

9.1 Waikato Triennial Agreement 2025-2028

Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 26 March 2026
Author:	Susan Law
Author Title:	Chief Executive
Authorised by:	Chief Executive

Purpose

To present Council with the draft 2025-2028 Waikato Triennial Agreement for adoption.

Recommendation

That the Council:

- a. Receive and note the Triennial Agreement report (Resolve#2026-31).
- b. Adopts the Waikato Triennial Agreement 2025-28 as attached.
- c. Authorises the Chief Executive to sign the Agreement on behalf of South Waikato District Council.

Executive Summary

The Local Government Act 2002 requires all local Councils within each region to enter into a triennial agreement after each local election. In its meeting on 2 March, the Waikato Mayoral Forum endorsed the Waikato Triennial Agreement 2025-28 for Council adoption. The Agreement is now brought to Council for adoption and authorisation for signature.

Context

Legislative Framework

Section 15(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires all local Councils within each region to enter into a triennial agreement after each local election.

Waikato Mayoral Forum

The Mayoral Forum is responsible for guiding decisions on significant regional programmes and partnerships with central government. Over the past five months, executive staff of Councils within the Waikato region have undertaken work to draft an updated triennial agreement that reflects current issues and needs. By agreement, the Mayoral Forum prioritised working on a shared understanding of, and collaborative submission to central government's reform programme.

Waikato Triennial Agreement 2025-28

The Agreement represents the shared desire of local Councils to collaborate, maximise efficiency and effectiveness, and promote sustainable growth and development within communities in the Waikato region. A copy of the Agreement is attached. Key areas of focus identified within this Agreement for the 2025-28 triennium are:

- responding to and engaging in opportunities arising from Local Government reforms.

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- advancing a city and regional deal, building on positive feedback from the region's initial proposal and leveraging strengths in water, energy and intergovernmental collaboration.
 - strengthening collaboration established through the region's response to water reform initiatives.
 - Collaborating in the development of a Regional Spatial Plan to guide long-term land use and infrastructure planning.

The Mayoral Forum endorsed the Waikato Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 for Councils ratification on 2 March 2026.