

Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Friday 15 October 2021, 9.30am
- Venue:** Zoom (Audio Visual meeting)
- Chairperson:** Mayor Judy Turner – for this meeting
- Members:** Chairman Doug Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Mayor Steve Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council
Mayor David Trewavas – Taupō District Council
Mayor Garry Webber – Western Bay of Plenty District Council
Mayor Lyn Riesterer – Ōpōtiki District Council
Mayor Malcolm Campbell – Kawerau District Council
Commission Chair Anne Tolley – Tauranga City Council
- In Attendance:** Geoff Williams - Chief Executive – Rotorua Lakes Council
Stephanie O’Sullivan - Chief Executive – Whakatāne District Council
Sarah Omundsen – Acting Chief Executive – Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Aileen Lawrie - Chief Executive – Ōpōtiki District Council
Marty Grenfell - Chief Executive – Tauranga City Council
Gareth Green - Chief Executive – Taupō District Council
Russell George - Chief Executive – Kawerau District Council
John Holyoake - Chief Executive – Western Bay of Plenty District Council
Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council
Cr Nándor Tánczos – Whakatāne District Council
- Presenters
Amos Kamo, Kahurangi Tapsell and Stacey Beer - Kāinga Ora
Mi’i Keelan and Liane Gardiner - Te Puni Kōkiri
Stephen Boyle – BOPLASS
Bevan Gray – Whakatāne District Council
Georgina Fletcher – Whakatāne District Council
- Apologies:** Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive – Bay of Plenty Regional Council

1. Opening and Welcome

Mayor Judy Turner opened the Zoom meeting and welcomed those present.

Noted the following changes to the agenda:

- The presentation by Victoria Carroll: Challenges and Opportunities in Papakāinga Housing had been deferred to a future meeting.

- The presentation by Kainga Ora had been moved up to accommodate this change, as had the RMA Reforms Update discussion.

Advised that this Mayoral Forum Zoom meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council website following the meeting.

Video recording of meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zefmK5tJqDE>

2. Apologies

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from Fiona McTavish - Chief Executive Bay of Plenty Regional Council and for early departure for Mayor Garry Webber tendered at the meeting.**

**Riesterer/Webber
CARRIED**

3. Minutes

Minutes to be Confirmed

3.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 18 June 2021

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 **Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 18 June 2021 as a true and correct record.**

**Chadwick/Webber
CARRIED**

4. Presentations and Verbal Updates

4.1 Withdrawn: Challenges and Opportunities of Papakāinga Housing

Noted that this item had been deferred to a future meeting.

4.2 Kāinga Ora Update

Presentation - Kainga Ora - Whenua Maori PDF - 15 October 2021: Objective ID A3953708 ➔

Presented by: Amos Kamo, Kahurangi Tapsell and Stacey Beer - Kāinga Ora.

Key Points - Presentation:

- Whenua Māori Development Team
- Our Legacy Organisations
- Our Vision - *Building better, brighter homes, communities and lives.*
- The Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities Act 2019 / The Urban Development Act 2020
- MAIHI (Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation) Partnership Programme
- MAIHI Funding
- Getting the Mahi Done
- Range of Opportunities
- Whenua Māori Development Team
- Key Whenua Partnerships Initiative – Whenua Leasing
- Social Procurement Initiatives – a subset of Pā Harakeke
- Disposal Partnerships.

Key Points:

- Was actively seeking commercial funding partners
- Recognised the high pressure housing needs in Tauranga and Rotorua, combined with increased housing costs
- Kāinga Ora was a place-based organisation and should leverage on established relationships within the regions
- Kāinga Ora was not seeking to take ownership of land, rather it was a co-operative approach to assist landowners to achieve their aspirations
- Private sector finance/public-private partnership opportunities was a key consideration that needed further exploration
- Short-term lease scenarios was not considered a financially viable option.

Key Points - Members:

- Concerned that the proposed approach was to a large extent unchanged from previous years
- Sought opportunities for how to underwrite housing loans/debt, which was a significant issue for Māori
- There was infrastructure in place on Maketū land owned by Te Arawa Lakes Trust that had been earmarked for affordable/social housing. However, there had been little or no progress and there needed to be options for successful co-operation between councils, Kāinga Ora and Iwi so developments could commence.

4.3 Housing Update - Rotorua

Verbal Update by Mayor Chadwick - Rotorua Lakes Council.

Key Points:

- Local led solutions/partnership was a key factor for successful progress
- There was an increasing proportion of young māori, and high degree of beneficiaries/unemployment
- Challenges had been amplified by Covid and provision of housing/infrastructure had not matched growth and increasing housing prices
- Covid had been detrimental to tourism and the overall economy in Rotorua
- A joint emergency housing taskforce comprising a combination of agencies and supported by central government, had been established

- 850 local families were currently in emergency housing/motels, which was not sustainable
- Was working towards supplying 3000 social/affordable homes over the next three year, which was recognised as an aspiration goal
- There was a need for increased security measures associated with the emergency housing.

10.30am - The meeting **adjourned**.

10.40am - The meeting **reconvened**.

4.4 Maori Housing Support - Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK)

Presentation TPK BOP Mayoral Forum PDF - 15 October 2021: Objective ID A3952369 [⇒](#)

Presented by Mi'i Keelan and Liane Gardiner - Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK)

Key Points - Presentation:

- Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Māori Development
- Our role in the public sector system
- Te Puni Kōkiri Strategic Priorities
- MAIHI
 - Principles and Framework
 - Kā Ora - The National Māori Housing Strategy
- Investment and approach
- Opportunities.

Key Points:

- Western Bay of Plenty had been identified by central government as a 'housing need hot spot'
- TPK also recognised the significant housing shortage in Eastern Bay of Plenty
- TPK's was focussed on working with iwi to support their whānau in identifying needs and aspirations, and to achieve housing goals
- Was working with Trusts in the Eastern Bay of Plenty that had housing aspirations for its land, and facilitated connections with other groups and agencies
- Worked with a number of service providers in its housing repair programme
- Main repair focus was for housing on whenua māori land, however māori housing located on generally owned land and in need of repairs, would still be considered
- Public funding could not be used for repairs of unconsented residences and a conversation around how to reach a positive outcomes would instead take place.

4.5 Opportunity for Mayors and Chairs to Provide an Update on Housing Developments on Māori Owned Land Within Each Rohe

Mayor Steve Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council

Key Points:

- Council was working in a positive partnership with Iwi/Hapū
- Major impediment was provision of infrastructure, rather than consenting/planning challenges.

Commission Chair Anne Tolley – Tauranga City Council

Key Points:

- Housing affordable/availability in Tauranga was a major issue
- Would not be able to meet the NPS-UD threshold with regards to provision of housing
- Was working on increased co-operation with local Iwi/hapū trusts and encouraged open communication
- Was reviewing the Council toolkit available for Trusts who were wanting to progress land development.

Mayor Garry Webber – Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Key Points:

- Noted the success of the Healthy Homes Programme
- Council was offering reduced development contribution rates for papakāinga housing/developments on multiple owned Māori land, however progress was slower than ideally preferred.

Mayor Lyn Riesterer – Ōpōtiki District Council

Key Points:

- There was approximately 200 unconsented dwellings along the Ōpōtiki coast and recognised the dire need for adequate housing
- Considerations for development of multiple owned Māori land included:
 - Ability to develop land
 - Loan repayment ability
 - Needs analysis and prioritisation
- There was an ongoing need for housing, made more urgent as a result of the number of people who had returned to Ōpōtiki due to Covid.

Chief Executive Gareth Green – Taupō District Council

Key Points:

- Housing shortage/affordability was a relatively new issue for Taupō
- Was currently assessing regulatory frameworks to identify opportunities to assist in housing developments
- Significant work was being undertaken in the papakāinga housing space
- Increasing concerns regarding substandard/unconsented dwellings being used for housing.

Chairman Doug Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council**Key Points:**

- Encouraged TAs to continue their current housing drive and would support and facilitate initiatives
- Recognised that this was not BOPRC's core business.

Mayor Judy Turner – Whakatāne District Council**Key Points:**

- Outlined the developments and initiatives currently taking place in the Whakatāne District
- District Plan was formulated to support and enable Papakāinga housing
- Recognised the need for adequate infrastructure/wastewater facilities to support housing developments
- The return of large number of residents due to Covid had increased the need for housing.

Mayor Malcolm Campbell and Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council**Key Points:**

- Council was currently developing 31 residential properties on the old school land
- Recognised and welcomed the housing providers presenting at this meeting into the Kawerau community, where 62% of the population was Māori
- Settlement outcomes meant that Māori had been required to purchase back ancestral land, with this cost significantly impacting on the overall cost of housing developments/infrastructure
- Noted the distinction between Tūwharetoa Kawerau and Tūwharetoa Taupō.

4.6 BOPLASS - Summary of LTP Projects to be Delivered Across the Region Over the Next 10 Years.

Presented by Stephen Boyle – BOPLASS and Bevan Gray – Whakatāne District Council.

Key Points:

- Provided an outline of the Long Term Plans (LTPs) for all the Bay of Plenty councils
- Sought input from councils on how to mitigate risks associated with the increasing costs of projects set out in the LTPs
- The dashboard displayed high level information, which could be further drilled down into as require
- Dashboard also included projects that had obtained Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) funding, which was useful when seen in context of the other projects in the region

- Compiling the information would assist in attracting confident investors into the region.

Key Points - Members:

- Suggested that the information be provided to the region's Economic Development Agencies (EDAs)
- The information could provide the Mayors/Chairs an understanding of the scope and scale of LTP projects currently planned or in-train in the region. It could also assist in approaching/working with central government in the funding and delivery of large scale projects
- Identifying the need for skilled labour; creating new opportunities for apprenticeships etc. could be an additional outcome
- Supply/demand issues could be identified and planned for as part of this overall provision of information/understanding of region-wide projects.

11.35am – Mayor Garry Webber **withdrew** from the meeting.

4.7 Whakatāne District Council: Climate Change Action Plan

Presentation - WDC Climate change action plan PDF - Mayoral Forum 15 October 2021: Objective ID A3965308 [⇒](#)

Mayor Turner introduced Cr Nandor Tanchoz and Georgina Fletcher – Whakatāne District Council who presented this item.

Key Points - Presentation:

- Climate Change Strategy 2020-23
- Carbon emissions from the Whakatāne District Council
- Our Climate Change Principles
- Our Climate Change Project
- 'Educate both the young and the old'.

Key Points:

- Important to recognise the expertise within the various communities with regards to energy efficiency and climate change initiatives
- Next challenge was to work closer with the community to achieve a transformational shift and make positive changes.

Key Points - Members:

- Recognised that there was significant expertise across all councils and that co-operation was key in 'making a difference'.

4.8 Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Climate Change Update

Presented by Acting Chief Executive Sarah Omundsen – Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Key Points:

- Region Wide Risk Assessment

- Tonkin and Taylor had been contracted to undertake this piece of work
- Wide range of stakeholders would be involved
- Final report was scheduled for June 2023
- Carbon footprint
 - Last carbon footprint for Bay of Plenty had been undertaken in 2015, so an update was timely
 - Had obtained both pre and post Covid footprint information
 - Format of the report would follow previous report; Taupō District Council would be included; higher focus on transport emissions which was a key area for reduction
- Other Collaborative Projects
 - TA/Regional Council staff continued to meet regularly on climate matters
 - Government had just released its first Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) for consultation and there was the possibility of the Bay of Plenty TAs making a joint submission
 - Noted the publication of the Lifeline Regional Risk Assessment report
 - Adoption of the ERP and carbon budgets would be delayed due to Covid-19.

Key Points - Members:

- Recognised the co-operation at staff level across the Bay of Plenty Region with regards to stormwater/flooding modelling, and the significant effort and expertise within Regional Council in this area.

4.9 RMA Reforms Update

An opportunity for each Council to provide a verbal update with regards to the current Resource Management Act reforms.

Mayor Turner – Whakatāne District Council

- Recognised the several significant reforms currently taking place that affected local government
- The focus on the three waters reform had to some extent distracted councils from the RMA reforms
- Recognised the short timeframes for submissions on the various processes, in particular the three waters reforms.

Mayor Campbell – Kawerau District Council

- A Council workshop would be held the following week to obtain a better understanding of the reform and identify the next steps in the process.

Mayor Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council

- Noted the advice from Central Government that the Resource Management Steering Group had been established, and the level of comfort for the region in the capability of the appointees
- Recognised that the RMA reforms was a result of the ongoing housing issues.

Mayor Riesterer – Ōpōtiki District Council

- Referred this update to Chief Executive Lawrie as she had been appointed to the RM Steering Group.

Chief Executive Aileen Lawrie – Ōpōtiki District Council

- The resource management review had commenced in 2009 and the final report had become the blueprint for the current reforms
- The main change of the Natural and Built Environments Bill (compared to the RMA) was its focus on *outcomes*, rather than *effects*
- Noted the move away from local approach to a more regional approach
- Recognised the far-reaching nature of the reforms and the impact it would have
- Steering Group met on a weekly basis and the workload was significant
- Noted that MfE would engage with the Mayoral Forum to provide updates.

Chairman Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Recognised the gravity of the issues and the challenges the reforms presented
- Commitment to the process and outcome was critical as the reform was to be completed in mid-2022
- Supported the concern that the three waters reform was detracting from the other reforms in progress, in particular the RM reform.

12.22 pm – Mayor Turner’s Zoom connection temporarily disconnected and Chairman Leeder **assumed** the chair.

Commission Chair Tolley – Tauranga City Council

- Informal resource management reform discussions had taken place to ensure it was not ‘forgotten’ as the three waters reform progressed
- The fast pace of the reforms made it challenging to provide substantive and joint feedback
- Concerned that the reform of the local government, which provided the structure and form for the RMA reforms, was taking place afterwards
- Recognised the concerns expressed regarding differing local issues, however a joint approach and ‘speaking with one voice’ at a regional level would carry more traction with Central Government.

Chief Executive O’Sullivan – Whakatāne District Council

- Had appointed a Programme Manager for the three reforms to ensure consistency and to provide a more proactive approach to the resource management reform, rather than the reactive process of the three waters reform

12.30pm – Mayor Turner reconnected to the meeting and **assumed** the chair.

- Supported the concept of regional responses when there was alignment between councils on the various issues.

Mayor Turner – Whakatāne District Council

- The Natural and Built Environments Bill exposure draft was high level which made it challenging to provide a considered submission
- Concerned regarding lack of clarity around existing use rights and existing consents

- Suggested including regular updates on the current reforms on the Mayoral Forum agendas.

12.34pm - the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED

**MAYOR JUDY TURNER
WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL**