



WORKSHOP MINUTES

Thursday, 9 April 2026

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Waikato Regional Council

OPEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

Date: Thursday 9 April 2026, 1.00pm
Location: Council Chambers
 Waikato Regional Council
 Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Members Present: Cr Ben Dunbar Smith – Chair
 Cr Mich’eal Downard (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Keith Holmes
 Cr Kataraina Hodge (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Chris Hughes
 Cr Warren Maher (from 1.07pm)
 Cr Tipa Mahuta (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Gary McGuire
 Cr Jennifer Nickel
 Cr Garry Reymer
 Cr Liz Stolwyk
 Cr Angela Strange (virtually via Teams)
 Cr Noel Smith (virtually via Teams)

Staff Present: Chris McLay, Chief Executive
 Tracey May, Director, Science Policy and Information
 Brent Sinclair, Director, Resource Use
 Lissette Balsom, Manger, Strategic Policy Implementation
 Jordan Metz, Democracy Advisor

The contents of these workshop minutes meet all legal requirements. Workshops are not official meetings and do not contain any decisions. They are for discussion purposes only.

An audio-visual recording of the open session of the workshop is available on Waikato Regional Council's public website.

Recording	Document ID #	YouTube Link
Workshop Recording #1	35521319	https://youtu.be/HhJeAQF3na4
Workshop recording #2	35521681	https://youtu.be/OmrPSIo3bCk

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Item commenced in recording 1, at start.

The Democracy Advisor (Jordan Metz) opened the workshop with a Karakia.

2 WORKSHOP PAPER(S)**2.1 DRAFT BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO REGION**

Item commenced in recording 1, at 43 seconds.

Presented by the, Manger, Strategic Policy Implementation (Lissette Balsom) and Specialist Policy Advisor (Judy van Rossem). Refer Document # 35452485 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

2.2 DRAFT WAIKATO REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Item commenced in recording 2, at start.

Presented by the Senior Policy Advisor (Michelle White) and Principal Strategic Advisor (Blair Dickie). Refer Document # 35507918 for the PowerPoint presentation or on the public website.

3 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Item commenced in recording, at 1 hour 30 minutes 11 seconds.

The Democracy Advisor (Jordan Metz) closed the meeting with a Karakia.

4.00pm – The workshop concluded.