

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 7 MAY 2026 AT 9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Cr Chris Archer (Chair), Cr Andrea Rutene, Cr Simone Baker, Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Rupert Watson and Mayor Fran Wilde.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Rachel Clarke and Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor; Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Alex Pigou (Manager, Communications), Hayley Gastmeier (Advisor, Digital Communications), Siv Fjaerestad (Lead Advisor, Community Development) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Anna Nielson (Destination Wairarapa); Matt Carrere and Natasha Kyd (WellingtonNZ).

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS: This meeting was held in the Supper Room, WaiHINGA Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 9:04am to 9:51am except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

Cr Olds acknowledged the passing of former South Wairarapa District Council Mayor Councillor for the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Adrienne Staples. Cr Olds spoke of Ms Staples many positive contributions to the region.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/04

Moved: Cr S Baker

Seconded: Cr C Isaacs

The Economic Growth Committee resolved that the minutes of the Economic Growth Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

11.1 DESTINATION WAIRARAPA QUARTERLY REPORTING

Ms Nielson provided an overview of the current tourism environment, Destination Wairarapa's role and activities, and emerging opportunities.

Key points noted:

- Domestic tourism remains challenging, particularly due to economic conditions in the Wellington market, although the region remains relevant to visitors.
- International tourism is growing and represents a key opportunity, offering longer stays and improved regional resilience.
- Risks were identified from improved transport routes diverting traffic away from Wairarapa.
- Destination Wairarapa operates with a small team and focuses on place-based regional promotion.
- Strong collaboration is underway through the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail, particularly in the Australian market.
- Early indicators show a significant increase in Australian visitors and associated export benefits.
- Business events are no longer a strategic focus due to scale and resourcing constraints.
- Work is beginning on a shared regional identity project to strengthen recognition and confidence in the region over the medium term.

Members asked questions relating to:

- Market performance compared with other regions
- Australian marketing opportunities
- Relationships with other regional economic agencies
- Location of i-SITE services
- Business events activity and agritourism opportunities.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/05

Moved: Cr A Rutene

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Economic Growth Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the *Destination Wairarapa Quarterly Reporting*; and
2. Note the information included in the report.

CARRIED

11.2 WAIRARAPA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (WEDS) QUARTERLY REPORTING

Mr Carrere and Ms Kyd, provided an update on delivery of the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy and associated work programme.

Key points noted:

- WellingtonNZ's role as the regional economic development agency and alignment with sector focus areas.
- Progress across food and fibre, workforce and skills, screen, and water resilience initiatives.
- Seed and grain sector work aiming to unlock future co-investment and higher-value land use.
- Workforce initiatives connecting secondary school students with local employers.
- Community-led health workforce connector model supporting recruitment and retention.
- Water resilience case for action outlining significant long-term economic and employment benefits.
- Budget expenditure timing reflected programme co-design and phased implementation.

Members discussed next steps for water resilience governance and sought clarification on programme expenditure and consultant engagement.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/06

Moved: Cr R Watson

Seconded: Cr C Isaacs

The Economic Growth Committee resolved to:

1. Receives the *Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) Quarterly Reporting*.
2. Notes the information included in the report.

CARRIED

11 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 INVESTIGATING OPTIONS FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Mr Corbett spoke to the report seeking endorsement for the Chief Executive to scope analysis of potential economic development agency models.

Key points noted:

- The proposed analysis will examine delivery models, service levels, and costs.
- Alignment across the three Wairarapa councils is required before options are brought forward.
- It is proposed that the work be undertaken by external consultants due to current council capacity constraints.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/07

Moved: Mayor F Wilde

Seconded: Cr C Isaacs

The Economic Growth Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the *Investigating Options for an Economic Development Agency Report*;
2. Endorse the engagement of a facilitator to work with the necessary groups to develop a framework as a basis for future joint decisions; and
3. Note that the three Chief Executives are delegated responsibility for producing an options report for Councillors by September 2026, as a basis for further evaluation and discussion, and to underpin potential inclusion in Long Term Plans.

CARRIED

12 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EGC2026/08

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr S Baker

The Economic Growth Committee resolved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
<p>12.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Economic Growth Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2026</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(f)(i) - free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>	<p>Relates to the Economic Development Funding Decisions Report discussed at this meeting.</p>

CARRIED

13 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 9:51am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)