



# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:30 AM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations were made available on the Council Website.

### 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was led by Cr Maitland.

### 2. MEMBERS AND APOLOGIES

|                        |                                                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Chairperson:           | Her Worship the Mayor                             |
| Northern Ward Members: | Deputy Mayor Cr Burden, Cr Maitland, Cr Mackenzie |
| Hokitika Ward Members: | Cr Gillett , Cr Martin, Cr Walker                 |
| Southern Ward Members: | Cr Manera, Cr Munns                               |
| Iwi Representatives:   | Kw Madgwick , Kw Tumahai                          |

### NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cr Manera.

Moved Cr Munns, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that the apology from Cr Manera be received and accepted.

### STAFF PRESENT

B. Phillips, Chief Executive; S. Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; E. Bencich, General Manager District Assets; L. Webster, General Manager Regulatory and Compliance; S. Hewett, Governance Administrator; N. Martin, Governance and Communications Officer.

### 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated to the Mayor and Councillors.

There were no changes made to the Interest Register.

### 4. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

## **Hokitika Swimming Pool**

The Chief Executive introduced the report and background behind it. The Hokitika Swimming Pool uses a diesel boiler to heat the water and council staff have been monitoring the price of fuel, in particular diesel, which has seen large increases due to the conflict in the Middle East. Due to this large increase in diesel prices the cost to keep the pool open and running has also climbed and today's paper presents to the Council a decision on whether it is economically viable to keep it open.

The General Manager Regulatory and Compliance continued, explaining the current situation is that the cost of heating the pool has risen from approximately \$11,000 a month to \$6,000 - \$8,000 a week and this will climb as the temperature decreases over winter. The council is unable to debt fund the pool so any increases in operational costs would need to come either at the expense of other council services or from the rate payer.

The Hokitika Swimming Pool has an annual shutdown period of one month during winter for maintenance and plans had already been approved in the Long Term Plan to upgrade the heating system from diesel to electric so council proposed that these works be accelerated to coincide with a shutdown period beginning on 1 May 2026 to minimise the time the pool is closed. If council approves the closure of the pool, it is expected to be closed for a 3-to-6-month period.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Munns and **Resolved** that:

- 1.1 The report be received.
- 1.2 Council approve the closure of the Hokitika Swimming Pool on 1st May 2026 until the planned capital project works are completed and fuel prices assessed.
- 1.3 That monthly status updates via the Chief Executive's action list updates will be provided, to ensure clear visibility of the situation to inform future decision making regarding the facility.

Carried unanimously.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10:48 PM**

**DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 APRIL 2026 AT 1:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

Confirmed by:

**Deputy Mayor Reilly Burden**  
**Chair**

**Date: 28 May 2026**