Allowance	Reimbursement childcare costs incurred by the member for childcare provided while the member is engaged on Council business in accordance with provisions set by the Remuneration Authority. Note: the total allowance paid is not to exceed \$6,000 per member, per annum.
Hearing Fees	Councillors acting as a member of a Hearing Panel for an eligible hearing (e.g., Resource Consent Hearing or District Plan Change hearing) to be paid the applicable hourly fee in accordance with the provisions set by the Remuneration Authority: Chairperson of Hearing Panel: \$116 per hour Hearing Panel Member: \$93 per hour

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 3 **Does Not Approve** the inclusion of a travel allowance in the Elected Members' Remuneration and Expenses Policy if a member resides outside of a local authority area and travels to the local authority area.

**10 Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2022-25**

Members were presented with the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2022-25 for review and adoption. The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) encourages local authorities to work collaboratively towards achieving short- and long-term outcomes identified by their communities and avoid duplication when engaging communities and exercising general empowerment. Under the Act, local authorities are required to have a Triennial Agreement in place by the 1 March 2023.

Council's Chief Executive spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

- 1 **Receives the Report Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū -Whanganui Region 2022-25;**
- 2 **Notes that all the signatory councils have been asked to sign the new Triennial Agreement by 1 March 2023;**
- 3 **Endorses the Triennial Agreement attached as Attachment 1;**
- 4 **Agrees to review the agreement annually in regard to its effectiveness;**

- 5 *Supports the establishment of a Manawatū-Whanganui Mayoral Forum and confirms that **Mayor Weston Kirton** is the formal representative of Ruapehu District Council on that Forum;*
- 6 *Agrees to adopt the Manawatu-Whanganui Mayoral Forum's Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix One of the Attachment;*
- 7 *Appoints a Joint Committee (with the Region's Territorial Authorities) to be called the Climate Action Joint Committee, pursuant to clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002;*
- 8 *Agrees to adopt the Climate Action Joint Committee's Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix Two of the Attachment; and*
- 9 *Confirms its appointment of Mayor Weston Kirton, as resolved at the 30 November 2022 Council Meeting, as its representative on the Climate Action Joint Committee.*

11	<b>Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the Pricing of Agricultural Emissions Consultation</b>
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Members received a report presenting Council's submission made to the Ministry for the Environment on 18 November 2022, on its Pricing of Agricultural Emissions Consultation for retrospective adoption.

Council partnered with the Ruapehu branch of Federated Farmers in support of two community meetings held in Taumarunui and Raetihi. The purpose of the meetings was to make the community aware of the adverse socio-economic consequences that the proposed emissions pricing levy will have for the Ruapehu District.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Members' acknowledged the effort the Policy Team had undertaken to respond to the consultation so quickly and address the Councillors' concerns.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the Pricing Agricultural Emissions Consultation**; and*
- 2 *Retrospectively adopts the submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the Pricing Agricultural Emissions Consultation.*

12	<b>Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the National Direction for Plantation and Exotic Carbon Afforestation Consultation</b>
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*Note: Cr Hinch left the meeting at 11:15AM and was absent for the decision.*

Members received a report presenting Council's submission to the National Direction for Plantation and Exotic Carbon Afforestation Consultation for retrospective adoption. The consultation document focused on the regulatory controls available under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and sought submissions on four topics relating to afforestation and management of plantations and exotic carbon forests.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Cr Neeson noted in the past 24 hours, three farms had been sold to pine forestry, leaving just one farm of 200 hectares at the end of an eight-kilometre road, surrounded by pine trees.

It was noted that historically Council had a Policy requiring a 50-metre setback from a northern boundary when planting new forests on new farms; Officers advised the policy was being reviewed and would be presented to Council at a future meeting.

It was also suggested that Council consider a 30% differential rate for Carbon Forests to differentiate between carbon mining and production forests. Officers advised the existing differential is based on the damage caused to roads when harvesting forests; the legal reasons for the proposed differential would need to be considered before any implementation could occur. It was suggested this work could be considered as part of the Rating Review programme of work under the Long Term Plan.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the National Direction for Plantation and Exotic Carbon Afforestation Consultation**; and*
- 2 *Retrospectively adopts Council's submission to the National Direction for Plantation and Exotic Carbon Afforestation Consultation.*

**13 Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Ministry of Justice regarding the Future of the Ohakune Justice Facility Consultation**

*Note: Cr Hinch rejoined the meeting at 11:18AM.*

Members received a report presenting Council's submission made to the Ministry of Justice on 16 November 2022, regarding the Future of the Ohakune Justice Facility Consultation for retrospective adoption.

Following the closure of the Ohakune District Court hearing centre on September 16 2022, the Ministry of Justice consulted with the judiciary, and local and justice sector partners to understand their views on the future of court services for residents of Ohakune and the surrounding areas. The facility was closed, until further notice, due to health, safety and security concerns.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. It was noted that it was for the Ministry of Justice to decide on any new location.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Ralph

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of submission to the Ministry of Justice regarding the future of the Ohakune Justice Facility Consultation**; and*
- 2 *Retrospectively adopts the submission to the Ministry of Justice regarding the future of the Ohakune Justice Facility Consultation.*



**14 Water Services Entities Bill: Update Report**

Members were presented with a report to be received for information providing an update on key recommendations made by the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee in the 'Final report (Water Services Entities Bill)' and advising of the next steps for the Water Service Entities (WSEs) bill.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. It was noted that the impact of the Water Services Entities Bill on Council's operations would be the additional process to ensure the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) agrees to any Three Waters works going forward. Additionally, Council will be required to exclude the Three Waters in its next Long Term Plan and cooperate with DIA in the transition to the new entity.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Gram

Seconded: Cr Hinch

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives the Report **Water Services Entities Bill: Update Report.***

**15 Out of District Ratepayers Survey 2022 Results**

Members were presented with the Out of District Ratepayers Survey results for 2022 to be received for information. The survey is important for Council's growth analysis planning; surveying out of District ratepayers and visitors provides a base upon which projections for growth can be determined.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. It was noted that as the survey is anonymous, Council is unable to respond to any individual comments.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives the Report **Out of District Ratepayers Survey 2022 Results.***

**16 Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022**

Members were presented with the Customer Satisfaction Survey results for 2022 to be received for information. Every three years Council contracts an external research company to complete a Customer Satisfaction Survey, which includes ratepayer residents, non-ratepayer residents and non-resident ratepayers. The results are primarily used to inform development of the Asset Management Plans, and long-term planning.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Seconded: Cr Neeson

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives the Report **Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022.***

<b>17 Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal)</b>
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Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the District.

- COVID-19 is increasing within the District and impacting on staffing levels. The i-SITES are a vulnerable area of Council's business that cannot be guaranteed to be fully staffed or always open during this wave.
- CENSUS 2023: Stats NZ has reviewed its approach to the next census and will be undertaking a range of work to improve the census experience improve its data quality.
- Ruapehu Alpine Lifts has received \$6 million bridging funding to allow the development of an alternative commercial solution for long term sustainability. At the recent Regional Chiefs Meeting, the Regional Chair and other Mayors in the region expressed their support for the continuation of skiing at Ruapehu and acknowledged the value it brings to the North Island.
- Ruapehu Destination Management Plan is in final draft stage and will be launched in February 2023. It is due to be with Minister Nash before 31 December 2022, and Jo Kennedy undertook to disseminate the draft plan to Elected Members.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:45AM for a short break and reconvened at 11:50AM for presentation of the Ruapehu District Citizens' Awards.

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and the Citizens of the Ruapehu District, Councillor Nottage presented Gary Jacobs and David Warren Wiari with the Northern Ruapehu Citizens' Award, and the Waimarino-Waiouru Citizens' Award respectively in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community.

The meeting concluded at 11:56AM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2023.

Councillor Rabbit Nottage  
**CHAIRPERSON**