
MINUTES
of the
TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING
Kaunihera Katoa
held
1:00pm, Thursday, 5 September 2024
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Mayor T King, Deputy Mayor S Bryant, Councillors C Butler, G Daikee, B Dowler, J Ellis, M Greening (via Zoom), C Hill, M Kininmonth, K Maling, C Mackenzie, D Shallcrass and T Walker

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (L Rae), Executive Assistant and Advisor to the Mayor (R Scherer), Group Manager - Service and Strategy (J Ridd), Chief Financial Officer (M Drummond), Group Manager - Community Infrastructure (R Kirby), Group Manager - Environmental Assurance (K Drummond), Acting Group Manager – Information, Science and Technology (R Smith), Kaihautū (R Thomas), Governance Manager (E Stephenson) and General Counsel (L Townshend)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

Mayor King welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered the opening karakia.

Mayor King acknowledged the passing of Kīngi Tūheitia and noted the appointment of the new Māori Queen Nga Wai Hono i te po Paki.

A moment of silence was observed.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Councillor Hill/Councillor Dowler

CN24-09-1

That the apology from Councillor B Maru be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Māori Ward

Eugene Whakahoehoe, Chief Executive of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuaia, spoke about the Government's decision to hold a referendum on Māori Wards. He noted that Māori Wards enabled Māori to work in partnership with local government.

Māori Ward

Peter Canton spoke about the significance of the Council's upcoming decision regarding the Māori Ward. He urged the Council to take the issue to a poll for the community to decide on a Māori Ward for Tasman.

Māori Ward

Maxwell Clark spoke about the Council's upcoming decision on the Māori Ward. He suggested that the Council already had sufficient Māori representation.

Māori Ward

Shane Graham, Chief Executive of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua, spoke in support of a Māori Ward. He suggested that the Government's proposed referendum was against the New Zealand constitutional framework.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 Decision on Māori ward as required under the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024

General Counsel Leith Townshend, Kaihautū, Renee Thomas, and Group Manager – Service and Strategy, John Ridd, presented the report, which was taken as read. Mr Townshend noted that the cost of a Māori Ward referendum was now estimated at between \$35,000-\$55,000.

Discussion took place about the Council's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Local Government Act 2002 and its obligations to its iwi partners in Te Taihū.

Moved Councillor Maling/Councillor Hill

CN24-09-2

That the Tasman District Council

- 1. receives the 'Decision on Māori ward as required under the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024' report; and**
- 2. resolves, pursuant to clause 29, part three of schedule one of the Local Electoral Act 2001, to affirm the previous decision of the Council to establish a Māori ward;**
- 3. notes that the effect of this decision is that the Tasman District will have a Māori ward for electoral purposes for at least the 2025 local government election; and**
- 4. notes that a binding poll will be held at the 2025 local election with the results of that poll being in place for the 2028 and 2031 local elections; and**
- 5. notes that the holding of a binding poll will require additional expenditure which will need to be incorporated into the 2025/2026 Annual Plan.**

CARRIED

Councillors Dowler, Kininmonth and Walker requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

The meeting concluded at 2.17 pm

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings by resolution on Enter date .