MINUTES

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEMBERSHIP: Andy Cranston (Chair), Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

MINUTES of the OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 5 June 2025 at 9:00AM.

PRESENT:

Andy Cranston (Chair), Rehette Stoltz, Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director Lifelines Tim Barry, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Director Sustainable Futures Jocelyne Allen, Climate Change Response Manager Samuel Chademana, Asset Planner Angela Newman, Play Advocate Katie Kennedy, Marine and Coastal Scientist Isabella Clere, Environmental Monitoring and Science Manager Amber Dunn, Acting Democracy & Support Services Manager Teremoana Kingi and Senior Governance Advisor Jill Simpson.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

Secretarial Note: Cr Pahuru-Huriwai, Chief Advisor-Maori Gene Takurua attended the meeting via audio visual link.

1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Parata

That the apologies from Cr Ria be sustained. **CARRIED**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 10 April 2025

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Wharehinga

That the Minutes of 10 April 2025 be accepted. **CARRIED**

3.2 Action Register

Noted.

3.3 Governance Work Plan

Noted.

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

6. Public Input and Petitions

There were no public input or petitions.

7. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

9. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

10.1 25-16 Climate Change Response Work Programme

Climate Change Response Manager, Samuel Chademana, and Director Sustainable Futures, Jocelyne Allen, spoke to the report and answered questions of clarification including:

- Staff clarified that the 80k increase in budget allocation has been approved by Te Ranga Whakahau (TRW) and this will allow the Climate Change Response team to progress key projects, particularly the regional critical infrastructure risk assessment, overall adoption planning and the Tairāwhiti Emission Reduction Plan which will inform the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan (LTP).
- Staff noted that the increase is a one off that will aid in delivering key projects before the next LTP.

Secretarial note: Cr Tibble arrived at 9.05am.

- Staff explained that the Climate Action Plan consists of two parts, the first being the development of a climate roadmap. This roadmap is currently being updated and will include targets that have yet to be set. These targets are expected to be finalised by August 2025, and the updated roadmap will then be brought back to Council for review. Staff noted that while Council initially aimed for an accelerated net zero timeline, it became clear that without sufficient resourcing, this would not be achievable.
- The goal is for most of the climate planning work to be completed by 2028. Implementation of the first round of the Climate Action Plan is scheduled for 2028–2033, with a full review and reveal of the entire programme expected by 2033. From there, the plan will follow a five-year review cycle. This cycle will include updates to data and hazard modelling, which staff are currently working on and expect to refine over the next two years.
- The long-term target is for both Council and the region to reach net zero by 2050. Staff emphasised that the more ambitious the targets Council sets, the more resourcing will be required. Council will be presented with a range of pathway options for carbon emissions reduction, which will include associated costs and timelines, to help guide future decision-making.
- Staff noted that during the programming phase, there was a funding shortfall of $160k and when taken to TRW, only $80k was approved.
- Staff advised that the funding would support the Tairāwhiti Regional Emissions Reduction work. While best practice in climate change involves both mitigation and adaptation, staff noted that the current focus is on adaptation. However, Council still has a responsibility to consider mitigation. Staff emphasised the importance of laying a strong foundation now, so the region is well positioned to scale up mitigation efforts if political priorities shift in the future.
- Of the $300k allocated to this work, staff noted that approximately 60% will be used for technical support due to the significant data modelling required. A key challenge is that while Council holds a large amount of data, it is currently fragmented. Staff are working with the RPS team to consolidate this into a single, reliable source covering all natural hazard elements. As a result, extensive natural hazard modelling will take place over the coming months, much of which will rely on external consultants. While initial costs will be high, staff noted that the cost of future reviews and updates will decrease over time.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Operations Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi – Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Endorses the key deliverables of the prioritised Climate Change Response Work Programme.

CARRIED

10.2. 25-126 Play Spaces Network Review

Asset Planner, Angela Newman, and Play Advocate, Katie Kennedy, presented on the Tairāwhiti Play Study and Future Network Plan, with additional points including:

- Staff advised that the report provides information on the recent review of Councils network of play spaces.
- Staff noted that they are seeking approval to prioritise the renewal of a play spaces in Elgin in the remaining years of the 2024-2027 Three Year Plan.

Questions of clarification included:

- Staff advised that there is a growing trend—both locally and nationally—towards creating more inclusive and accessible playground designs. This includes integrating sensory play elements and accessible features that consider the entire visitor journey. Emphasis is placed on applying universal design principles from the outset of each project to ensure access for all. Staff highlighted the opportunity to prioritize these principles in the redevelopment of the Elgin Playspace, alongside community engagement.
- Staff outlined that the playspace network is structured into four distinct categories, forming a hierarchy that reflects varying levels of service, amenities, and play experiences. For example, in the future playspace network, Heath Johnstone Park is designated as a Destination Playspace. This designation considers projected housing intensification, as well as the park's natural features and supporting infrastructure.
- Future Destination Playspaces are envisioned as large, custom-designed, and inclusive spaces with unique play features and supporting amenities. These are intended to attract visitors from across the region for half-day visits and accommodate people of all ages and abilities. In contrast, Community Parks are medium-to-large spaces serving entire suburbs, while Neighbourhood Playspaces are smaller and designed for short visits, fostering local community connections.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Notes the Tairāwhiti Future Play Spaces Network Summary (attachment 1).
2. Endorses the renewal of a play space in Elgin as the priority play space renewal in the remainder of the Three-Year Plan period.
3. Notes that the future programme of play space renewals will be consulted as part of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan.

CARRIED

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

11.1 25-116 2024/25 Annual Summer Crop Survey

Director Sustainable Futures, Jocelyne Allen, Marine and Coastal Scientist, Isabella Clere, and Environmental Monitoring and Science Manager, Amber Dunn, spoke to the report and answered questions of clarification including:

- Staff noted that the crop survey was conducted from the roadside, which limits visibility to only what can be seen from that vantage point. To identify what is in other areas, particularly inaccessible land, more accurate methods like up-to-date aerial imagery, remote sensing, or drone mapping would be required. Each of these would need landowner consent.
- Staff explained that waterways are classified in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) under Chapter 6. There are four classifications, and the survey looks at proximity to them: within 5m of a roadside drain, within 5m of the edge of a modified watercourse or stream, and within 5–10m of waterways. These are the categories staff assess in the survey, and the relevant definitions and rules are outlined in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.
- Staff advised that Council does not use Stats NZ as a data source for this report. Much of the information is gathered by summer interns.
- The definitions of modified watercourses and drains used in the report are drawn directly from the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). Staff are working within the framework set by the Plan.
- Staff noted that the purpose of setbacks is to protect water quality, which is why they are addressed in the plan.
- Director Sustainable Futures noted that the team are aware of the pause central government has put to the Freshwater Farm Plans which was an amendment to the Resource Management Act. The team is awaiting updates on what the revised system will look like and hopes to learn more about its architecture in the coming months.

Secretarial Note: Her Worship the Mayor arrived at 10:00am.

- Director Sustainable Futures noted that the provisions of the TRMP will play a significant role in recognising landowner interests, including land quality and value. Consideration will be given to how the policies and objectives of the TRMP may influence future land use and activity. This will form a key component of consultation and drafting for the upcoming Land and Water Regional Plan Change, ensuring alignment with national direction.
- Chief Financial Officer, Pauline Foreman, noted that this data has multiple applications, including assessing economic impact. It can inform various Council initiatives, and the report has wide-reaching value.

- Staff noted that summer students did all the work and wrote this report. The survey assesses how significant horticulture is in the region and that it is growing.
- Staff also clarified that the purpose of the 5-metre setback rules is to protect water quality by preventing contaminants from entering waterways, as proximity within that distance poses a significant threat to water health.

MOVED by Cr Parata, seconded by Cr Wharehinga

That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 10.15am for morning team and reconvened at 10.25am.

12. Public Excluded Business

Secretarial Note: These Minutes include a public excluded section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 12 Public Excluded Business of Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori Committee.

13. Readmittance of the Public

MOVED by Cr Parata, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori Committee re-admits the public.

CARRIED

14. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.00am.

Andy Cranston
CHAIR