Trust Tairāwhiti
Regional Wellbeing
He Tohu Ora

(DRAFT) MINUTES FROM A MEETING (Public Included) OF TRUST TAIRĀWHITI
On Thursday 13 August 2026 from 9:06am
The meeting was held in person and online via Zoom at Trust Tairāwhiti offices,
Shed 3, 50 Esplanade, Gisborne 4010

In attendance:
In person:
Trustees: John Rae (Chair), Te Pūoho Katene (Deputy Chair), Nicki Sutherland, Rehette Stoltz, Ron Aitken and Warren Williams.
Trustee Dan Jex-Blake was present intermittently online.

Trust Tairāwhiti executive team members: Doug Jones – Chief Executive Officer, Alex Hawea – General Manager Māori Economy, Audine Grace-Kutia – General Manager Hapori, Hayden Green – General Manager Economic Development, Laura Stonehouse – Chief Financial Officer and Melonie Brouwer – Board Secretary were present in person.

Artistic and Cultural Advisors Tā Derek Lardelli and Lady Rose Gould-Lardelli were present in person.

Member of the Public in attendance: Aria Ratapu was present in person.

Item 2.6a Tairāwhiti International Surf Festival. Trust Tairāwhiti Joe Williams – Regional Destination Manager. East Coast Surfriders representatives: Phil Matthews, Amber Dunn and Ngahuia Leighton. Amy Spence sent her apologies for the presentation.

Tā Derek Lardelli opened with a karakia.

2.0 Open meeting – Public included
2.1 Apologies:
2.2 Declaration of trustee and CEO interests taken as read and noted. No changes were declared.
2.3 Confirmation of Agenda and Late items. Nil.
2.4 Approval of Open Minutes and Matters Arising
2.4a Approval of the open minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2026.
The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 were taken as read and approved.

Moved by Trustee Katene **Seconded by Trustee Stoltz** **Unanimous Approval**

Matters arising: Nil

2.5 Strategy and decision making – Nil
2.6 Beneficiary Presentations and Public Forum

2.6a Tairāwhiti International Surf Festival

Joe Williams introduced Phil Matthews, Amber Dunn and Ngahuia Leighton from East Coast Surfriders. The group outlined its proposal to host a World Surf League QS 4000 and Pro Junior event in Tairāwhiti. They highlighted the region's concentration of high quality surf breaks, its strong record of producing elite surfers, and the opportunity to give local athletes access to professional pathways that are difficult to enter through overseas events.

The organisers said World Surf League events are livestreamed globally and the festival would promote Tairāwhiti as a surfing destination, showcase the region's culture and stories, generate visitor spend across accommodation, hospitality, transport and retail and use local suppliers. Delivery would be led by an approximately 25 person WSL team, supported by Surfing New Zealand, local event staff, expert advisers and East Coast Surfriders volunteers.

The first-year budget was approximately $370,000. The organisers sought a $350,000 underwrite to allow them to sign the WSL hosting agreement by the non-negotiable 1 September deadline. The support was requested for the inaugural year only. A successful first event was expected to provide an inside track to a three year programme. Corporate, government, mid-tier and local sponsorship would be pursued to reduce the Trust's exposure and the organisers advised that an underwrite would materially strengthen those funding conversations.

Trustees discussed the possibility that the Trust could be called on for the full underwrite, the staging of expenditure, sponsor decision points and the risk of cost overruns. The organisers said the budget was based on WSL's established event template and had been tested by Ngahuia Leighton. Contingency and optional scope items provided flexibility if sponsorship or costs did not track as planned.

East Coast Surfriders would have 15 wildcards available: five for Surfing New Zealand to distribute and 10 for local athletes. The organisers said this pathway was a key reason for pursuing the event, as Tairāwhiti surfers have limited access to Australian qualifying events.

Weather, swell, slash, beach conditions, access, connectivity, water safety and traffic management were identified as operational risks. The event would be mobile across the region, potentially as far as Mahia, and organisers were working with local beach clean up services. They were also discussing Air New Zealand's surfboard policy and possible in-kind support. Trustees and cultural advisors emphasised that the event name, visual identity and visitor experience should clearly reflect Tairāwhiti and these elements would be negotiated with WSL and any principal sponsor.

2.7 Board Updates

2.7a CEO quarterly report 1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026 taken as read.

Moved by Trustee Williams Seconded by Trustee Aitken Unanimous Approval

The report was taken as read. Management advised that 30% of the enabling communities funding allocation had already been committed and highlighted the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning work as a key update.

Management confirmed that Tairāwhiti's Community Commissioning bid had been unsuccessful. The Social Investment Agency had since visited the region to consider what an alternative approach could look like. Management said the proposal had presented strongly and the region was ready for this type of initiative, although a more unified regional position was required. The Trust would remain involved through the reset and review, reassess the fit and its role and defer a formal shareholding decision in the meantime. No funds had been invested and there was no formal legal commitment, although a 5% interest had been identified in the proposed structure. The Trust's regional wellbeing survey had also been adopted as a measure by the commissioning unit.

Trustees requested a one page summary of the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning proposal including rationale, other shareholders, intended outcomes and the Trusts proposed role.

Trustees queried the predominantly green status ratings in the dashboard. For TIL, the report showed 3% actual return against a 9.5% full year target. Management said the 3% reflected first quarter tracking and expected later dividends but agreed that an amber rating would be more appropriate at this stage. Discussion identified a need to distinguish total investment return, including equity growth, from the cash or dividend available to the Trust. Trustees asked for a single, clear definition of the measure and associated cash expectations. The targets are reviewed annually through the Statement of Intent process.

Visitor expenditure and supporting business targets were confirmed as full year measures. Supporting 43 businesses in the first quarter was considered on track with management expecting approximately 90 by the end of the calendar year. The target had been reduced from 200 to prioritise deeper, higher quality engagement rather than one-off contact.

The Feasibility Fund dashboard showed no recorded actual against a $350,000 target because of reporting lag, although several studies were in the pipeline or had recently been approved. Trustees asked that future commentary explain why the pipeline was expected to convert and provide a clearer basis for status ratings.

2.8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC FROM PROCEEDINGS

Moved by Trustee Stoltz and seconded by Trustee Williams

THAT: The public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely for discussion or decision on agenda items:

- 3.0 Strategy and Decision Making
- 4.0 Operational Updates
- 4.2-4.3 Approval of closed minutes and matters arising
- 5.0 Risk Management

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter check	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item 3.0	Strategy and decision making	Sections 7(2)(b(ii))(c)(f)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 4.0	Operational updates	Sections 7(2)b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 4.2-4.3	Approval of closed minutes and matters arising	Sections 7(2)(a)(b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 5.0	Risk management	Sections 7(2)(a)(f)	48(1)(a)
	Appendices	Sections 7(2)(b(ii))(f)	48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Content
Section 7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
Section 7(2)(b)(ii) To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
Section 7(2)(c) Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information: i. Would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.
Section 7(2)(f) Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through: iii. The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members of officers or employees of any local authority, or any persons to whom Section 2(5) applies, in the course of their duty; or iv. The protection of such members, officers, employees and persons from improper pressure or harassment.
Section 7(2)(g) Maintain legal professional privilege.
Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
Section 7(2)(j) Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

That the following people be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded:

i. Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Manager Economic Development, General Manager Hāpori, General Manager Māori Economy, Board Secretary and Artistic and Cultural Advisors for items 3.0 – 5.0.

because of their knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation the matters being discussed because of their role and work performed.

The public excluded minutes follow and are not publicly available. There being no further business the public meeting closed at 9:52am.

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CHAIR
JOHN RAE