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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 Ante Room, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on Thursday 30 October 2025 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  
Professor Jonathan Procter  
Mayor Bernie Wanden JP

## Public Participation

Mrs Viv Bold was granted public participation regarding the Stormwater Defender and Environmental Concerns.

### 1 Apologies

An apology was received for Tama-i-uia Ruru.

Adrian Henare and Nina Hori Te Pa were not present.

### 2 Late Items

Mr O'Connor raised an issue which was brought to his attention by Monique Davidson, Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive, regarding board member behaviour towards Council staff.

The board discussed the importance of respectful interactions between members and staff, agreeing unanimously to address staff-related concerns directly with the board chair rather than with staff or in public.

Mrs Deanna Rudd and Mr Procter reinforced the vital and crucial role of staff in supporting board operations, while Mayor Bernie reminded members to follow governance protocols.

The Board agreed that should there be any issues with Council staff, that these are to be raised with the chair.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### 4 Confirmation of Minutes

#### Resolution Number HLDB/2025/13

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Mrs Rudd:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lake Domain Board held on Thursday, 18 September 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

### 5 Reports

#### 6.1 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Mr Rudd raised concerns about the reflection of prior financials and historical matters in both previous and current minutes. It was agreed that any unresolved issues would be added as a late agenda item, and Charles will submit a statement for clarification at the next meeting.

## 6.2 Domain Re-opening

An update was provided indicating that the rāhui had been lifted, although it was acknowledged that there had been miscommunication about the need for a whakawātea ceremony before opening the Lake Domain for public access.

The Horowhenua Lake Trustees plan to meet and report back on access, and it is expected that the whakawātea will proceed quickly if no objections are raised.

The board affirmed that its jurisdiction is limited to the surface of the lake according to current legislation. Mrs Winiata will finalise communications with Trustees following the whakawātea. Ideally, communication to the community and stakeholders will come from a joint release from the Horowhenua Lake Trust and Lake Domain Board.

## 6.3 Safety and Wellbeing Assessment

This item was discussed as part of the above item (6.2).

## 6.4 Domain Development Plan

Mr O'Connor thanked Mrs Winiata for her work on the draft Lake Domain Development Plan 2024-2034.

A revised draft of the Park Development Plan was presented by Ms Deanna Rudd, which places greater emphasis on Muaūpoko identity, tikanga Māori, bilingual signage, community gardens and cultural relevance in park design.

The board agreed to use more general language about design partnerships, referring to "design institutions" instead of specifying a particular university. The plan also sets a goal for the creation of a full-time kaitiaki (ranger) role. After minor wording amendments, the enhanced plan was adopted unanimously.

Mrs Winiata will explore the best mechanism to include this in Council's Long Term Plan.

### Resolution Number HLDB/2025/14

MOVED by Mrs Rudd, seconded Mr O'Connor:

That the revised Domain Development Plan be adopted

**CARRIED**

### Attachments

- 1 Muaūpoko Park Development Plan - as adopted 30 October 2025

## 6.5 Approval for Domain Use for Waitangi Day 2026

The board formally approved Muaūpoko Tribal Authority's request to use the domain for Waitangi Day Celebrations 2026 and asked Mrs Winiata to proceed with logistical arrangements for the event.

## 6.6 Lake Horowhenua Accord

The board considered Mr Brendan Duffy's suggestion regarding the Lake Accord and agreed to participate in revitalisation discussions, while noting that some of the requests in Mr Duffy's email, such as signage outside of the domain, fall beyond the board's scope.

It was noted that at the last Lake Domain Board meeting it was agreed that a workshop would be scheduled following local body elections with DoC, HDC and Horizons. It was agreed that this would take place in the new year.

Mr Rudd expressed his opposition to certain aspects of the Accord's past implementation, citing previous failures and issues with consultation.

## 6.7 Board Membership - Following Local Body Elections

The Board will continue to monitor the process for appointing Mr Procter's replacement as one of three council-appointed members.

## 6.8 Actions Monitoring Report - Horowhenua Lake Domain Board

The board reviewed all outstanding actions, ensuring updates and deferments were noted, particularly regarding stormwater management, bylaw review, funding opportunities, and pest control.

Geese control is to be prioritised on the agenda for the next meeting in light of potential seasonal issues. Relevant HDC staff will be invited for an in-depth discussion. The board also plans to engage with Horizons on broader pest and operational issues, with specific discussion topics to be clarified beforehand.

### Resolution Number HLDB/2025/15

MOVED by Mr O'Connor, seconded Prof. Procter:

- A. That Report 25/632 Actions Monitoring Report - Horowhenua Lake Domain Board be received and noted.

**CARRIED**

## 6.9 Communication with Lake Trustees

To enhance transparency and engagement, the board has agreed to regularly share its minutes and agendas with the Horowhenua Lake Trustees' secretariat and will continue to support open communication.

## 6.10 Future Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled for mid-February, and the Meeting Secretary will confirm and propose a series of dates for meetings in 2026. The board determined that there are no urgent matters requiring a meeting before Christmas.

**6.11 Follow-up actions**

Key questions remain regarding the timeline and logistics for the whakawātea to allow Sea Scouts' lake access, pending the outcome of the Lake Trustees' Meeting.

Mr Rudd is expected to provide written clarification for his historical concerns in advance of the next meeting, should he still wish to bring this to the table.

5.00pm

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:**