

HUTT CITY COUNCILTE KOMITI ĀPITI MŌ TE MAHERE Ā-ROHE  
DISTRICT PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,  
Lower Hutt on

**Thursday 12 February 2026 commencing at 9:30 am**

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To watch the livestream of the meeting, please click the link here: [12 February 2026 District Plan Subcommittee meeting](#)

**PRESENT:** Cr B Dyer (Chair) Cr TA Puketapu (Deputy Chair)  
Cr T Lewis Cr T Stallinger  
R Te One, Mana Whenua Representative (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki)

**APOLOGIES:** Mayor Fauono K Laban

**IN ATTENDANCE:** J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development  
T Johnstone, Head of Planning  
N Geard, Policy Planning Manager  
S Davis, Senior Policy Manager  
S Bellamy, Intermediate Policy Planner  
V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Tuia te mana akiaki	<i>Sow the seeds of courage</i>
Rarangahia te mana rangatira	<i>Weave the power of unity</i>
Kia tipu, kia puāwai	<i>To grow and prosper</i>
E ripo ngā wai	<i>There are ripples in</i>
O Te Awa Kairangi	<i>Te Awa Kairangi</i>
He Kaitiaki ki te whenua	<i>There are Kaitiaki on the land</i>
He oranga taiao	<i>Protected environment</i>
He oranga tangata	<i>Thriving people</i>
	<i>Connected, united, affirmed!</i>

Haumi e, hui e Taiki e!

## 2. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: (Cr Dyer/Cr Stallinger)

**Minute No. DPSC 26101**

*"That the apology received from Mayor Faunon K Laban be received and leave of absence granted."*

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of former Mayor John Terris and extended condolences to his wife and the wider whānau.

## 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

## 5. HUTT CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED SUBMISSION ON THE PLANNING BILL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BILL

Report No. DPSC2026/1/2 by the Senior Policy Planner

Speaking under public comment, **Ken Jackson** raised concerns about public participation and notification processes in the resource management system. He noted that only nine properties were notified in a recent cleanfill consent process, despite wider community impacts. He believed that notification should have included more residents, local schools, service providers, iwi, and community groups, questioning the democratic nature of the process.

In response to a question from a member, Ken Jackson expressed support for compensating landowners affected by regulatory restrictions, provided it was affordable for Council and ratepayers. He also suggested considering voluntary or incentivised approaches to land protection.

The Senior Policy Advisor elaborated on the report. He said the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill were the second attempt in three years to replace the resource management system. He noted the Planning Bill was the primary legislation affecting territorial authorities and therefore the focus of the submission, while Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) largely implemented the Natural Environment Bill. He said a fuller briefing on impacts was intended for early July 2025 once the Bills had progressed further. He advised that the reforms remained uncertain and subject to change.

In response to the public speaker's comments, the Senior Policy Advisor noted that the proposed notification tests were set by legislation. He mentioned that while members could request a more flexible test, it might detract from other vital aspects of the submission and was unlikely alter the government's position.

The members considered the options outlined in the report.

#### Option A

The members agreed to support the reforms in principle, subject to the concerns outlined in the submission being addressed.

#### Option B

The members agreed to support the submissions from GWRC and Taituarā. The members noted that GWRC's submission had not yet been finalised. The Chair advised that the wording could be amended before submitting if any significant changes were made.

#### Option C

Cr Puketapu raised concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed reforms on Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, Māori participation, and sites of significance to Māori.

The members agreed to advocate for stronger Treaty of Waitangi provisions in the Bill.

#### Option D

The members agreed to advocate for retaining existing Treaty partnership tools.

#### Option E

The members agreed to support the proposed compensation scheme in principle, while seeking clarity and safeguards, including that the government should meet costs where regulatory restrictions were imposed as a result of government direction.

The members discussed the proposed narrowing of notification under the Planning Bill. The members agreed that commentary should be included in the submission, noting concerns about reduced public participation.

The officers agreed to provide guidance and refresher training to elected members on public engagement during resource consent and quasi-judicial processes.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Dyer/Cr Puketapu)

**Minute No. DPSC 26102**

*“That the Subcommittee:*

- (1) approves the draft submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill attached as Appendix 1 to the report, noting the discussions of the meeting;*
- (2) notes that the submission raises matters of significance for local government, including climate change mitigation, Treaty of Waitangi obligations, funding mechanisms, and compensation for landowners;*
- (3) supports Option A (iii) in principle, in the officer's report, to agree with reforms subject to highlighted issues being addressed in Council's submission;*
- (4) supports Option B (i) in the officer's report, to voice support for the submissions of the*

*Greater Wellington Regional Council and Taituarā;*

- (5) supports Option C (i) in the officer's report, to advocate for a stronger Treaty clause to require decision-makers to take into account the principles of the Treaty in all decision-making;*
- (6) supports Option D (i) in the officer's report, to advocate for the retention of formal arrangements for plan-making and power-sharing for iwi, such as Joint Management Agreements, delegations of powers and Mana Whakahono a Rohe (iwi participation arrangements);*
- (7) supports Option E (ii) in the officer's report, to support the compensation scheme in principle while giving feedback on technical issues; and*
- (8) delegates to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Chair of the District Plan Subcommittee, authority to finalise the wording of the submission prior to lodgement."*

## 6. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

## 7. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Unuhia!	Release us from the supreme
Unuhia!	sacredness of our tasks
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	To be clear and free
Kia wātea, kia māmā	in heart, body and soul in our
Te ngākau, te tinana,	continuing journey
te wairua i te ara takatū	Oh Rongo, raise these words up high
Koia rā e Rongo	so that we be cleansed and be free,
whakairihia ake ki runga	Yes indeed, we are free!
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	Good and peaceful
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.40am.

B Dyer  
CHAIR

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record**  
**Dated this 24th day of March 2026**