

(DRAFT) MINUTES FROM A MEETING (Public Included) OF TRUST TAIRĀWHITI

On Tuesday 9 December 2025 from 9:25am

The meeting was held in person and online via Zoom at Trust Tairāwhiti offices,
Shed 3, 50 Esplanade, Gisborne 4010

In attendance:

Trustees: David Battin (Chair), Dan Jex-Blake, Nicki Sutherland, Ron Aitken, Te Pūoho Katene and Warren Williams were present in person.

Cultural Advisors: Tā Derek Lardelli and Lady Rose Gould-Lardelli were present in person.

Trust Tairāwhiti executive team members: Doug Jones – Chief Executive Officer, Alex Hawea – General Manager Māori Economy, Audine Grace-Kutia – General Manager Hapori, Hayden Green – General Manager Economic Development, Laura Stonehouse – Chief Financial Officer and Melonie Brouwer – Board Secretary were present in person.

Item 2.6a Manaaki Tairāwhiti representative Judy Campbell from 9:30 – 10:15am.

Item 2.6b Te Awapuni Moana Trust representatives: Wolfgang Kanz, Samuel Lewis, Wirihana Raihania, Rob Waitiri and Anthony Cresswell from 10:15 – 11:00am.

Tā Derek Lardelli opened our meeting with a karakia.

Acknowledgement to representatives from Manaaki Tairāwhiti and Te Awapuni Moana Trust trustees for agenda item 2.6a and 2.6b.

2.0 Open meeting – Public included

2.1 Apology: Trustee Rehette Stoltz

2.2 Declaration of trustee and CEO interests taken as read and noted.

2.3 Confirmation of Agenda and Late items.

2.4 Approval of Open Minutes and Matters Arising

2.4.a Approval of the open minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 were taken as read and approved.

Unanimous Approval

2.4.b Action register from Tuesday 11 November 2025 noted

2.5 Strategy and decision making – Nil

2.6 Beneficiary Presentations and Public Forum

2.6.a Judy Campbell, Strategic Advisor to Manaaki Tairāwhiti noted the apology from Willie Te Aho and presented an update on the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning and Social Investment proposal.

The presentation outlined community commissioning as a devolved social investment model that shifts decision-making authority from central government to a locally mandated entity, with whānau at the centre of wellbeing. Ms Campbell explained the role of the Social Investment Agency (SIA), established in July 2024, and the four funding pathways, noting that Pathway Three (Community Commissioning) represents a transformational approach expected to open in early 2026. She confirmed that Manaaki Tairāwhiti believes the region is well positioned for invitation into this process, based on its collective-impact operating model and established governance arrangements.

Trustees were advised that the proposal seeks local decision-making authority over approximately \$1.4 billion of cross-agency Crown investment currently flowing into the region, with the aim of improving long-term outcomes and lifting regional GDP by an estimated \$1.8 billion per annum.

Ms Campbell highlighted that the commissioning working party is skills-based rather than representative, bringing together expertise from iwi, community, philanthropy, Manaaki Tairāwhiti, and government agencies. Strong emphasis was placed on data, evidence, learning loops, and outcome-focused accountability rather than prescriptive service delivery. Trustees also heard that only a small number of capable providers would be commissioned, enabling scale, innovation, and holistic support for whānau.

In discussion, Trustees explored governance capability, resilience across political cycles, and the balance between ambition and pragmatism. Ms Campbell confirmed that the proposed entity would be community-owned, light on administration, and designed to avoid replicating Crown bureaucracy, with a strong mandate from across the region.

The Chair thanked Ms Campbell and Manaaki Tairāwhiti for the presentation and trustees acknowledged the scale and significance of the proposal.

2.6.b Te Awapuni Moana Trust. Wolfgang Kanz and Samuel Lewis presented an overview of the Awapuni Moana Trust Project.

The presentation described three interlinked regional challenges: productive land without reliable water, the discharge of wastewater to sea, and increasing saline intrusion into vulnerable aquifers. Trustees heard that Te Awapuni Moana, located adjacent to Gisborne city and key transport corridors and held by mana whenua, is uniquely positioned to address these challenges in an integrated and culturally grounded way.

Presenters outlined a vision for intelligent development that would protect and grow high-value horticulture, improve water resilience, and provide solutions for wastewater reuse, alongside the creation of a world-class aquatic, tourism, and innovation precinct. It was noted that the project has the potential to protect and grow approximately \$140 million in regional GDP and 2,500 jobs, while also delivering national leadership in biodiversity, cultural outcomes, and Māori land development.

Trustees were advised that phase one feasibility, supported by Trust Tairāwhiti and Gisborne District Council, has not identified any fatal flaws. The next phase would focus on detailed technical, financial, and environmental assessments, with a staged approach to implementation. Early priorities are expected to centre on water provision, recognising its role as a foundational enabler for future development.

Discussion with Trustees covered flood and tsunami risk, aquifer recharge, saline intrusion, land-use trade-offs, and long-term operating costs. The Awapuni Moana Trust presenters confirmed that these will be tested through the feasibility process and that neighbouring landowners and stakeholders were supportive. Trustees also discussed the commercial aspects of the project, with presenters confirming a user-pays model and an expectation that the development will stand on its own merits while operating within a Whenua Tōpū framework that reinvests benefits back into the community.

Trustees acknowledged the stakeholder alignment and thanked Te Awapuni Moana Trust for presenting a regionally significant and forward-looking kaupapa

2.7 Board Updates – Nil
2.8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC FROM PROCEEDINGS

Moved by Trustee Williams and seconded by Trustee Aitken.

SECTION 48 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

THAT: The public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely for discussion or decision on agenda items:

- 3.0 Strategy and Decision Making
- 4.0 Risk management
- 5.0 Operational Updates
- 5.2 Approval of closed minutes and matters arising

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter check	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item 3.0	Strategy and decision making	Sections 7(2)(b(ii))(c)(f)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 4.0	Risk management	Sections 7(2)(a)(f)	48(1)(a)
Item 5.0	Operational updates	Sections 7(2)b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 5.2	Approval of closed minutes and matters arising	Sections 7(2)(a)(b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
	Appendices	Sections 7(2)(b(ii))(f)	48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Content

Section 7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

Section 7(2)(b)(ii) To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Content

Section 7(2)(c) Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information:

- i. Would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or
- ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

Section 7(2)(f) Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through:

- iii. The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members of officers or employees of any local authority, or any persons to whom Section 2(5) applies, in the course of their duty; or
- iv. The protection of such members, officers, employees and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

Section 7(2)(g) Maintain legal professional privilege.

Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

Section 7(2)(j) Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

That the following people be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded:

- i. Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Manager Economic Development, General Manager Hāpori, General Manager Māori Economy, Board Secretary and Cultural Advisors for items 3.0 – 5.0.

because of their knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation the matters being discussed because of their role and work performed.

The public excluded minutes follow and are not publicly available. There being no further business the public meeting closed at 11:00am.

CHAIR
DAVID BATTIN