

Minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting of the thirteenth triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 9.30am on Wednesday 29 October 2025, at the Convention Centre, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs NM Riley (Chair from 11.41am), SL Dryland, HC Easton, BG Fraser, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon, LL Jansen, GM McKellar, JM Naylor, ETJ Pue, AR Taylor, WK Te Awe Awe, T Teira, and PF Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager	
Corporate and Governance	Mrs C Hesselin
Committee Secretary	Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:

Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations), Dr E Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science), Mr C Grant (Programme Director – Regional House Project), Mr M Read (Acting Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr A Smith (Chief Financial Officer), Mr J Galuszka (Manager Media & Communications), Mrs T Bishop (Team Leader Governance), Mrs R de Souza (Group Administrator), Mr A Demianovich (Digital Support Engineer), Mr C Murray (Outpost Digital Media), Mr T Aspden (Technical Officer, Palmy Conference and Function Centre), whānau, friends and supporters, members of the public, and a member of the press.

Via Zoom: Ms D Perera (Audit Director, Audit New Zealand)

WELCOME

The meeting was opened with a Pōwhiri at 9.30am.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15am.

The meeting reconvened at 10.45am.

The meeting was reconvened with a karakia from Cr Te Awe Awe.

The Chief Executive welcomed everyone, including whānau, friends and supporters, to the Inaugural Council meeting.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Mrs Hesselin (Group Manager Corporate & Governance) explained that an additional recommendation to Report No. 25-146 Election of Chair – Procedures and Election, had been tabled for Members. This would become recommendation (c).

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

ELECTORAL OFFICER'S DECLARATION

Report No 25-144

The purpose of this report was to inform elected members of the results of the local government elections of 11 October 2025.

25-1 **Moved** **Teira/Riley**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-144 and Annex.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*

CARRIED

DECLARATION BY A MEMBER

Report No 25-145

This report provided information to elected members in regard to their declarations as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 14 (1), (2), (3). The Chief Executive invited each elected Member to come forward to read and sign their declarations.

25-2 **Moved** **Pue/Taylor**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-145 and Annexes.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*

CARRIED

ELECTION OF CHAIR - PROCEDURES AND ELECTION

Report No 25-146

This report recommended the procedures as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) to be adopted for the election of the Chair, Manawatū Whanganui Regional Council (trading as Horizons Regional Council) at the first meeting of the thirteenth triennium of the Council held on Wednesday, 29 October 2025. Mrs C Hesselin (Group Manager Corporate & Governance) explained the two voting systems detailed in the report. It was suggested that the same procedure be used for the election of the Deputy Chair of Council.

The recommendation to adopt System A for the election of the Chair and for the Deputy Chair was put forward.

25-3 Moved Naylor/McKellar

It is recommended that the Council:

- c. resolves that System A of the procedures as set out in Schedule 7, clauses 25(3) and 25(4), of the Local Government Act 2002 (at Annex A), be adopted for the election of the Chair and for the Deputy Chair.*

CARRIED

The Chief Executive called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Cr Riley was nominated by Cr Easton, seconded by Cr Fraser.

Cr B Gordon was nominated by Cr Wells, seconded by Cr Naylor.

As a result of a draw undertaken to determine the speaking order of the two nominations for the position of Chair, Cr Riley addressed the meeting first, followed by Cr B Gordon.

Both nominees then responded to Councillor questions.

The Chief Executive called for a show of hands to determine the election for the position of Chair of Council.

For Cr Riley: Crs Fraser, Pue, F Gordon, Easton, Jansen, Riley, Dryland, Teira.

For Cr B Gordon: Crs Taylor, B Gordon, McKellar, Naylor, Wells, Te Awe Awe

The Chief Executive declared Cr Riley to be elected to the position of Chair of Council.

Cr Riley then made her declaration and assumed the Chair.

The Chair put recommendations a. b. d. and e.

ELECTION OF CHAIR - PROCEDURES AND ELECTION

Report No 25-146

25-4 Moved Pue/F Gordon

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 25-146 and Annexes.*
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform;*
- d. resolves that Councillors Riley and B Gordon be nominated for the position of Chair of Council;*
- e. declares that Councillor Riley be elected as Chair of Council.*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.42am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.50am.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Report No 25-147

This item elected a Deputy Chair of Council. It was noted that System A had earlier been adopted by Council to determine the position.

Recommendations a. and b. were put by the Chair

25-5 **Moved** **F Gordon/Teira**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-147.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform;*

CARRIED

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.

Cr F Gordon was nominated by Cr Teira, seconded by Cr Te Awe Awe.

Cr B Gordon was nominated by Cr McKellar, seconded by Cr Dryland.

As a result of a draw undertaken to determine the speaking order of the two nominations for the position of Deputy Chair, Cr F Gordon addressed the meeting first. Cr B Gordon chose not address the meeting.

Both nominees then responded to Councillor questions.

The Chair called for a show of hands to determine the election for the position of Deputy Chair of Council.

For Cr B Gordon: Crs Dryland, B Gordon, McKellar.

For Cr F Gordon: Crs Fraser, Pue, F Gordon, Easton, Jansen, Naylor, Riley, Taylor, Teira, Te Awe Awe, Wells.

The Chair declared Cr F Gordon to be elected to the position of Deputy Chair of Council.

The Chair put recommendations c. and d.

25-6 **Moved** **B Gordon/Fraser**

It is recommended that Council:

- c. *that Councillors F Gordon and B Gordon be nominated for the position of Deputy Chair of Council;*
- d. *declares Councillor F Gordon to be elected as Deputy Chair of Council.*

CARRIED

EXPLANATION OF ACTS

Report No 25-148

Mrs Hesselin (Group Manager Corporate & Governance) spoke to the item which provided the Council with an overview of key legislation that Members needed to be aware of and have an understanding of in their role as a regional councillor. This report highlighted some of the key aspects of the following legislation:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968
- Crimes Act 1961 – Sections 99, 105 and 105A
- Secret Commissions Act 1910
- Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013
- Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

As a result of a Point of Order raised to highlight that legislation should also include Treaty settlements, a new recommendation c. was included.

The Chair put recommendations a. and b. followed by the additional recommendation c.

25-7 Moved Pue/F Gordon

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-148 and Annexes.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*

CARRIED

Moved Pue/Teira

- c. *acknowledges its responsibility to also honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlements in place within the region and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.*

Abstain: Cr Dryland

CARRIED

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (TO END JANUARY 2026)

Report No 25-149

This report informed Council of the proposed meeting schedule for the period to the end of January 2026. Members debated the schedule of meetings and sought clarification. As a result, amendments were made to the date/start times of the Integrated Catchment Committee and the Audit, Risk & Investment Committee to be held in November.

25-8 Moved F Gordon/Taylor

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-149.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*

- c. *notes the scheduled meetings through to end January 2026 as outlined in Report No. 25-148, as amended:*
 - i. *26 November 9.30am – Integrated Catchment Committee.*
 - ii. *27 November 9.30am – Audit, Risk & Investment Committee, followed by a Councillors Workshop.*

CARRIED

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND REGIONAL SECTOR

Report No 25-150

This report sought confirmation of the appointment of Council's representative to the Regional Sector of Local government New Zealand (LGNZ). The Chief Executive outlined the structure of the RS.

25-9 **Moved** **B Gordon/Pue**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-150.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decision in this report is not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*
- c. *confirms the appointment of the Chair or Deputy Chair in the Chair's absence, as this Council's representative on the Local Government New Zealand Regional Sector.*

CARRIED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND ZONE 3 NOMINATIONS

Report No 25-151

This report sought to appoint Councillors as Horizons Regional Council representatives to Zone 3. The report also sought Horizons Regional Council Councillor nominations for Zone 3 Chair role and Zone 3 representative to the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) National Council. The Chief Executive outlined the make-up of Zone 3. Council agreed not to nominate any member as the Zone 3 Chair or as a Zone 3 representative on National Council at that time. Therefore, recommendations d. e. f. and g. were left to 'lie on the table'.

25-10 **Moved** **B Gordon/Taylor**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-151.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.*
- c. *appoints the Chair of Council and Councillors F Gordon, Jansen, Pue, Teira, Te Awe Awe, Easton, Fraser, Wells, and Dryland as Horizons Regional Council's representative to Zone 3.*

CARRIED

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Report No 25-152

Mr Smith (Chief Financial Officer) presented the 2024-25 Annual Report for adoption by Council. A copy of the 2024-25 Annual Report had been placed on The Hub for Councillors as a separate document.

Ms Perera (Audit Director, Audit New Zealand) (via Zoom) highlighted the focus areas and other matters identified during the audit and was pleased to issue an unmodified audit report. Ms Perera and Mr Smith responded to Members' questions.

25-11

Moved

Pue/Teira

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 25-152;*
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report do not trigger significance;*
- c. adopts the 2024-25 Annual Report;*
- d. instructs the Chief Executive to prepare the 2024-25 Annual Report for publication and distribution;*
- e. instructs the Chief Executive to prepare and finalise the 2024-25 Annual Report Summary for publication and distribution.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 12.49pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR