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## Regulatory and Hearings Committee

### *Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa*

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 22 July 2025 at 9:30 am.

#### PRESENT

**Chairperson** Cr Louise Hutt  
*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Ewan Wilson  
*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members** Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary  
Cr Maxine van Oosten  
Cr Moko Tauariki (via Audio-Visual)  
Cr Maria Huata  
Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
Cr Geoff Taylor  
Cr Andrew Bydder  
Cr Tim Macindoe

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*The meeting was opened with a karakia.*

**1. Apologies – Tono aroha**

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee accepts the apologies for early departure from Cr Tauariki.

**2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirms the agenda.

**3. Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipanga**

No members of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

**4. Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting Open Minutes 10 April 2025**

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Cr van Oosten)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2025 as a true and correct record.

**5. Tree Policy - Hearings Report**

The following members of the public spoke to their submissions on the Tree Policy.

[Kiri Wallace](#) spoke to their submission in support of the proposed Tree Policy highlighting that other Council's have successfully introduced tree policies, biodiversity and the benefits of urban trees.

[Phil Evans](#) spoke to their submission in support of the introduction of a Tree Policy and highlighted his concerns which were the effect that kowhai trees have on honeybees and the maintenance of trees specifically tree/ plant overgrowth on cycle paths. They responded to questions from Members concerning the biodiversity significance of planting kowhai trees.

[Bill Ward, Margaret Evans and Caroline Steemson](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of the introduction of a Tree Policy and noted their concerns which included, the contract maintenance of trees, removal, replanting costs and an the requirement for integrated approach with nature in the city.

[Martin Toop](#) spoke to their submission in partial support of the introduction of a Tree Policy highlighting vegetation, the urgency and importance of canopy for climate change and biodiversity, the lack of trees on certain streets and the importance of planting trees.

[Selwyn June](#) spoke to their submission in support of the introduction of a Tree Policy highlighting the need for the right trees being planted in the right areas follow up care dangerous trees and their support for the inclusion of park and reserves trees within the policy. They responded to questions from Members regarding ecological tree choices for planting.

**The meeting was adjourned from 10.05am to 10.11am.**

**Sam Le Heron on behalf of [Rebecca Shaw](#) (Pragma Homes)** spoke to the submission noting existing policies existed, concerns with the practicality of the proposed policy, development of land near street corridors, the significance of trees across Hamilton and the uncertainty on how the policy is implemented. They responded to questions from Members regarding ecological reporting and timeframes.

[Rimu Bhooi](#) spoke to their submission in support of the proposed Tree Policy highlighting the other supportive submissions, benefits of having a clear tree policy, and the impact of not having trees.

The Programme & Planning Manager took the report as read and thanked both the written and verbal submitters. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning shrubs and flax (harakeke).

Members requested the following points be included in the deliberations report:

- i. The impact of kowhai trees on honeybees;
- ii. Appropriate planting times;
- iii. Removal of trees process;
- iv. Timeframes for implementation;
- v. How Mataranga Maaori was considered when developing the draft policy;
- vi. Intersection of the policy with Nature in the City;
- vii. An Explanation of notable trees and significant natural areas;
- viii. Funding /budgeting /staffing implications;
- ix. An overview of community expectations, involvement and consultations;
- x. Summary of other councils initiatives; and
- xi. Examples of other tree policies working well with developers.

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Cr Wilson)  
That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers public submissions arising from the public consultation undertaken from 19 May – 16 June 2025; and
- c) notes that a Deliberations and Adoption Report that includes feedback from the consultation and hearings will be brought to the 28 August Council Meeting.

*The meeting was closed with a karakia.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 10.50am.**