

Terms of Reference

Natural Resources Working Party

Membership

The Natural Resource Working Party shall be comprised of four (4) councillors and four (4) Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) members as follows:

Chair:	Cr A Macdonald
Members:	Cr. J. Carr Cr. G. Crawford Cr. M. Robinson
Māori representation:	Four (4) members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC), TBA
Ex officio:	Chair T Shortland

Standing orders do not apply.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the working party shall be four (4). Ex-officio and TTMAC members count towards a quorum.

Vision, mission and areas of focus (Long Term Plan 2021-2031)

Our Northland – together we thrive. Working together to create a healthy environment, strong economy and resilient communities.

This working party will contribute directly to the following areas of focus:

- Healthy waters for the environment and our people
- Resilient, adaptable communities in a changing climate
- Protected and flourishing native life
- Meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua

Objectives

The objectives of the working party are to:

1. Provide oversight and assistance to the Chief Executive on council's natural resources' strategic activities ensuring accountabilities and responsibilities are fulfilled; and
2. Make recommendations to council on natural resources matters.

Responsibilities

The working party is directly responsible and accountable to the council for the exercise of its responsibilities.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the working party must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the council rests with the CEO.

For reasons of efficiency and/or expediency, should the working party not be able to perform its functions, the council will assume its role and responsibilities.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The council authorises the working party, within the scope of its Terms of Reference, role and responsibilities, to:

1. General

- a) Subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain information it needs from the CEO and/or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information);
- b) Discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations);
- c) Request the attendance of any employee, subject to the CEO's approval, at meetings of the working party or its working groups;
- d) In discussion with the CEO and subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities, at the council's expense;
- e) Co-opt a person as a (non-voting) member of the working party to assist with special projects;
- f) Recommend to council that additional members be appointed to the working party should it consider wider representation would be of assistance in performing its functions;
- g) Undertake such other functions as may be delegated by council from time to time.

2. Planning & Regulatory

For council's planning and regulatory activities:

- a) To monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement, the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland and Resource Management Act regulations.
- b) To oversee the development and implementation of regulatory strategies.
- c) To make recommendations to council on any appeals in accordance with council decisions on the proposed plan, plan change or variation.
- d) To recommend to council positions and perspectives on proposed legislation (including amendments) and national policy initiatives for incorporation into council submissions as appropriate.
- e) To oversee and monitor the delivery of council's consent and compliance functions.

3. Water and land Management

For council's water and land management activities:

- a) Monitor and review council's implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.
- b) Advise and make recommendations to council (and relevant working parties or working groups) on operational strategies related to freshwater or land management.
- c) Monitor and review progress towards council's objectives, the achievement of the performance targets and the delivery of work programmes in the relevant Long-

Term Plan, Annual Plan and operational strategies associated with council's natural resource management activities

- d) To monitor and review implementation of Nga Taumata o te Moana – our climate change strategy, as the actions relate to council's national resource functions.

4. Reporting

The Chairperson, supported by staff, will report on working party activities and associated recommendations to Council on a quarterly basis.

5. Meeting Frequency

The Natural Resources Working Party is to meet quarterly.

6. No Delegated Authority – Power to Act

The working party has no delegated authority or power to act.

