MINUTES

HERENGA Ā NUKU AOTEAROA, OUTDOOR ACCESS COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

17 February 2026

Online

The meeting commenced at 10:50am.

Board members in attendance:

D Cameron (chair), H Logan, H Mexted, D Rewi and J Young

Also in attendance:

D Wildy, (Chief Executive), P Culling (Deputy Chief Executive), S Day (Communications Manager, minutes) M A Baxter (Principal Advisor – Operations), D Macredie (Pononga Whakatere), M Grose (Geospatial Manager)

Opening comments

D Cameron welcomed Board members and staff.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 18 November 2025 were circulated and read.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **confirmed** the minutes of 18 November 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved Mexted **Seconded** Rewi **Carried**

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no issues arising from the minutes.

3. Chief executive's report

D Wildy gave a summary of the organisation's activities. Two months into the role, he is enjoying the challenge and opportunity.

D Wildy noted the effort that goes into meeting the commission's oversight requirements. The reporting requirements are a significant overhead. A greater portion of our time is inwardly focused than expected.

Big things that have taken time in recent months are strategy development, the relationship with Te Araroa and the State of Public Access report.

More recently, the need to find new office space has occupied a significant amount of the commission's time. That offers an opportunity to potentially save costs or improve our amenities.

We have engaged CBRE, the building management company for the Majestic Centre to look at options within the building, Nathan Ryan to look at a range of properties in town, the Government Property Office and are doing our own due diligence by checking on TradeMe.

The strategy work has been very encouraging, especially the opportunities that are arising.

We have recruited another team member, Aidan Rowlingson, to our geospatial team.

MPI advised us last week that there is no indication of additional funding in Budget 2026, but said it has not heard anything to suggest budget cuts at this stage.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** the chief executive's report for February 2026.

Moved H Logan **Seconded** J Young **Carried**

4. Health and safety report

P Culling presented the health and safety report as of 17 February 2025. This regular report covers accidents, near misses, ongoing issues, actions taken, initiatives, and other relevant matters. There have been no incidents, near misses, or newly identified hazards since the last report.

The outstanding item in the health and safety area is working with Te Araroa Trail, which has been on hold a bit because of larger issues with Te Araroa.

D Rewi noted concerns that there have been no health and safety accidents, reports, or near misses noted for 2-3 years. He suggested an internal health and safety audit.

H Mexted suggested that health and safety should be a top item on the agenda for staff meetings and that feedback from those meetings should be included in a report to the Board.

Action: D Wildy to add health and safety to the staff agenda for the Ops/RFA meeting and the office meeting, then included in a register to be provided to the Board.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** Herenga ā Nuku's February 2026 health and safety report.

Moved H Mexted **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

Part A – items for decision

5. Pocket Maps rebuild

M Grose outlined a proposal to commission Landon Breidenstein to rebuild Pocket Maps. Pocket Maps was built on an Esri platform that Esri no longer supports. Without that support, Pocket Maps is on borrowed time – it is developing technical bugs that we cannot rectify. Breidenstein has built Te Araroa's Trail App from scratch. This context makes him a strategic choice for a Pocket Maps rebuild. The technology that he uses for the Trail App can be repurposed to meet the needs of Pocket Maps, which has fewer requirements.

M Grose recommended that Board invest in a rebuild of Pocket Maps. He highlighted the importance of delivering government-authenticated data to the wider public. He believed Breidenstein was the best value and had the best technical knowledge to lead the project.

M Grose noted that other government agencies and potential partners have not expressed interest in contributing to the project to date, but that might become viable once the new app is live.

D Wildy noted the time imperative to make a decision before the app degrades further.

H Mexted suggested we should consider this alongside other budget decisions for the year, such as regional projects. P Culling outlined the budget development timeline for the year. The significant variables in the upcoming budget are the support for Te Araroa, staff salary increases, and IT changes. The issue for Pocket Maps is cash flow. We will be trading cash for an asset. We need to be aware of the impact on our cash reserves. He suggested a draft budget should be available in April.

Action: P Culling to add continuity of the Pocket Maps project and Landon's availability to the risk register.

Action: P Culling to produce a draft budget next week so that the Board can make a financial decision in the wider context.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **agreed in principle** to the proposed work to rebuild Pocket Maps and agreed in principle to the use of funds for the work, subject to a draft budget to be circulated next week.

Moved J Young **Seconded** D Rewi **Carried**

6. Future relationship options for Te Araroa Trust

D Wildy presented options for the future relationship between the commission and the trust, and sought Board direction on a preferred pathway. D Wildy talked through three broad options:

a. Independence with financial contribution

b. Independence with financial and corporate support

c. Integration option

D Wildy advocated option one, with a financial transfer of up to $200,000, but no further support except on a contractual basis. He noted that there could be political risk if the trust was upset by this option.

Option two is a financial burden at a time we cannot afford it, and it also continues the exposure of risk arising from integration.

The Board discussed the relative merits and risks of the options and agreed on its preferred course of action in advance of its meeting with Te Araroa Trust board Chair John Birch, later in the day.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **agreed** that its preferred approach to discussions with Te Araroa Trust would be to advocate for option one, as outlined in the Board paper.

Moved H Mexted **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

Part B – items for noting

7. Select Committee questions

P Culling shared Parliament's Select Committee questions and the commission's draft responses for 2026. Parliament's Primary Production Committee has advised that the commission would not be required to participate in the Select Committee hearing process. Final written responses are required to be provided to the Clerk of the Primary Production Committee by 20 February 2026.

H Mexted suggested some minor amendments:

- the need for a comment on the increase in FTE in Q2.
- Q6 does not mention the chief executive.
- Q10 should reference the new CEO.

- Q15 could be expanded.
- Typos in Q38.
- Q45 reiterate our small FTE headcount
- Q42 needs editing

Action: P Culling to circulate a new risk register to the Board for consideration as per Q12

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** the draft select committee questions and responses.

Moved H Mexted **Seconded** J Young **Carried**

8. Quarterly report for Q2 2025-2026

S Day presented the quarterly report covering 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 (Q2 2025-2026), as presented to MPI and Minister McClay.

He noted that the commission has restructured this quarterly report to align with Treasury's required framework for annual reports. This will allow us to use the report when drafting the annual report and for us to more clearly show the connection and flow of progress between our Statement of Performance Expectations, our quarterly reports and our annual report.

H Mexted requested that the finance report within the quarterly report be elevated as a separate and more up-to-date item in the Board papers.

Action: P Culling to include a separate finance report to each Board meeting, including updated finances from those included in the financial section in the quarterly report to MPI.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** the quarterly report covering Q2 2025-2026, as presented to MPI.

Moved H Logan **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

9. Q2 Operations report

M A Baxter provided a brief summary of the operational update for the period 1 October to 31 December 2025 (Q2), including highlights of the operations team's delivery of Herenga ā Nuku outcomes.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** the operations report.

b. **noted** the quarterly case statistics reports from 1 October to 31 December 2025.

Moved D Cameron **Seconded** H Mexted **Carried**

10. Audit and risk update

P Culling reported on matters of corporate and financial significance, including the latest unaudited financial results, existing and emerging risks, Te Araroa Trust, the risk workshop and legislative compliance.

There will be an Audit and Risk meeting in April to pick up outstanding items.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **Noted** the audit and risk update report.

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** H Mexted **Carried**

11. Timeline for the Statement of Performance Expectations

S Day presented a proposed new timeline for developing the 2026-27 Statement of Performance Expectations to align with the strategy development work that the chief executive is currently leading.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **note** the timeline for developing the 2026/27 Statement of Performance Expectations and the requirements for a special Board meeting in June to approve the Statement of Performance Expectations.

Moved J Young **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

12. Regional Projects update

D Wildy summarised a report updating the Board on regional project work, including the Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trails Project, the Franklin-North Waikato Trails Project, the Tapuwae Tairāwhiti project, the Northland Trails project and other significant projects – Te Ara Tipuna and Ngā ara hīkoi ki Aotea.

D Wildy noted that, with static or falling crown funding and financial pressure, there is an emerging risk that our government stakeholders and partners are not interested in advancing new projects.

M A Baxter noted that most of the current projects have council involvement, and councils are also struggling financially at present. All these projects have slowed significantly in the last 12-18 months.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **Noted** the update on progress on regional projects.

Moved	D Rewi	**Seconded**	H Logan	**Carried**

Part C – other business

13. Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Wellington on 18-19 May 2026.

D Rewi closed with a karakia whakamutanga.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

D Cameron

Board Chair