

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE
HEARINGS ON THE PAPER ROAD – BYLAW (DAY 1)
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Mayor Martin Connolly (from 9:07am), Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Kaye McAulay and Ms Violet Edwards (from 10:03am to 10:43am).

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Jess Hughes (Principal Advisor, Legal), Narida Hooper (Pou Māori), Shanin Brider (Advisor, Community Governance), Danielle Armstrong (EA to the Mayor and CE), Alex Pigou (Manager, Communications) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy & Committees).

SUBMITTERS: As per agenda item 4.

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 9:01am to 3:44pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/131

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Cr A Woodcock

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Ms Edwards; and from Mayor Connolly for late arrival.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Plimmer declared a conflict in relation to any deliberations and adoption of a bylaw due to his position as a Justice of the Peace. Noted he would listen to and be present for hearings, but will not be involved in the decision-making process.

4 SUBMISSION HEARINGS ON THE PAPER ROAD BYLAW

1. Leighton Hale, submission #1 – Supports the bylaw; outlined his concerns about the misuse of the land and abuse that people in the area had received over the years, including poaching and 4 wheel drive vehicles, noting efforts had been made to educate and speak to people.

Mayor Connelly arrived at 9:07am.

2. Allan Blithe, submission #41 (via Teams)– Opposed to the bylaw; noted his concerns regarding legal processes, lack of previous action by Council and tourism. Would like to see a more collaborative approach, as well as signage and maps, with boundaries being better defined and marked.
3. Ian Cardno, submission #1610– Opposed to the bylaw; noted his concerns about restricting access to coast and the legality of closing the road, emergency access routes, transparency of governance, advancing education/infrastructure and taking a multi-pronged approach to planning.
4. Matthew Bismark, submission #1635 – Opposed to the bylaw; outlined concerns regarding the benefits to those currently using the area for hunting, mountaineering, the legality of the action to close the road, Council’s liability to legal action and the cost to ratepayers. Mr Bismark asked Council to withdraw the bylaw, to work with interested groups and stakeholders to develop a different plan.
5. Scott Williams, submission #289 – Opposed to the bylaw; explained his love of the outdoors and being able to access to the area for family activities and asked Council to explore all reasonable options before closure of the road, suggesting steps to protect the area including fencing off key areas, planting initiatives, restricting 4 wheel drive vehicles at certain times.
6. Brieh Williams, submission #333 – Opposed to the bylaw, spoke about experiences of camping in the area and memories created during her time there with her family.
7. John Priest, submission #1714 – Opposed to the bylaw. This submission was read aloud by the Deputy Mayor in Mr Priest’s absence. Key concerns were related to impacts on businesses.
8. Ian Hutchings, Cross Country Vehicle Club, submission #3507 – Opposed to the bylaw; noted that the club had concerns about the process which had led to the bylaw and sought a more collaborative approach to maintain the land. The club does not agree with Council’s approach and interpretation of legislation; they asked the Council to pause and review the process with external input.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51am.

Meeting resumed 10:03am; Ms Edwards present via Teams.

9. Steven Goodfellow submission #203 (via Teams) – Opposed to the bylaw; noted his family had camped and crayfished in the area for generations. Mr Goodfellow believed closure would prevent natural erosion; held concerns for emergency access, signage and enforcement. Asked Council to go back to drawing board.
10. Joe Howells, Aorangi Restoration Trust, submission #319 – Supports the bylaw. Noted that current signage was not helpful and confusing and should be included in further work and push bike access could be worked out with landowners.
11. Felicity Holmes, submission #3091 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted that Cape Palliser was important to her family for activities such as camping and vehicle access was required for this, noting they had sought permission from land owners in the past and would like access to continue.
12. Brendon Redfern, submission #3092 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted his company's use of White Rock road for honey business, and personal use of the coastline for diving; the issues with the current road, including narrowness and potential for accidents. Stated that more funding will be needed to fix roading and install signage.
13. Reon Kerr, submission #1208 – Supports the bylaw. Noted Council's obligation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Ngati Hinewaka's desire to protect the land, the treatment of whenua and hapū.
14. Darcy Te Rito Tilyard, submission #3439– Supports the bylaw. Noted concerns regarding private property, that the land should be allowed to heal and noting the importance of hapū and land owners' rights - land which has been occupied by their ancestors for many generations.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43am. Ms Edwards left the meeting and did not return.

Meeting resumed at 11:15am.

15. Andrew MacDonald, submission #388 – Opposed to bylaw. Not legally enforceable – goal to rush across the line, only emergency access. Opposes a blanket ban, public safety, asked the Council to start again with another consultation after election. Spoken to Haami.
16. Raymond Ford supported by Sophie Tucker, submission #3131– Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ – Opposed to the bylaw. Questioned Council's legal power to restrict non-motorised access along an unformed legal road and suggested ways to resolve issues as set out in their submission. Members requested copy of the relationship agreement between Department of Conservation and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust in relation to the Ngāpotiki Scenic Reserve (Stonewall Scenic Reserve)..(Received and sent to members 05/09/2025)

17. Stuart Campbell, submission #541 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted he was in favour of maintaining access for 4 wheel drive vehicles. Suggested fencing to key areas to protect the land and public access should be retained for public interests and access in an emergency. Did not believe the alternatives were realistic for access to the coastline.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Meeting resumed at 12:30pm.

18. Kim Hayes, submission #1993 – Opposed to the bylaw. Shared experiences of Cape Palliser and noted that the majority of people don't know the boundaries for the paper road. Held concerns about being able to access the area without a vehicle. Would like to see the community come together to sort out the issues, noting there are people ready to help with fencing, ruts and making the boundaries clearer. Locals respect the area and let landowners know about the issue. Signage needs to be clear.
19. Mhirangi Hollings – Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, submission #3539 – Supports the bylaw. Noted support for Ngati Hinewaka and their whenua. Agreed with the rest period of three years, to preserve the land for the future, and tangata whenua / Council working together to create balance and tikanga. Also noted similar bylaws around the country, which have been co-designed. Referenced the Stone Wall Reserve created by the Department of Conservation and their, relationship agreement – noted Ms Hollings will check with her team to confirm whether it's in place.
20. Owen Cox, submission #1965– Kapiti Coast Tramping Club. Opposed to the bylaw. Noted use of the land for camping, walking access, park beyond Stone Wall. Shared his concerns about the extent of the bylaw, enforcement and marking of the route.
21. Paul Jonson, submission #79 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted the issues with access could be restricted by land owners. As per his submission, spoke about alternatives rather than full closure, included gated access.
22. Dylan Cliff, submission #2063 – Opposed to the bylaw. Highlighted issues with overuse and 4 wheel drive vehicles on the road. Shared concerns regarding access for hikers, enforcement and ways to alleviate issues.
23. Haami Te Whaiti - Mātakitaki-a-Kupe Trust, submission #3254– Supports the bylaw. Thanked staff for their work on the proposal and presented further background / history regarding the paper road and previous efforts to protect the land; provided members with a presentation showing maps and highlighting the key areas to note regarding the issues, access, sites of significance (e.g. burial sites) and goals for preservation of the land. Mr Te Whaiti also stated there needed to be a survey of the land to mark clear boundaries.

24. Haami Te Whaiti, Ngāti Hinewaka me ōna Hapū Karanga Trust, submission# 678 – As above.
25. Memory Te Whaiti, submission #622 – In support of the bylaw. Should be a boundary to protect whenua. Access to whenua and entitlement, whakapapa to the land. Why should others be crossing land they own to get to camping sites.
26. Herenga ā Nuku, Ange van Der Lan, submission #3454 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted concerns were the legality's of the proposed bylaw, environmental protection (that the bylaw wasn't the appropriate measure for this), and prevention of road use to walkers and cyclists. Despite opposition, they commended Council for working with mana whenua on this matter.
27. David Laking, Wellington Boardriders Club, submission #177– Opposed to the bylaw. Representing surfers from around the region, noted that concerns should be focused on 4 wheel drive vehicles. Stated that the club would like Council to focus on compromise and alternatives to closure of the road, and that they were happy to walk to surf sites if required.
28. Graham Loh (via Teams), submission #2231 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted his concerns about vehicle use and would like to see pedestrians maintain access.
29. William Jago, submission #696 – Opposed to the bylaw – Shared his concerns about the application of legislation and the legality of a road closure, and the powers of Council prohibiting access.
30. Megan Gillies, submissions #3548 – Opposed to the bylaw. Agreed that the land and mana whenua should be respected but does not agree with full road closure was disappointed with Council's proposal and concerned about their legal position in this matter. Request that Council pause this work and start again with further engagement.
31. Mark Jerling, submissions #1171– Opposed to the bylaw. Noted that the Fencing Act covers the issues to erect fences and that obligations were to the public, not landowners. Questioned the legality of the proposed bylaw.
32. Martina Day, submission #1680 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted that the access to land and preserving land was important, and was of the understanding not all hapū had been consulted during the process. Suggested that the alternatives were not viable and the solutions to issues were fencing and restricting the most destructive means of use.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm

Meeting resumed at 2:30pm.

33. William (Bill) Brierley, submission #1686 – Opposed to the bylaw. Suggested that the proper forum for the land owners issues was the Waitangi Tribunal and that Council should find a better

solution for iwi and landowners to address illegal behaviour. Concerns included access for emergencies, road maintenance and finding solutions with all parties, marking roads and use of signage. Suggested limited access for vehicles including 4 wheel drive vehicles.

34. Derek Morrison, submission #3113 (via Teams) – Opposed to the bylaw. Spoke about surfing the Wairarapa coast and respect for the land. Suggested that there could be other ways to stop those who disrespect the area.
35. Brian Pocock, submission #3565– Opposed to the bylaw. Noted solutions including fencing, replanting, revoking all lease agreements with farmers, eradicating pests, maintaining options before implementing a bylaw. Asked Council to stop the process and noted the costs to ratepayers, as well as noting concerns regarding transparency in relation to the consultation process. Stated that the road had already been surveyed in the past.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.

Meeting resumed at 3:00pm.

36. Scott Summerfield, submission #2392 – Supports the bylaw. Noted support for Ngati Hinewaka and staff of the Council throughout the consultation process and shared concern for the protection for sites of significance and Māori-owned land and that the bylaw was an appropriate step forward by Council to ensure this. Also noted Council should be wary of any liabilities and work to improve roading.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09pm.

Meeting resumed at 3:30pm.

37. Gary Hall, submission #3441 – Opposed to the bylaw. Shared concerns about the accuracy of the consultation document, maintenance of the road, issues stemming from stock (wet ground, damage to plants and foliage). Suggested solutions did not include a locked gate and that fencing off the area was the long term solution (estimated \$30k). Queried whether the paper road was going to be repaired.
38. Patrick Morgan, Cycling Action Network (via Teams), submission #1115. Opposed to bylaw. Noted that the response to issues needed to be a proportionate measure and the road was an essential link, supportive of access for bikes and pedestrians.

5. KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

Meeting closed at 3:44pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)