

AGENDA

2025 Navigation Safety Bylaw Hearing

Meeting to be held online and in the Council Chambers
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Thursday 7 August 2025, commencing at 9.30am

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HEARING PANEL

Cr Rick Stolwerk

Cr Jack Craw

Cr John Blackwell

KARAKIA TIMATANGA

1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI | HOUSEKEEPING

2.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES

3.0 NGA WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4.0 NGĀ RĪMITI | ITEMS

4.1 2025 Navigation Safety Bylaw Hearing

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KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

TITLE: 2025 Navigation Safety Bylaw Hearing

From: Michael Payne, Policy Specialist
Jim Lyle, Harbour Master and Maritime Manager

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair to the Hearing Panel and, to receive and where appropriate hear feedback relating to the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025.

This Hearing is an opportunity for submitters to present their views on the proposed Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 and for Council to consider this feedback in detail as part of its decision-making process.

Council received 122 submissions addressing a wide array of topics, with seven submitters requesting to be heard either in person or online.

Ngā mahi tutohutia | Recommendations

1. THAT the report '2025 Navigation Safety Bylaw Hearing' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Jim Lyle, Harbour Master and Maritime Manager and dated 4 August 2025, be received.
2. THAT the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 Hearing Panel appoints:
 - a. Cr Rick Stolwerk as the Chair
 - b. Cr Jack Craw as the Deputy Chair
3. THAT the Hearing Panel receive:
 - a. the submissions document;
 - b. the summary of submissions document; and
 - c. the Hearing Schedule.
4. THAT the Hearing Panel receive, and where appropriate, hear feedback relating to the 2025 Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw
5. THAT council does not receive late feedback received after 12.00pm on 30 July 2025 as per council's Submissions Policy.

Tuhinga | Background

The Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 sets out rules to ensure the safe use of Northland's waterways. It is part of the Northland Regional Council's statutory responsibilities under the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

Council undertook two rounds of public consultation on the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025. The initial feedback period ran from 5 May to 30 May 2025, followed by a second round from 27 June to 28 July 2025, which included an updated Statement of Proposal to provide greater clarity on key changes. Submissions received during both consultation windows have been collated and attached to this agenda for the Hearing Panel's consideration.

Council received a total of 122 submissions on the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025, covering a wide range of topics. Seven of the 122 submitters will speak to their submissions on 7 August.

Among the most frequently raised issues was the proposed removal of the exemption for wearing lifejackets when tendering within 200 metres offshore. While some submitters supported the change, many expressed their opposition, citing concerns around practicality and personal choice.

Other commonly addressed topics included the requirement to carry two forms of communication on vessels and the proposed changes to rules around diving near wharves.

At the 22 April 2025 Council meeting Council resolved that Crs Rick Stolwerk, Jack Crow and John Blackwell be the Hearing Panel. This report seeks the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

The Hearing Panel is tasked with hearing submissions on 7 August and making recommendations to Northland Regional Council on the final form of the Bylaw. It is anticipated that the Hearing Panel's recommendations will be considered by Council at their meeting on 26 August 2025.

Late feedback

Council maintains a policy of accepting feedback after the official closing date where it does not impact on decision-making timeframes, unfairly disrupt the process for other submitters or decision makers, or until it is no longer administratively practical to do so.

There were two submissions received and registered after the consultation deadline of 11.00pm on 28 July, and staff have incorporated these into the process as they arrived. However, from 12.00pm on 30 July it was considered no longer administratively practical to receive feedback, as it would likely impact on timeframes and unfairly disrupt the process for other submitters.

At the time of writing this report, no submissions had been received after 12.00pm on 30 July and it is recommended that any submissions after this date not be incorporated into the process.

Ngā tapirihanga | Attachments

Nil