

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL AVE, KAIKOHE
ON TUESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2026 AT 1:02 PM**

PRESENT: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania, Kohepū - Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Cr Arohanui Allen (VC), Cr Rachel Baucke (VC), Cr Felicity Foy, Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira (VC), Cr Tāmāti Rākena (VC), Cr Davina Smolders, Cr Kelly Stratford, Cr John Vujcich

IN ATTENDANCE: Vanessa Blakelock Local Government Relationships Manager (MCERT), Karen Lam (Morrison Low Advisory), Jessie McVeagh (Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Chairperson), Belinda Ward (Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Chairperson)

STAFF PRESENT: Guy Holroyd (Chief Executive Officer), Roger Ackers (Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives), Jacine Warmington (Group Manager - Strategic Relationships), Emma Healy (Chief of Staff), Kate Ivicheva (Group Manager - Planning and Policy), Ken Lewis (Manager Communications and Engagement), Myjanne Jensen (Communications Advisor), Rachel Smith (Executive Officer), Jessie Gubb (Northland Head Start Communications and Engagement Coordinator), Charlie Billington (Group Manager - Corporate Services), Ruben Garcia (Group Manager - Community and Engagement), Tanya Proctor (Head of Infrastructure), Harley Alexander (Multimedia Strategy & Communications Advisor), Marlema Baker (Te Kuaka Committee Coordinator), Aisha Huriwai (Manager-Democracy Services), Imrie Dunn (Democracy Advisor)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

At 1:02 pm, Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania commenced the meeting with a karakia.

2 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE KAHIKA / MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maramataka today is Korekore Te Whiwhia which is a low energy day.
- Acknowledged the passing of Blue Newport, a long-time Ōkaihau resident and former teacher at Ōkaihau College, a Far North Lifetime Achievement Award recipient in 2025, and the Chair of our Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Trust.

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

There were no deputations.

4 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA ME NGĀ PĀNGA MEMA / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2026/46

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That the apology received from Cr Ann Court be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

Note the apology received from Te Hiku Community Board Chairperson Bill Subritzky.

5 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

5.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - HEAD START OUTLINE PROPOSAL

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5892045, pages 7 - 113 refers.

RESOLUTION 2026/47

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr Felicity Foy

That Council:

- a) **Notes the previous decisions of the Northland councils in relation to the Head Start Outline Proposal, as outlined in Attachment 1.**
- b) **Notes Kaipara District Council's decision not to support the Head Start Outline Proposal based on the staged transition model and its request to be excluded from any Head Start proposal submitted for Northland.**
- c) **Notes the recommendation of the Local Government Reform Elected Member Steering Group to approve the Head Start Outline Proposal as provided in Attachment 3 and recommend it to participating councils for approval and submission through the Government's Head Start process.**
- d) **Notes that Whangarei District Council will consider approval of the Head Start Outline Proposal and participation in its submission through the Government's Head Start process, at its 3 August 2026 Council meeting.**
- e) **Notes that Northland Regional Council will consider endorsement of the Head Start Outline Proposal at its 5 August 2026 Council meeting and that, while endorsement is not required for submission, it demonstrates continued regional support for progressing local government reform discussions.**
- f) **Approves the Head Start Outline Proposal, as provided in Attachment 4.**
- g) **Agrees that the Head Start Outline Proposal approved in recommendation f (above) be submitted to Government by the local government reform secretariat, through the Head Start process, due by 9 August.**
- h) **Note that, subject to the decisions of the participating councils, it is intended that the Head Start Outline Proposal be submitted jointly by Whangārei District Council and Far North District Council, with endorsement from Northland Regional Council, and that Kaipara District Council may also participate should it subsequently resolve to support the proposal and seek inclusion prior to submission.**

- i) Delegates authority to the Whangarei District Council Chief Executive (as Secretariat), to approve any minor editorial amendments required prior to submission, including corrections to grammar, spelling, formatting, layout and presentation, provided such amendments do not materially alter the intent or substance of the proposal approved by Council.
- j) Notes that any substantive amendments to the Head Start Outline Proposal following Council approval would require reconsideration by participating councils, meaning submission would not be achievable within the timeframe for the Government's Head Start process.

Against: Crs Rachel Baucke and Davina Smolders

CARRIED

6 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1:55 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 August 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON