


Minutes Projects and Services Committee Meeting – 19 February 2026

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE PROJECTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.
	Present:	Mayor N Tánzos, Deputy Mayor J Jukes, Chairperson A Iles, and Councillors G Dennis, C Hamill, L Immink, W James, T O’Brien, M Whitaker and T Boynton
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), P Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), H Patrick (Kaihautu Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial), A Pickles (GM Community Experience), E Hatch (GM People and Partnerships), V Fergusson (Manager Strategic Property), I Molony (Manager Open Spaces Operations), A Reynolds (Manager Transportation), W Bryenton (The Technical Administration Officer – Transport), K Warren (Reserves Planner), N Woodley (Manager Policy, Planning and Consents Compliance), S Thompson-Klima (Project Coordinator), W Vullings (Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth), T Allerby (Project Manager Tourism and Events), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office), and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor)
	Visitors:	Members in the Public Gallery <i>Via Teams:</i> D Milner (Tonkin and Taylor)
	Apologies:	Councillor Morgan-Ranui

Chairperson Iles formally opened the meeting with a Karakia provided by Councillor O’Brien at 9:00 am.

1 MEETING NOTICES

The Chairperson shared meeting notices on live streaming and health and safety.

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED

THAT the Projects and Services Committee accept the apologies of Councillor Morgan-Ranui.

CARRIED

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

The Parks and Reserves staff were acknowledged for their dedicated efforts throughout the district.

The Wild Food Festival will be held on 21 February, and Mātaatua Kapa Haka Regionals will take place on 27-28 February.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dennis declared a conflict of interest with agenda item 6.2 Event Road Closures: Matatā Bike Week, HMNZS Mātataua Charter Parade and Light-up Whakatāne.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Parking Restrictions Register Update

Refer to pages 11-22 of the agenda.

The Technical Administration Officer – Transport and the Manager of Transportation reported on the recent and proposed amendments to the Parking Restrictions Register, including new restrictions on Lovelock Street and broken yellow lines at Te Kura o Te Teko. Proposed changes included relocating the Stewart Street bus stop, establishing a parklet on The Strand, and creating a disability car park near the Croquet Club on Short Street. Staff confirmed that parklet licences incurred administrative and relocation fees reviewed every two years, and that parklets remained public spaces. Concerns about parklet usage and parking loss were addressed, with staff noting surplus parking and the aim to enhance area vibrancy.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **receive** the Amendments to the Parking Restrictions, Prohibitions and Limitations Report; and
2. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **approve** the following parking amendments, including the need for the amendments to be publicly notified, as set out in Appendix 1 'Register of Parking Restrictions, Prohibitions and Limitations Schedule of Amendments– February 2026'; and
3. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **notes** that following public notification and once the parking amendments are in place, the Parking Restrictions, Prohibitions and Limitations Register will be updated to reflect these changes.

CARRIED

Attendance:

Councillor Dennis left the table at 9:25 am.

General Manager People and Partnerships left the meeting at 9:27 am and re-entered the meeting at 9:30 am.

6.2 Event Road Closures: Matatā Bike Week, HMNZS Matataua Charter Parade and Light-up Whakatāne

Councillor Dennis declared a conflict of interest and did not take part in the discussion of this item.

The Technical Administration Officer – Transport and the Manager of Transportation presented the report. Requests for temporary road closures were presented for Matata Bike Week, the HMNZS Matata Toa Charter Parade, and the Light Up Whakatāne event. Members discussed matters including community consultation, traffic management, alternative parking arrangements, public

notification and submissions, and the involvement of NZTA. It was confirmed that local businesses were consulted and supportive, and that appropriate traffic management plans and contingency measures would be implemented.

Refer to pages 23-29 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor O’Brien / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **receive** the report titled Event Road Closures: Bike Week Event, HMNZS Matataua Charter Parade and Light-up Whakatāne; and
2. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **recommend** to the Whakatāne District Council to **approve** the temporary road closures for the events detailed below:

Event number 1:	Matatā Bike Week
Road Closure Location:	Arawa Street (east of Warbrick Terrace to west of Division Street)
Date:	Thursday, 9 April 2026 to Sunday, 12 April 2026 (3-day Temporary Road Closure)
Time:	6:00am, Thursday 9 April to 6:00am, Sunday 12 April 2026
Event number 2:	HMNZS Matataua Charter Parade
Ceremonial Parade Route for rolling road closure:	Departing from Mataatua Reserve at 10am, onto Muriwai Drive, Muriwai Drive through to The Strand, The Strand through to Boon Street, Boon Street, finishing at Margaret Mahy Court.
Date:	Thursday 23 April 2026
Time:	10:00am to 10:45am
Event number 3:	Trust Horizon Light-up Whakatāne
Rolling Road Closure Route for opening night:	Kakahoroa Drive and The Strand (from Kakahoroa Drive Service Lane through to Commerce Street roundabout)
Date:	Saturday, 11 July 2026 (Postponement date – Sunday, 12 July 2026)
Time:	To be confirmed

CARRIED

Attendance: Councillor Dennis returned to the table at 9:37 am.

6.3 Request for Easement- Horizon Network Cabling Works, Konini Place Reserve, Edgecumbe

Refer to pages 30-54 of the agenda.

The Reserves Planner and Manager Open Spaces Operations presented the report and discussion highlighted the following points:

- The easement was proposed for underground electrical cables intended to supply Fonterra with electricity and support climate change initiatives. The design followed existing cabling routes and was subject to technical constraints.
- Members queried the initial one-off payment of \$4,500. It was noted that no formal policy existed regarding easement payments, but a similar approach had been adopted for previous easements. Following further discussion, the Members agreed to amend the recommendation to request a one-off payment of \$9,000.

- It was confirmed that public notification was not required under the Reserves Act; however, neighbouring residents would be notified of the works via a letter drop.

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Immink

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **receive** the report; Request for Easement – Horizon Network Cabling Works, Konini Place Reserve, Edgcumbe; and
2. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **recommend** the Council approve the registration of an easement on the Record of Title for this activity in accordance with Section 48(1) of the Reserves Act 1977, subject to conditions; and
3. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that in accordance with Section 48(2) of the Reserves Act 1977, this activity does not require public notification; and
4. THAT the Projects and Services Committee **recommend** the Council delegate authority to the General Manager Community Experience to sign all documents related to this approval process; and
5. THAT the Projects and Services Committee recommend the Council **agree** to a one-off payment of \$9,000.00 to be made by the applicant for the easement.

CARRIED

Attendance: D Milner (Tonkin and Taylor) joined the meeting at 10:00 am.

6.4 Nga Tapuwae o Toi Walkway Reinstatement Options Report

Refer to pages 56-222 of the agenda.

General Manager Community Experience, Manager of Open Spaces Operations, and D Milner presented the report and future options for the Ngā Tapuwae o Toi walkway.

- Members discussed key areas: risk assessments, costs, cultural impacts, governance, and community proposals.
- Technical findings revealed a history of landslides and ongoing risk of instability on the escarpment.
- Four options were outlined: major engineering reinstatement, community-led proposals, permanent closure, or investigating alternative routes.
- National risk standards were applied, with a distinction made between risk to life and risk to property.
- Governance, statutory acknowledgements, and partnership with Iwi and the Department of Conservation were discussed, with Council confirmed as track manager in partnership with the Iwi.
- Members sought more detailed cost estimates and discussed MBIE tourism infrastructure funding, with consents and community engagement required before funding could be accessed.
- Community proposals and health and safety obligations under the Act were considered, emphasising the importance of health and safety responsibilities for any works.
- Members noted the need to pursue community-led proposals for repair and reinstatement or alternative routes, with Council to investigate MBIE funding.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned from 10:45 am and reconvened at 11:07 am.

Moved Councillor Dennis / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **receive** the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway Options Report.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Councillor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **receive** the appendices a-f:

- (a) CMW Geoscience Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway, Ōhope Beach, Geotechnical Investigation Report, 11 December 2023;
- (b) Avalon Geotechnical Services West End Walkway Slip Inspection report, 20 April 2024;
- (c) reNature Limited West End Walkway, Geotechnical Report Review, 20 September 2024;
- (d) ReNature Limited Nga Tapuwāe o Toi Trail Ōhope to Ōtarawairere Beach Realignment Report, 25 October 2024; including HD Geo Assessment Report.
- (e) Tonkin + Taylor Ōhope Beach West End Walkway Quantitative Landslide Risk Assessment Report, June 2025; and
- (f) WSP high-level review of these reports, 9 December 2025.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor James / Seconded Councillor Whitaker

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** the findings of the geotechnical investigations and assessments regarding the geology of the Ōhope escarpment between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay, that the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway traverses, including the rainfall and landsliding triggers for the escarpment.

CARRIED

Moved Mayor Tánczos / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that reinstatement of the existing Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi track between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay (Route 1) across the faces of the two landslides, without additional stability works and without suspended walkways being installed, is not viable because the risk to life to track users is assessed by HD Geo in their Whakatāne West End Walkway Staircase Geotechnical Assessment Report, 3 September 2024, as 'High' and this represents a level of risk to life that is unacceptable.

CARRIED

The votes of Councillor Boynton and Councillor Hamill were recorded against the motion.

Moved Councillor Immink / Seconded Councillor Dennis

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that the Annual Individual Fatality Risk from future landslide for the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay for the existing track (Route 1) if reinstated with significant stability works and suspended walkways is

assessed by Tonkin + Taylor in their June 2025 Quantitative Landslide Risk Assessment as being in the “Low” category of the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement and in the “Reduce to as low as reasonably practicable” risk level of the Department of Conservation/GNS Science Natural Hazard Risk Assessment guidance.

CARRIED

Moved Mayor Tanczos / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that the Annual Individual Fatality Risk from future landslide for the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay for an alternative track (Route 2) including significant stability works and a new rock anchored staircase, is assessed by Tonkin + Taylor in their June 2025 Quantitative Landslide Risk Assessment as being in the “Low” category of the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement and in the “Reduce to as low as reasonably practicable” risk level of the Department of Conservation/GNS Science Natural Hazard Risk Assessment guidance.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Immink / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that Tonkin + Taylor in its June 2025 Quantitative Landslide Risk Assessment assign a very high-risk level to both Route 1 and Route 2 for landslide risks to property for the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay; and that while much of Route 2 is depicted as being moderate-risk, and consequently would have improved resilience overall, Route 2 remains reliant on Section 1 and Section 6a of the existing track, which are both assigned a very-high risk to property rating.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Mayor Tanczos

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** the “rough order costs”, presented by Tonkin + Taylor in its June 2025 Quantitative Landslide Risk Assessment, of maintaining public use of the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere Bay for Route 1 or Route 2, when future reinstatement work is required; and given the findings of the geotechnical assessments and assessment of landslide risk to property, repeated and potentially costly reinstatement is very likely to be required, particularly in the context of a changing climate.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor O’Brien / Seconded Mayor Tanczos

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **note** that liability for health and safety, under the Health and Safety Act 2015, cannot be delegated by Council; and that the Chief Executive and General Manager Community Experience are liable for health and safety on the Ngā Tapuwāe o Toi Walkway between West End and Ōtarawairere Point Lookout, including during any reinstatement works, ongoing maintenance and management of the track.

CARRIED

Members discussed the technical findings, associated risks, and estimated costs as presented, noting the implications for future reinstatement works on the walkway. Members considered the merits of proceeding with a modified Option 2, which involved seeking proposals from the community for repair and re-establishment of the existing track or alternative routes.

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Councillor Boynton

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **agree** to a modified option 2, to seek proposals from the community for the repair and re-establishment of the existing track or alternative routes between West End and Ōtarawairere and to investigate the availability of funding from MBIE to support the project.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Councillor Boynton

RESOLVED:

THAT the Projects and Services Committee **agree** to continue exploring with Ngāti Awa and the Department of Conservation, that the reestablished Ngā Tapuwae O Toi Walkway be developed into an official Short Walks and Day Hikes track, that recognises its potential as an outstanding visitor attraction and its importance to the Whakatāne community.

CARRIED

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm and reconvened at 12:31 pm.

Attendance:

General Manager People and Partnerships left the meeting at 12:32 pm. Councillor Dennis left the meeting at 12:33 and re-entered the meeting at 12:35 pm. Councillor Boynton entered the meeting at 12:35 pm.

6.5 Approval of Whakatāne District Council submissions to Central Government

Refer to pages 223-248 of the agenda.

The Senior Advisor Strategy and Growth presented the final versions of the submissions from Council to Central Government. These submissions had been previously discussed in workshops, and the final versions were attached to the agenda. Staff confirmed that the submissions required approval due to imminent deadlines, while the submission on rates capping had already been approved and was included for information only. Members were also advised of upcoming legislative changes.

Moved Deputy Mayor Jukes / Seconded Councillor James

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Committee **receives** the 'Approval of Submissions to Central Government' report; and
2. THAT the Committee **approves** the attached submission to the 'Simplifying Local Government Proposal'; and
3. THAT the Committee **approves** the attached submission to the 'Development Levies System'; and
4. THAT the Committee **approves** the attached submission to the 'Infrastructure Funding and Financing Bill'; and
5. THAT the Committee **receives** the attached final submission to the 'Rates Capping Proposal'.

