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# Horowhenua Lake Domain Board

## OPEN MINUTES UNCONFIRMED

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Minutes of a meeting of the Lake Domain Board held in the Horowhenua Room, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 3:30 pm.

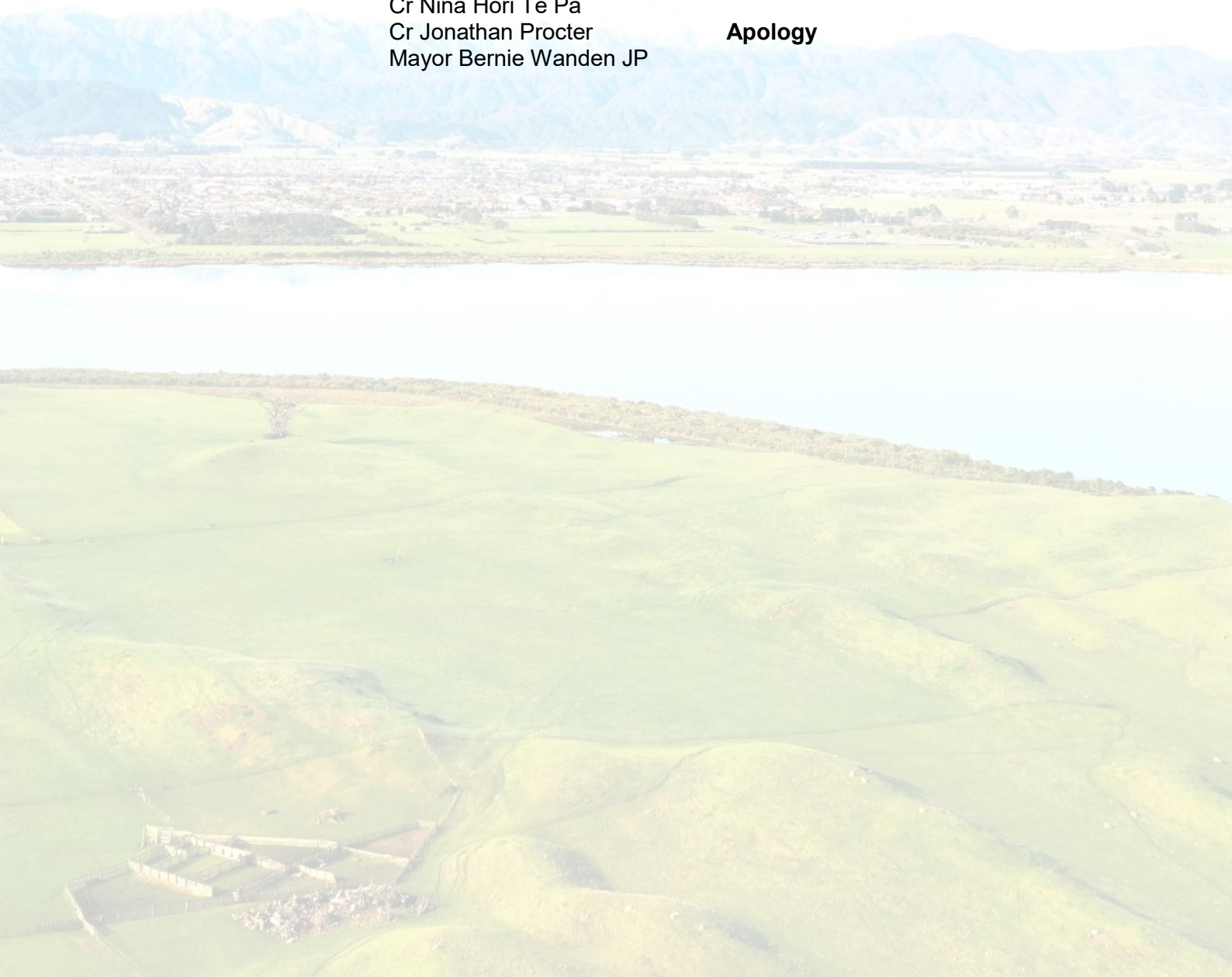
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### PRESENT

**Chairperson**  
**Members**

Mr Kevin O'Connor  
Mr Charles Rudd  
Mr Adrian Henare  
Ms Deanna Rudd  
Mr Tama-i-uia Ruru  
Cr Nina Hori Te Pa  
Cr Jonathan Procter  
Mayor Bernie Wanden JP

**Apology**



The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Deanna Rudd offered a mihi and karakia to open the meeting.

**1 Apologies**

**Resolution Number HLDB/2024/1**

MOVED by Cr Hori Te Pa, seconded Mayor Wanden:

That an apology from Councillor Jonathan Procter be received and accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 Public Participation**

A number of members of the public attended the meeting.

**3 Late Items**

There were no late items

**4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5 Confirmation of Minutes**

There were no minutes for confirmation

**6 Reports**

## **6.1 Welcome and Introductions**

Members of the Board introduced themselves.

All members expressed the significance of the domain board being re-established after a long period of inactivity, and the importance of the lake to the community.

The board members come from a range of backgrounds, including Māori and Pakeha heritage, conservation, business, and local government experience.

This diversity of expertise and perspectives was seen as valuable for the board.

Several members raised significant concerns about the environmental degradation and pollution of the lake and surrounding waterways.

There were also concerns expressed about ensuring cultural protocols and tikanga Maori are appropriately respected.

Members emphasised the importance of working collaboratively with the Lake Trustees, iwi, and other stakeholders.

There were calls for a more inclusive and consultative approach, rather than unilateral decision-making.

Some members highlighted the need to restore recreational opportunities and ensure safety for the community using the domain and lake.

A number of members provided historical context around past issues and controversies with the domain board and lake management.

#### **6.4 Appointment of Honorary Ranger**

The Chairperson proposed appointing an honorary ranger, which would provide the Horowhenua District Council with more authority to manage day-to-day issues and concerns at the domain.

However, several board members expressed concerns about this proposal. They felt it was premature to make such a decision without proper consultation and collaboration with the lake trustees and other stakeholders.

The board members emphasised the need to take a more inclusive and consultative approach, rather than making unilateral decisions. They wanted to ensure any proposals around a ranger or management of the domain had buy-in from the various interested parties.

Ultimately, the board agreed to decline the recommendations around appointing an honorary ranger at this initial meeting.

Instead, the board decided to:

- Allow time for the board members to go back and consult with their respective groups and interests on this and other proposals.
- Discuss the concept of a ranger role, its jurisdiction and responsibilities, at a future meeting after more input has been gathered.
- Focus on building a collaborative approach with the lake trustees and other stakeholders before making any decisions on management arrangements.

#### **6.2 Lake Horowhenua Walkway**

Brendan Duffy presented the proposal for a 13km recreational pathway around the lake, utilising existing farm tracks and road reserves. It would not be encroaching on Domain Board land.

The board members expressed a range of concerns and considerations, particularly around the need for meaningful engagement and collaboration with iwi, the lake trustees, and other key stakeholders.

Several board members emphasised the importance of taking a careful, consultative approach before making any decisions on proposals that could impact the cultural and environmental aspects of the lake.

The board did not vote to approve or reject the proposal during this meeting. Instead, they agreed to allow time for the board members to go back and consult with their respective groups and interests before further discussing the proposal at a future meeting.

**6.3 Meeting Calendar**

The board agreed to schedule a field visit to the domain in mid-November, likely around 10am to lunchtime.

The purpose is for the board members to physically visit and inspect the domain area under their responsibility.

The field visit is intended to be more of an informal workshop, rather than a formal board meeting.

The board discussed inviting other stakeholders, such as the lake trustees and council representatives, to join the field visit.

After the field visit, the board agreed to schedule a formal board meeting in mid-late November.

This formal meeting would be an opportunity to discuss the findings and insights from the field visit, as well as other agenda items.

The board emphasised the need to have sufficient time between the field visit and formal meeting to allow members to consult with their respective groups and interests.

4.50pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD  
AT A MEETING OF HOROWHENUA LAKE DOMAIN  
BOARD HELD ON

**DATE:** .....

**CHAIRPERSON:**