

**TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI | HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of  
Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council for the 2025-2028 triennium  
held in the Lower Hutt Town Hall, 32 Laings Road, Lower Hutt, on  
**Wednesday 29 October 2025 commencing at 5:30pm**

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To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click on the link here: [Mayoral Inauguration Ceremony 2025](#)

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Fauono K Laban (Chair)	Deputy Mayor K Brown
Cr G Barratt	Cr B Dyer
Cr S Edwards	Cr T Lewis
Cr A Mitchell	Cr C Parkin
Cr TA Puketapu	Cr P Ravi
Cr N Shaw	Cr T Stallinger
Cr M Tonga-Grant	Cr K Yung

**APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Chaston, Eastbourne Community Board  
M Gibbons, Eastbourne Community Board  
B Hainsworth, Eastbourne Community Board  
E Keddell, Eastbourne Community Board  
B Spedding, Eastbourne Community Board  
L Bingley, Wainuiomata Community Board  
D Chrisp, Wainuiomata Community Board  
A Ryall, Wainuiomata Community Board  
L Sagaga, Wainuiomata Community Board  
V Sagaga, Wainuiomata Community Board  
N Smith, Wainuiomata Community Board  
J Miller, Chief Executive  
K Butler-Hare, Tumuaki Māori  
C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive's Office  
K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

The Tumuaki Māori opened the meeting with a karakia.

## 2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S WELCOME

“MPs, members, Iwi, VIPs, High Chiefs, whānau and friends, welcome to the Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hutt City Council for the 2025-2028 triennium. Thank you to Councillor-elect of Greater Wellington Regional Council Gabriel Tupou for the wonderful singing of the National Anthem. We will now move into the formalities.

I would now like to invite Mayor-elect Fauono Ken Laban to make his statutory declaration.”

## 3. STATUTORY DECLARATION BY THE MAYOR ELECT

Mayor Fauono Ken Laban made the statutory declaration required by Clause 14, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2022, which was witnessed by the Chief Executive, attached as page 6 to the minutes.

The Chief Executive said, “Mayor Fauono Ken Laban, you have been elected under the terms of the Local Government Act 2002, Mayor of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt; it is now my privilege and pleasure to invest you with the insignia of your office.

As this Korowai is placed upon you, it carries the trust and mandate of the community, their collective strength, unity, and aroha woven within its fibres. Like the feathers adorning a bird, it embodies beauty, protection, and purpose, enabling flight toward a shared future.

In every occasion you lead or represent this city, may you be reminded that the people are wrapped around you, their hopes, values, and aspirations guiding your path. Together, the Korowai and chain of office symbolise the honour, responsibility, and mana carried in service to the community.

The chain, which will now be placed around your neck, has a two-fold significance.

The wearing of the Chain of Office effectively ensures that such functions, be they business meetings or ceremonial occasions, are conducted with credit to the Council and honour to the community. It is not only a mark of distinction and favour but also an emblem of servitude. So, this chain is to remind you that you are always the servant of the people, and that it will always be your duty to serve them to the utmost of your power and ability.

I want to take this opportunity to assure you and your Council of the utmost cooperation of the officers of Council during your term of office. Officers look forward to working with you to achieve our purpose of a connected, resilient, and inclusive city where all our people thrive. Serving you and our community is truly rewarding, knowing across all our roles, we're making a genuine difference to Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

You are now installed as the Mayor of this City, and we wish you a successful term of office.”

**4. STATUTORY DECLARATION BY THE COUNCILLORS ELECT**

The Chief Executive invited the Councillors elect to come forward to read their declarations.

Councillors K Brown, G Barratt, B Dyer, S Edwards, T Lewis, A Mitchell, C Parkin, TA Puketapu, P Ravi, N Shaw, T Stallinger, M Tonga-Grant and K Yung made the statutory declarations required by Clause 14, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which were witnessed by Mayor Fauono Laban attached as pages 7- 19 to the minutes.

**5. STATUTORY DECLARATION BY MEMBERS ELECT OF THE EASTBOURNE AND WAINUIOMATA COMMUNITY BOARDS**

The Chief Executive invited the Community Board members elect to come forward to read their declarations.

J Chaston, M Gibbons, B Hainsworth, E Keddell, B Spedding and Councillor T Lewis for the Eastbourne Community Board and L Bingley, D Chrisp, A Ryall, L Sagaga, V Sagaga, N Smith, Deputy Mayor K Brown and Councillor TA Puketapu for the Wainuiomata Community Board made the statutory declarations required by Clause 14, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which were witnessed by Mayor Fauono Laban attached as pages 20- 33 to the minutes.

**6. ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Fauono Laban delivered his inaugural address, attached as pages 34-36 to the minutes.

**7. STATUTORY BRIEFING**

Report No. HCC2025/5/260 by the Chief Legal Officer

The Chief Executive elaborated on the report.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Laban/Cr Barratt)

**Minute No. C 25501**

*"That Council notes the legislative provisions affecting members."*

**8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Deputy Mayor Brown delivered her inaugural address.

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Laban/Cr Lewis)

**Minute No. C 25502**

*"That Council:*

- (1) notes that under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002, Mayor Fauono Laban has the formal power to appoint a Deputy Mayor; and*
- (2) endorses Mayor Fauono Laban's decision to appoint Cr Keri Brown as Deputy Mayor of Hutt City Council for the 2025-2028 triennium."*

**9. FIXING OF THE DATES AND TIMES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025**

**RESOLVED:** (Mayor Laban/Deputy Mayor Brown)

**Minute No. C 25503**

*"That Council agrees to hold:*

- (1) an ordinary meeting of the Hutt City Council in the Council Chambers, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt, on Thursday 20 November 2025 commencing at 2.00pm;*
- (2) an ordinary Committee meeting in the Council Chambers, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on Tuesday 16 December 2025 commencing at 9.00am; and*
- (3) an additional ordinary meeting of the Hutt City Council in the Council Chambers, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on Tuesday 16 December 2025 commencing at 12.00pm."*

10. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

The Tumuaki Māori closed the meeting with a karakia.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.44 pm.

K Laban  
**MAYOR FAUNO**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record  
Dated this 20th day of November 2025**



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Mayor***

*I, **Kenneth Charles Laban**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as Mayor of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Kenneth Charles Laban, written in black ink over a dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of Jo Miller, written in black ink over a dotted line.  
*Jo Miller, Chief Executive*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Keri-Anne Pania Brown**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Keri-Anne Pania Brown'.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'John' or similar. Below the dotted line, the word 'Mayor' is printed in a small, sans-serif font.



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Glenda Barratt**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Glenda Barratt in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of the Mayor in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line.  
*Mayor*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Brady Dyer**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brady Dyer', written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line. Below the signature, the word 'Mayor' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Simon Christopher Edwards**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Simon Christopher Edwards.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of the Mayor.  
*Mayor*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Tui Lewis**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Lewis*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
Mayor



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Andrew Stewart Mitchell**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Andrew Mitchell*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mayor*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Christopher Tristan Parkin**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Christopher Tristan Parkin.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of the Mayor.  
*Mayor*



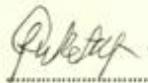
*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

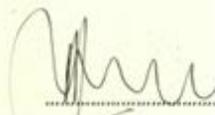
*Ko au, ko **Te Awa Puketapu**, e tauākī ana, ki ōku e whakapono ana, ka tutuki i a au ngā kawenga katoa hei painga mō te tāone o Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai, i runga i te mana kua riro i a au hei mema o te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi, i raro i te Ture Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe rua mano mā rua, i te Ture Pārongo, Huinga Kāwanatanga Ōkawa ā-Rohe kotahi mano, e iwa rau, e waru tekau mā whitu, i ētēhi atu ture rānei.*

*He mea whakaū tēnei i Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai i tēnei rā, te rua tekau mā iwa o Noema i te tau rua mano, rua tekau mā rima.*

*Waitohu:*

  
.....

*Waitohu mai ki mua i:*

  
.....  
*Te Koromatua*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

நான், பிரபாவதி ரவி,

இறைவனின் அருளால், எனது அறிவும் தீர்க்கத்திறனும் முழுமையாகப் பயன்படுத்தி,

நேர்மையுடன் மற்றும் பாகுபாடின்றி,

லோயர் ஹட் நகரின் நலனுக்காக,

எனக்கு வழங்கப்பட்ட அல்லது என்மேல் விதிக்கப்பட்ட அதிகாரங்கள், பொறுப்புகள் மற்றும் கடமைகளை

2002 ஆம் ஆண்டின் Local Government Act, 1987 ஆம் ஆண்டின் Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act,

அல்லது பிற சட்டங்களின் அடிப்படையில்,

ஹட் சிட்டி கவுன்சிலின் உறுப்பினராக,

நேர்மையாகவும் முழுமையாகவும் நிறைவேற்றுவதாக பிரமாணம் செய்கிறேன்.

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

Signature:

Signed in the presence of:

Mayor



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Naomi Shaw**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Naomi Shaw, written in cursive over a dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of the Mayor, written in cursive over a dotted line.  
*Mayor*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

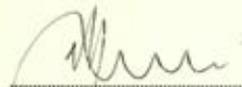
*I, **Antony John Stallinger**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

  
.....

*Signed in the presence of:*

  
.....  
Mayor



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*Ko au **Mele Tonga-Grant** 'oku ou fakapapau teu faitotonu pea ke taau 'o fakatatau ki he poto mo e 'ilome'a 'oku ou malava, 'i he tokoni mai 'a e 'Otua. Ke matua'i mo paotoloaki ma'ae lelei fakalukufua 'a e vahenga Lower Hutt, 'i he ivi mafai mo e ngaahi fatongia kuo tuku atu meiate au koe mēmipa 'o e Council 'a vāhenga Lower Hutt 'o fakatatau ki he lao fakapule'anga Fakakolo 'o e 2002, pea mo e lao ki he Ngaahi Fakataha Pule'anga Fakakolo 1987, pe ko ha lao kehe.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*Mayor*



*Hutt City Council*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Karen Yung**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of Lower Hutt City, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Hutt City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*K Yung*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
Mayor



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Jeremy Colin Chaston**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Signed in the presence of:*



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Murray Gordon Gibbons**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*Mayor*



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Benjamin Elliot Hainsworth**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Benjamin Elliot Hainsworth', written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mayor', written over a horizontal dotted line. Below the signature, the word 'Mayor' is printed in a small font.



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Emily Keddell**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Signed in the presence of:*

  
Mayor



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Norman Bruce Spedding**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Signed in the presence of:*



*Eastbourne Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Tui Lewis**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Eastbourne Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Eastbourne Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Tui Lewis*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
Mayor



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Lesa Joyce Bingley**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*L. Bingley*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
Mayor



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Daniel James Chrisp**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, and with the help of God, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

Handwritten signature of Daniel James Chrisp, written in black ink on a dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

Handwritten signature of the Mayor, written in black ink on a dotted line.  
*Mayor*



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Anaru Ryall**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anaru Ryall', written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written over a horizontal dotted line.  
*Mayor*



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Lahraine Sagaga**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Sagaga', written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line. Below the signature, the word 'Mayor' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Vatau Sagaga**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' followed by several loops and a horizontal stroke at the end.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. ...' with a horizontal stroke at the end.

*Mayor*



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Nicola Smith**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

*Smith*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mayor*



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*I, **Keri-Anne Pania Brown**, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wainuiomata Community, the powers, authorities and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as member of the Wainuiomata Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.*

*Dated at Lower Hutt this 29th day of October 2025*

*Signature:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keri-Anne Pania Brown', written over a horizontal dotted line.

*Signed in the presence of:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal dotted line. Below the signature, the word 'Mayor' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.



*Wainuiomata Community Board*

## ***Declaration By Member***

*Ko au, ko **Te Awa Puketapu**, e tauākī ana, ki ōku e whakapono ana, ka tutuki i a au ngā kawenga katoa hei painga mō te hāpori o Wainuiomata, i runga i te mana kua riro i a au hei mema o te Poari Hāpori o Wainuiomata, i raro i te Ture Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe rua mano mā rua, i te Ture Pārongo, Huinga Kāwanatanga Ōkawa ā-Rohe kotahi mano, e iwa rau, e waru tekau mā whitu, i ētēhi atu ture rānei.*

*He mea whakaū tēnei i Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai i tēnei rā, te rua tekau mā iwa o Noema i te tau rua mano, rua tekau mā rima.*

*Waitohu:*

*Waitohu mai ki mua i:*

*Te Koromatua*

**Kura Moeahu once said to me, “today we stand on the sacred mat of our ancestry” and tonight for all of us it’s about our families our communities and our whakapapa.**

Tēnā koutou katoa, talofa lava, namaste, ni hāo, mālō e lelei and warm greetings to everyone.

Tui noa, tui noa

Ngā maunga e tū nei

Ko Ōpahu e rere nei

Ko Te Raukura ki runga

Tihei Mauri Ora

Kei te mana whenua, Te Āti Awa, Taranaki Whānui, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, e papaki ana ngā tai o mihi ki a koutou.

In acknowledging the mana whenua of this land, we honour your deep connection to this whenua and thank you for your enduring guardianship and generosity and welcoming communities to share in its future.

E muamua ona ou ta le vai afei ma ou fa’atulou I le paia lasilasi ua fa’atasi mai. Tulou ou ponao’o Samoan I le afio o Tupu ma E’e. Tulou ou Faleupolu. Tulou auauna a le Atua. Ou te fa’atalofa atu i le Paia ma le mamalu o le aso. The foundation has been laid, and now our task is to build upon it - with respect, trust, and shared purpose.

I want to begin by welcoming everyone here tonight – Samoan High Chiefs, councillors, community board members, council staff, families, friends, and members of our wider community who are watching the livestream. It’s a special moment for all of us.

To our newly elected councillors who are serving on their first term:  
Prabha Ravi - "seivana thiruntha sei" – We serve with care, integrity, and excellence.

Karen Yung – “Sarm yin yut teuw sum, wong tau beng sun gum” – meaning as long as people are unified, any goal can be achieved.

Mele Tonga-Grant - "Takanga 'enau fohe" is a Tongan proverb meaning "strength in unity,"

Te Awa Puketapu – Your Grandparents, Papa Kara & Nanny Jean are standing on the mat of your whakapapa today.

Congratulations to you all!

To the returning councillors – Glenda, Simon, Tui, Tony, Andy Chris, Brady and Naomi – your experience, wisdom and leadership is the future of our city. Deputy Mayor Keri Brown – e te mihi kia koe Keri, congratulations.

The people of Te awa Kairangi ki tai expect us to be a living symbol of unity tradition and service. They want to witness the blossoming of a vision that is a beacon of harmony and hope for and on behalf of all our residents.

To our council staff, led by Chief Executive Jo Miller – thank you. The manaakitanga and support you've already given this new council has been outstanding. From the humbling welcome into the Council offices to the deeply moving pōwhiri at Waiwhetū Marae. We would achieve very little without your efforts.

You are the heartbeat of this organisation, and on behalf of everyone here, I want to acknowledge the work you do every single day for our city. And finally, to all the whānau, friends, and supporters who are here this evening – thank you.

Tonight marks the start of a new chapter for our city that is changing, growing, and embracing the strength of its diversity. This council reflects the community it serves. Chinese, Indian, Tongan, Samoan, Māori and Pākehā, woven into the rich tapestry of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai. Different languages & cultures, different stories, different journeys, yet all united by one purpose: to serve.

Diversity is something to celebrate. It brings new voices, fresh ideas, and new ways of seeing the world. It makes our decisions richer, our debates broader, and our understanding of community deeper.

When everyone has a seat at the table, our city is stronger for it.

I also want to acknowledge the strong message our community sent (including Year 12 students Fanua Rimoni and Riana Leafa Paki from Sacred Heart) about Māori representation. When other councils chose to remove Māori wards, the people of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai voted to keep them. Our decision speaks to who we are as a city. It shows our commitment to

partnership, respect, and honors mana whenua enduring guardianship of the land. Every ward in Lower Hutt voted to keep Māori Wards.

Today belongs to our parents and grandparents, many who came here seeking a better life.

It belongs to the young people growing up in our communities today, who can now see themselves reflected in this leadership.

And it belongs to every person who believes that service, unity, and hard work will bring real change.

Leadership is always about bringing people together, working in service of others – because real results come from teamwork.

I le ala Manula I le tuatua – “The road to leadership is paved in service”

Our residents have made their choice. They’ve chosen a council that represents their community a council that listens, a council that delivers, and a council that can get the basics right.

As Mayor and council, we aim to serve all people of Lower Hutt by listening, consulting and establishing **governance and leadership** that unites the council and the city.

We will develop **partnerships** with citizens, mana whenua, community organisations, government and the private sector to assess priorities and develop cost effective policies and plans.

An emphasis on a **budget** that leads to the social, economic and cultural development of our city. Rates reduction and cost of living was a constant for all of us in the campaign for election.

And **strategies and advocacy** that builds and maintains the city’s infrastructure ensuring life’s basic needs are met.

So tonight, we stand here deeply grateful for the trust you’ve placed in us, and for the opportunity to serve.

Together, we will build a city that’s proud, united, and full of opportunity.

A city that delivers on the basics, looks after its people, and never forgets who it’s here to serve.

Fa’afetai tele lava. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

As we begin this new chapter, let’s stay true to what our city has asked of us – leadership that unites, and priorities that deliver