(DRAFT) MINUTES FROM A MEETING (Public Included) OF TRUST TAIRĀWHITI
On Tuesday 10 November 2026 from 9:05am
The meeting was held online and in person at Trust Tairāwhiti offices, Shed 3, 50 Esplanade, Gisborne 4010

Attendance:
In person: Trustees: John Rae (Chairperson), Te Pūoho Katene (Deputy Chairperson), Dan Jex-Blake, Rehette Stoltz, Ron Aitken and Warren Williams.
Trustee online at 9:15am: Nicki Sutherland.

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.

Te Pūoho opened with a karakia.

2.0 Open meeting – Public included
2.1 Apologies: Secretariate noted Artist and Cultural Advisors Tā Derek Lardelli and Lady Rose Gould-Lardelli.
2.2 Declaration of trustee and CEO interests taken as read and noted.
Trustee Katene noted the removal of his interests for the Labour Party and Te Pae ki te Rangi impact fund.
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 15 September 2026.
The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2026 were taken as read and approved.
Moved by consensus **Unanimous Approval**

Matters arising: Nil
2.4b Action Register noted.
2.5 Strategy and decision making – Nil
2.6 Beneficiary Presentations and Public Forum. Management advised that the scheduled presentation on the Te Aitanga a Māhaki Rangatahi kaupapa had been deferred due to the full agenda.
2.7 Board Updates
2.7a: CEO quarterly report 1 July – 30 September 26 taken as read and noted.

ENABLING COMMUNITIES: Funding and Wellbeing

Management reported that 78% of the community funding allocation had been committed. Commitments for community facilities stood at 4%, with further funding proposals awaiting decisions.

The wellbeing survey had received 977 responses. Engagement with schools had generated strong participation by young people. Management acknowledged the team's work and noted that further responses were needed to complete the survey.

MAHI KAITIAKI: Marae Solar and Environmental priorities

Marae solar installations remained on track. Management outlined a wider programme, supported by a Trust contribution, that was expected to deliver solar installations to around 32 marae. Other marae had received support through separate funding programmes, while relocation projects were also exploring renewable energy options.

Trustees requested clearer reporting on activity across the environmental and economic priorities, including mixed-use whenua, viticulture and renewable energy. Management acknowledged that resources were

spread thinly and that some areas, including the blue-water economy, were awaiting reprioritisation through the strategy refresh.

Wine Industry and Workforce Transition

Management outlined the pressure on the wine sector from oversupply, industry restructuring and changing demand. Work was under way with the sector to identify Tairāwhiti's strengths, explore markets and retain enough local activity to benefit from a future recovery. Trustees recognised the value of local processing, skilled winery jobs and the associated economic benefits.

The Chair encouraged a stronger collective approach around the region's established strengths. Trustees acknowledged that land values and market conditions would also influence future land use.

Trustees suggested exploring support to help affected workers identify transferable skills and move into other roles. Management agreed this was a useful lead for workforce development work.

Water Initiatives

Trustees asked about the likely scale, funding requirements and ultimate purpose of the water projects. Management advised that the end position remained uncertain.

The Chair cautioned that water infrastructure can take many years to attract users or generate returns. Trustees discussed the Trust's potential catalytic role, the availability of government funding and the importance of avoiding duplication. Management confirmed that existing Trust feasibility support sat alongside funding from Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Te Puni Kōkiri.

The Board also discussed equitable access to water and the risk that investment could enable control of a water source in ways that increased costs for other users. No further water investment was approved.

FOSTERING INNOVATION: Business Support and Economic Development Measures

The Regional Business Partner Network had supported 97 businesses against a target of 120. Management explained that the Trust assesses business needs and connects businesses with external advice and funding, rather than providing all advice itself. The programme included approximately $120,000 in business support funding, alongside staffing support, with eligible advice funded on a 50:50 basis.

Trustees asked for evidence of what changed following the Trust's involvement, including lessons from unsuccessful initiatives as well as success stories. The Board discussed whether the Chamber of Commerce could deliver this service as part of a more focused allocation of the Trust's resources. No transfer of the service was agreed.

The Board welcomed the strong response to the Tairāwhiti Business Awards.

Trustees emphasised that economic development reporting should demonstrate how the Trust contributes to sustainable, meaningful employment and opportunities for rangatahi. They noted that job numbers and GDP alone do not provide a complete picture, and that measures should also reflect job quality, resilience, local spending and value retained in the region.

Trustees called for consistent definitions of outputs and outcomes, accurate attribution of the Trust's contribution, and a focus on interventions that would not otherwise occur, rather than easily achieved targets. They acknowledged that addressing market failure involves risk and that learning from unsuccessful interventions is part of the Trust's role.

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ENHANCING OUR PLACE: Tourism and Direct Investment

Visitor spending had grown by approximately 9%, putting performance on track against the 8% annual growth target. Management noted a strong January 2027 events calendar and opportunities to deliver smaller events well.

Management reported progress towards the direct investment target, with Project Gateway approaching settlement and Mātai and water initiatives in the pipeline. The measure records cash invested, rather than commitments, which explained the nil result at the reporting date. Future projects remained subject to their respective decisions and due diligence.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES - INVESTING

Trustees questioned the green status of the TIL investment measure. The CFO explained that the reported dividend was on track for the current financial year, while trustees highlighted risks to future earnings. The Board sought reporting that distinguished performance against the current year target from forward looking risk, supported by appropriate commentary.

2.8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC FROM PROCEEDINGS

Moved by Trustee Stoltz and seconded by Trustee Aitken

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 Risk Management

5.0 Operational Updates

5.2-5.3 Approval of closed minutes and matters arising

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	Risk management	Sections 7(2)(a)(f)	48(1)(a)
Item 5.0	Operational updates	Sections 7(2)b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
Item 5.2-5.3	Approval of closed minutes and matters arising	Sections 7(2)(a)(b(ii))(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)	48(1)(a)
	Appendices	Sections 7(2)(b(ii))(f)	48(1)(a)

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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 and Board Secretary 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 10:05am.

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CHAIR
JOHN RAE

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