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# Te Komiti mō ngā Papa Rēhia / Parks Committee

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parks Committee held in Room 1, Level 26, Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House, 135 Albert Street, Auckland on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 2.01pm. A recording of the meeting is available here: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/meetings-council-bodies/Pages/webcasts-council-meetings.aspx>

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### TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

|                           |                            |  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Chairperson</b>        | Cr Ken Turner              |  |
| <b>Deputy Chairperson</b> | Cr Mike Lee                |  |
| <b>Members</b>            | Cr Angela Dalton           |  |
|                           | Cr Alf Filipaina, MNZM     | Via electronic link<br>From 2.05pm, Item 4.2,<br>Until 3.57pm, Item 7<br>Until 2.47pm, Item 11 |
|                           | Cr Christine Fletcher, QSO |  |
|                           | Cr Daniel Newman, JP       |  |
|                           | Cr Sharon Stewart, QSM     |  |
|                           | Cr Wayne Walker            | Via electronic link<br>From 2.04pm, Item 3   |
| <b>Ex-officio</b>         | Hokura Member Glenn Wilcox |  |
|                           | Mayor Wayne Brown          | Until 3.44pm, Item 7   |

### TE HUNGA KĀORE I TAE MAI | ABSENT

Hokura Member Muka Hohneck  
(Terrence)

### TE HUNGA ĀPITI KUA TAE MAI | ALSO PRESENT

Cr J Fairey

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## 1 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/1

MOVED by Cr C Fletcher, seconded by Deputy Chairperson M Lee:

**That the Parks Committee:**

a) **whakaae / accept the following apologies:**

**Lateness**

**Mayor W Brown, on council business  
Cr A Dalton**

**Early departure**

**Mayor W Brown, on council business  
Cr C Fletcher.**

**CARRIED**

## Electronic Attendance

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/2

MOVED by Cr C Fletcher, seconded by Deputy Chairperson M Lee:

**That the Parks Committee:**

a) **whakaae / approve electronic attendance under Standing Order 3.3.3 for:**

- **Cr A Filipaina (SO 3.3.3b))**
- **Member T Hohneck (SO 3.3.3 b))**
- **Cr W Walker (SO 3.3.3 a))**

**CARRIED**

## 2 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest

The chair advised the meeting that he had a grazing license for regional farmland, however this was deemed not to be a conflict.

## 3 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/3

MOVED by Chairperson K Turner, seconded by Cr C Fletcher:

**That the Parks Committee:**

a) **whakaū / confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on [Tuesday, 22 October 2024](#), including the confidential section, as a true and correct record.**

**CARRIED**

*Cr W Walker joined the meeting at 2.05pm.*

#### 4 Ngā Kōrero a te Marea | Public Input

##### 4.1 Public Input: Walk, Tramp, Run (WTR) - Phytophthora and kauri dieback.

Dr Emily Anderson provided a PowerPoint presentation and supporting information in support of the item. Copies are attached to the agenda and are available on the Auckland Council website.

*Cr A Filipaina joined the meeting at 2.05pm.*

*Cr A Dalton entered the meeting at 2.08pm.*

*Mayor W Brown entered the meeting at 2.18pm.*

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/4

MOVED by Cr C Fletcher, seconded by Chairperson K Turner:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **whiwhi / receive the public input address from Walk, Tramp, Run (WTR); and whakamihi / thank the presenters for attending the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

##### 4.2 Public Input: Muriwai Environmental Trust - Environment focused projects in the Muriwai and Waimauku area

Richard Wright, Chairman Muriwai Environmental Trust provided a PowerPoint presentation in support of the item. A copy is attached to the agenda and is available on the Auckland Council website.

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/5

MOVED by Chairperson K Turner, seconded by Cr C Fletcher:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **whiwhi / receive the public input address from the Muriwai Environmental Trust regarding key topics in the Muriwai and Waimauku areas; and whakamihi / thank Chairman, Richard Wright for attending the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

#### 5 Ngā Kōrero a te Poari ā-Rohe Pātata | Local Board Input

There was no local board input.

#### 6 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

Note: From this point forward, agenda items were taken in the following order:

Item

- 11 Rainforest Express - Waitākere Ranges Regional Park - investigation into approval process required for a third party to restore the Rainforest Express
- 8 Te Ara Hura 2027 Parks and Community Facilities maintenance contracts
- 7 Parks and Community Facilities - Regional Operations Capital Work Programme 2024/2025 delivery update
- 9 Regional Parks - Financial Year 2024/2025 quarter two operations performance update
- 10 Draft Regional Capital Investment Programme for Regional Parks, Farming and Auckland Botanic Gardens for financial years 2026-2028
- 12 Chair's report - Reports of the Regional Parks Working Group
- 13 Summary of Parks Committee information memoranda, workshops and briefings (including the forward work programme) - 25 February 2025
- 14 Te Whakaaro ki ngā Take Pūtea e Autaia ana | Consideration of Extraordinary Items

**11 Rainforest Express - Waitākere Ranges Regional Park - investigation into approval process required for a third party to restore the Rainforest Express.**

Note: changes were made to the original recommendation, amending clauses a), b), c), c i) and c iii), as Chair's recommendations.

*Cr C Fletcher retired from the meeting at 2.47pm.*

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/6

MOVED by Chairperson K Turner, seconded by Mayor W Brown:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **receive / whiwhi the advice on the process that would need to be undertaken to reactivate the Rainforest Express.**
- b) **tono / request staff engage with Watercare Services Ltd to provide Waitakere Rainforest Tramline Trust access to the Waitākere Ranges tramline assets and the land on which they are installed so a staged reactivation of the Rainforest Express can progress.**
- c) **tono / request staff offer advice from internal subject matter experts to Waitakere Rainforest Tramline Trust to help the group understand the necessary requirements that will be needed as part of the process required to reactivate the Rainforest Express, noting:**
  - i) **that Waitakere Rainforest Tramline Trust plan must include an updated risk assessment and plans to mitigate any risks identified through this the required NZ Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi Rail Licence.**
  - ii) **that for either tramline to be operated, both the operator and the access provider would require a licence under the Railways Act 2005.**
  - iii) **that the cost of meeting the above considerations would need to be funded by Waitakere Rainforest Tramline Trust.**

**CARRIED**

## 8 Te Ara Hura 2027 Parks and Community Facilities maintenance contracts

Note: changes were made to the original recommendation, adding new clause b), as a Chair's recommendation.

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/7

MOVED by Mayor W Brown, seconded by Deputy Chairperson M Lee:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **whiwhi / receive the attached update on the progress of the Te Ara Hura (The Way Forward) 2027 Parks and Community Facilities maintenance contracts project and tuku / provide feedback to staff.**
- b) **strongly support the return of work currently performed in the full facilities contracts in Regional Parks return to delivery by council-employed Regional Parks staff.**

**CARRIED**

## 7 Parks and Community Facilities - Regional Operations Capital Work Programme 2024/2025 delivery update.

A presentation was provided. A copy has been placed on the official minutes and is available on the Auckland Council website as a minutes attachment.

*Mayor W Brown retired from the meeting at 3.44pm.*

*Cr A Filipaina retired from the meeting at 3.57pm.*

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/8

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson M Lee, seconded by Houkura Member G Wilcox:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **whiwhi / receive the update on the current performance of Regional Parks, Farming, Auckland Botanic Gardens and Pukekawa Auckland Domain parts of the Parks and Community Regional Capital Investment Work Programme 2024/2025.**
- b) **tuhi tīpoka / note that opportunity will follow to provide feedback on the Draft 2025/2026 Regional Parks, Farming and Auckland Botanic Gardens and Pukekawa Auckland Domain parts of the Parks and Community Regional Capital Investment Work Programme.**

**CARRIED**

### Attachments

- A 25 February 2025, Parks Committee, Item 7 - Parks and Community Facilities - Regional Operations Capital Work Programme 2024/2025 delivery update, Presentation

**9 Regional Parks - Financial Year 2024/2025 quarter two operations performance update**

A presentation was provided. A copy is attached to the agenda and is available on the Auckland Council website.

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/9

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson M Lee, seconded by Cr A Dalton:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **whiwhi / receive the Regional Parks operations work programme performance update for financial year 2024/2025 quarter two, 1 October – 31 December 2024 (Attachment A to this agenda report).**
- b) **tuhi / note that the Regional Parks operations work programme update for financial year 2024/2025 quarter three will be provided to the Parks Committee in April 2025.**

**CARRIED**

**10 Draft Regional Capital Investment Programme for Regional Parks, Farming and Auckland Botanic Gardens for financial years 2026-2028**

A presentation was provided. A copy has been placed on the official minutes and is available on the Auckland Council website as a minutes attachment.

Note: changes were made to the original recommendation, adding new clause c), as a Chair's recommendation.

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/10

MOVED by Cr A Dalton, seconded by Deputy Chairperson M Lee:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **ohia / endorse the direction and priorities within the regionally-funded capital investment work programmes for Regional Parks, Farming and the Auckland Botanic Gardens for financial years 2025/2026, 2026/2027 and 2027/2028**
- b) **tuhi tīpoka / note that feedback from the Parks Committee on the work programmes should be provided by Tuesday, 11 March 2025, for consideration by the Community Committee at a workshop on 19 March 2025.**
- c) **tono / request staff to consider the feedback provided by Muriwai Trust in further developing the draft Regional Work Programme for financial years 2026-2029.**

**CARRIED**

**Attachments**

- A 25 February 2025, Parks Committee, Item 10 - Draft Regional Capital Investment Programme for Regional Parks, Farming and Auckland Botanic Gardens for financial years 2026-2028, Presentation

## 12 Chair's report - Reports of the Regional Parks Working Group

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/11

MOVED by Houkura Member G Wilcox, seconded by Chairperson K Turner:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **thank Councillor Lee and the Working party for their report and the work they have undertaken.**
- b) **note the recommendations of the Working Party adopted by the Mayoral Proposal for the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034,**
  - i) **Review regional parks operations to ensure best-value-for money from external contracts and in-park ranger operations.**
  - ii) **Investigate options to acquire land for a new regional park to support new growth in the south of the Auckland region. This could look at making a regional park out of existing land at Puhinui/Otuataua and/or acquiring one on the west coast between Awhitu and Port Waikato.**
  - iii) **Build cooperation between between the regional parks network and manawhenua-owned Tupuna Maunga.**
  - iv) **Review track upgrade engineering methodologies, especially in the Waitakere Ranges to ensure resilience and functionality. Overly engineered tracks are not financially sustainable nor are they appropriate to the unique wilderness experience the park offers.**
  - v) **Safeguard all regional parks' legal protection by auditing the order-in-council process to ensure more recently acquired parks are fully protected under the Local Government Act.**
- c) **agree to give consideration to the recommendations in clause b) and to continue the committee's program of site visits, wherein these suggestions can be investigated.**

**CARRIED**

## 13 Summary of Parks Committee information memoranda, workshops and briefings (including the forward work programme) - 25 February 2025

Resolution number PCCCC/2025/12

MOVED by Cr D Newman, seconded by Cr S Stewart:

**That the Parks Committee:**

- a) **tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the progress on the forward work programme appended as Attachment A of the agenda report.**
- b) **whiwhi / receive the Summary of Parks Committee information memoranda and briefings – 25 February 2025.**

**CARRIED**



**14 Te Whakaaro ki ngā Take Pūtea e Autaia ana | Consideration of Extraordinary Items**

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

4.45pm

The chairperson thanked members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD  
AT A MEETING OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE HELD  
ON

**DATE:**.....

**CHAIRPERSON:**.....