


Minutes – Combined Community Board 6 May 2025

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	COMBINED COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATANE ON TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM
	Present:	Mayor V Luca, Deputy Mayor Immink and Chairperson - Member M Honeycombe (MCB) <i>Murupara Community Board (MCB)</i> S Jones, J Morgan-Ranui, A Silcock, M Kereopa and Councillor Rangiaho <i>Rangitāiki Community Board (RCB)</i> L Waaka, C McIndoe, P Flowerday, Councillor Dennis, H Brown, Councillors W James and G Dennis <i>Tāneatua Community Board (TCB)</i> M Stensness, T Bryant, H Thrupp, M Tuwairua, L Ruiterman <i>Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board (WOCB)</i> C Hamill, D McLean, M Inman and L Bonne <i>Via Teams:</i> Councillor T Boynton
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), A Pickles (General Manager Community experience), H Patrick (Kaihautu - Strategic Māori Partnership), L Woolsey (General Manager Strategy and Growth), A Dalziel (Consultant), V Richards (Strategic Coordinator), T Chapman (Senior Māori Land Advisor), F Begley (Manager Community Partnerships), C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services), S Duffy (Senior Governance Support Advisor), L Edwards (Governance Support Coordinator) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor)
	Visitors:	<i>Via Teams:</i> D Ofoske (Electoral Officer)
	Apologies:	R Gardiner (RCB), N George (TCB), I Prentice, A Silcock (MCB), C Howard and O Iseri (WOCB)

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm with the Chairperson welcoming all present.

1 KARAKIA

The Chair opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Member Flowerday

RESOLVED:

THAT the Combined Community board accept the following apologies:

R Gardiner, N George, I Prentice, A Silcock, C Howard and O Iseri and Councillor Boynton.

Early departure Councillor Dennis and T O'Brien.

CARRIED

3 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/TRIBUTES

Member Bonne acknowledged Member Waaka who, successfully graduated with a Master of Indigenous Studies from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi. The graduation ceremony was held on Friday, 2 May 2025 in Whakatāne.

Councillor Rangiaho acknowledged Chairperson Honeycombe on her receiving her tohu of Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge at He Waka Hiringa under Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Mangakōtukutuku campus in Hamilton.

4 Conflicts of interest

No conflicts were declared.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Refer to page 5-9 of the agenda.

Moved Member Hamill / Seconded Member Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Combined Community board meeting held on 10 September 2024 be confirmed as true and correct record.

CARRIED

7 Reporting

7.1 Chief Executive Update

Introduction to Newly Appointed General Managers

Attendance: The Chief Executive entered the meeting at 4:05 pm.

The Chief Executive introduced the newly appointed Kaihautu - Strategic Māori Partnerships, Hone Patrick. The Kaihautu expressed his excitement about the role and his connection to the local community and his experience from Central Government. Leny Woolsey had been appointed as the permanent General Manager of Strategy and Growth, and Alex Pickles had been appointed as the permanent General Manager of Community Experience.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of engaging with the Community Board space post-election. He planned to attend more meetings along with the executive team to better connect with the community

Elections

The Chief Executive shared insights about the preparation of the pre-election report, highlighting key themes such as the current operating deficit, local water management, and economic landscape. He emphasised the importance of addressing these issues in the report.

Attendance: General Manager of Strategy and Growth left the meeting at 4:18 pm.

7.2 Local Water Done Well

Refer to page 11-22 of the agenda.

General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure presented options for local water management, including the formation of a multi-council Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) or a standalone business unit. Key considerations included financial sustainability, with the CCO offering greater cost-efficiency and borrowing capacity, while the standalone option provided stronger local control and transparency but required significant long-term investment. Community involvement was

emphasised as essential, with concerns that a CCO could reduce local engagement. Also highlighted was the ongoing public consultation on water services, noting limited participation to date and encouraging greater community input with. Submission closed on 18 May 2025.

Attendance: Councillor Boynton and the Electoral Office Joined the meeting at 4:10 pm.

7.3 Local Elections 2025 – Electoral Officer

The Electoral Officer, Dale Osofske provided an overview of the 2025 local elections, outlining key dates and the electoral process. He emphasised the importance of encouraging voter participation and ensuring a fair and transparent election. He also addressed the Māori Ward poll, noting that the outcome would be binding for two election cycles. He highlighted the need for Council to maintain a neutral stance on the matter while actively promoting the democratic process. Dale outlined the core electoral principles, including fair representation, public confidence, transparency, and the independence of the electoral system. He highlighted the importance of public understanding and engagement. Strategies to improve voter participation were also discussed, including targeted communication and education campaigns, with the objective of increasing voter turnout compared to previous elections.

Attendance: General Manager Community Experience left the meeting at 4:50 pm and Kaihautu – Strategic Maori Partnership left the meeting at 4:49 pm. C McIndoe entered the meeting at 5:03 pm and the General Manager Community Experience entered the meeting at 5:08 pm.

7.4 Governance Services Report – May 2025

The Manager of Governance Services introduced the report and welcomed the newest members, Michael Tuwairua and Mansahn Kereopa. The near completion of pecuniary interest forms was noted, with only a few outstanding. Non-financial performance indicators were discussed. It was reported that a project steering group had been established for local elections.

Moved Member Inman / Seconded Member Thrupp

RESOLVED:

THAT the Governance Services Report – May 2025 be received.

CARRIED

8 Community Board Reporting

The Chairperson invited a representative from each Board to provide and update on their recent activities and ongoing projects.

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board

Concerns had been raised regarding the speed limit at West End and issues from the Piripai Coastlands Collective relating to the cycleway and street lighting. The Community Heroes Evening was held at Trident High School, celebrating individuals who have made significant contributions to the Whakatāne community. CBEC continued its engagement to ensure strong collaboration between Community Boards and Council.

Tāneatua Community Board

The passing of Diane was acknowledged, with recognition of her contributions and achievements. A new Chair, Deputy Chair, and member were appointed to the Board. A climate change workshop was held in Wainui. Concerns were raised regarding repairs to the Pekatahi Bridge and the Tāneatua Cemetery

extension. Flood recovery and road works were also discussed, with staff acknowledged for their efforts for the recovery works. Progress was reported on the development of the Community Plan.

Rangitāiki Community Board

Collaborative projects with Councillors Dennis and James were highlighted, including community events, beautification initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and advocacy for local priorities. The Board emphasised the importance of strengthening governance through enhanced support and training for new members, fostering youth engagement, and improving community representation. The presentation concluded with a call to complete the memorial tablets project in honour of Ngāti Awa WWII soldiers, reaffirming a commitment to heritage and collective responsibility. Finishing the plaque at the resting room.

Murupara Community Board

Mansahn Kereopa Jesse Morgan-Ranui were acknowledged for recently being elected to the Board. Concerns regarding water quality in the community were raised, and the General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure was thanked for facilitating a consultation session in Murupara, scheduled to coincide with an upcoming Community Board meeting. The Board recognised the numerous community activities taking place across the wider area, including in Waiohau, Galatea, and other local communities. The Chair concluded by thanking all attendees and wished everyone a safe journey home

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A KARAKIA FROM CHAIRPERSON AT 6:18 PM.

Confirmed on the date:
Mere McLean
CHAIRPERSON