

Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule

TO Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM Angela Jane - Governance and Strategy Manager
DATE 3 November 2014
SUBJECT **Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule**

1 Purpose of Report

The proposed 2015 meeting schedule is attached for the Council's consideration and adoption.

2 Background

Adopting a schedule of meetings meets the Local Government Act meeting requirements. The schedule may cover any future period that the Council considers appropriate and may be amended with notification.

The proposed schedule is based for the most part on a six weekly cycle and includes meetings for the Council, the five Community Boards and the five standing committees (Judicial, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Policy and Audit). All of these meetings have been scheduled every six weeks with the exception of the Audit Committee which has been scheduled quarterly.

It is recommended that all the scheduled six weekly meetings remain within the meeting schedule and meetings be cancelled when they are not required. The rationale for this recommendation is explained below.

3 Issue

Staff have recommended for Council's approval a meeting schedule for 2015.

4 Discussion

In preparing the proposed 2015 meeting schedule the Governance Support Team has taken note of the following matters:

1. The mix of different frequencies for all the meetings within the 2014 meeting schedule has resulted in resourcing peaks that have been difficult to manage (for councillors, report writers, managers and Governance Support).
2. The 2014 order and timing of CB meetings and standing committees did not allow council agenda items to reflect the recommendations from these meetings. This has created an unusually high number of tabled items to the council meetings. The Mayor and Chief Executive have requested that the number of tabled items be reduced.
3. Community Board and standing committee meetings have been ordered and timed to allow for recommendations from these meetings to flow through to the next Council meeting agenda. A six week cycle does not allow for all the agendas to include the feedback from all the meetings (the committees will not have the written recommendations from Community Boards); the Council agenda was considered the priority to contain the fullest reports.

4. The scheduled reserve days in the 2014 meeting schedule for council meetings has created some confusion for staff and elected members. The Mayor has requested we address the scheduling to avoid this kind of confusion. Reserve days have not been scheduled in the proposed 2015 meeting schedule. Council workshops have been scheduled periodically to accommodate informal discussions.
5. There were few weeks in the 2014 year with no meetings which has made taking leave for elected members and some staff more difficult. Several councillors have requested that we make more allowance for time off.
6. In the 2014 calendar there is a full week of meetings scheduled for the week prior to Christmas week. The lateness of meetings in December increases the pressure to have all follow up actions completed prior to the Christmas/January leave period. The proposed schedule has the last meeting scheduled for 10 December 2015 which allows adequate time for minutes to be finalised and actions progressed.
7. Cancelling meetings when they are not required results in fewer issues than scheduling additional meetings or changing meeting dates because elected members' and managers' calendars are usually very busy. Many staff and elected members have requested this approach.
8. Public holidays often have a bearing on how a meeting schedule is put together. 2015 is the first year that certain public holidays are moved to a Monday should they fall on a weekend. Anzac Day is the only public holiday in 2015 to fall into this category; hence it falls on 27 April.
9. School holidays throughout the year have not been factored into the calendar. Most of January is free of meetings with the exception of the last week which requires a meeting for the Long Term Plan and has a Judicial Committee scheduled (if it is required for urgent business).
10. The Long Term Plan requires extra meetings for Council approval to consult, for hearings and deliberations. The proposed meeting schedule includes extraordinary council meetings for these where the six weekly scheduled meetings cannot be utilised. While there is more choice about how to utilise hearings for the Long Term Plan under the amended Local Government Act the initial analysis has suggested we retain the ability for the status quo until we have fully determined the Long Term Plan consultation/hearings approach. Consultation is due to start on 9 March and end on 10 April. During consultation the only scheduled meetings are District Plan Hearings over two weeks and one Council meeting. We will be discussing elected members' involvement with the public consultation at the November and December Long Term Plan workshops. The consultation period is likely to involve more local meetings for elected members.
11. The Audit Committee has a meeting scheduled in October for the Annual Report. The other three meetings have been timed to cater for the needs of the internal audit programme and quarterly reporting.
12. Reserve days for the Judicial Committee have been retained for conducting consent hearings where they are required. These reserve days have mostly been scheduled on a Thursday but move to a Friday to accommodate any other pre-scheduled meetings.
13. Two council workshops have been scheduled in the latter half of the year to accommodate informal discussions. Long Term Plan workshops dominated the 2014 meeting schedule but allowed for other topics when they were required. The additional Long Term Plan meetings in the first half of the 2015 meeting schedule will allow the opportunity for workshops for other topics if the need arises.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report;
2. Adopts the proposed 2015 meeting schedule, with any necessary amendments;
3. Instructs staff to provide the appropriate notification of the meetings provided for in the 2015 schedule.

2015 Council, Committee and Community Boards Meeting Calendar

2014	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December														
MON						1	Queen's Birthday																			
TUE						2			1			1														
WED				1		3		1	2			2	CTZN													
THU	1	New Year Holiday		2	JC*	4	JC*	2	WCB	3	JC*	1	JC	3	JC*											
FRI	2	New Year Holiday		3	Good Friday	1	JC*	5	3	JC*	4	2		4												
SAT	3		31	28	4	2	6	4	1	5	3		5													
SUN	4	1	1	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6														
MON	5		2	2	AC	6	Easter Monday	4	8	6		3	7	5	2	TCB	TPCB	7								
TUE	6		3	3		7		5	9	7	ED	4	8	6	3	CCCB	MBCB	8								
WED	7		4	4	Extra Ord - LTP	8		6	10	8	INFRA	P	5	9	7	CLW		9	CL							
THU	8		5	5	JC*	9	JC*	7	JC*	11	JC*	9	JC	6	JC*	10	JC*	8	JC*	5	WCB	10	JC			
FRI	9		6	6	Waitangi Day	10		8	12	10		7	11	9	6	JC*		11								
SAT	10		7	7		11		9	13	11		8	12	10	7			12								
SUN	11		8	8		12		10	14	12		9	13	11	8			13								
MON	12		9	9		13	TCB	TPCB	11			15	13	10	12	9		14								
TUE	13		10	10	DPH	14	CCCB	MBCB	12			16	14	11	13	10	ED	15								
WED	14		11	11	DPH	15	DPH	13	CL	17	CTZN	15		12	14	11	INFRA	P	16							
THU	15		12	12	DPH	16	WCB	14	LTP-Deliberation	18	JC*	16	JC*	13	15	12	JC	17	JC*	15	JC*	12	JC	17		
FRI	16		13	13	JC*	17		15	LTP-Deliberation	19	INFRA & CBs	17		14	16	13		18		16		13		18		
SAT	17		14	14		18		16		20		18		15	17	14		19		16		13		18		
SUN	18		15	15		19		17		21		19		16	17	14		20		16		13		18		
MON	19		16	16	TCB	TPCB	16		20	18	TCB	TPCB	22	20	17		21	19	21	TCB	TPCB	19	AC	16	21	
TUE	20		17	17	CCCB	MBCB	17		21	19	ED	23	21	18	20	17		22	22	CCCB	MBCB	20		17	22	
WED	21		18	18	CTZN	22	INFRA	P	20			24	22	19	21	18	CLW	23		23	23	CTZN	21		18	23
THU	22		19	19	WCB	23	JC*	21	WCB	25	JC*	23	JC*	20	22	19	JC*	24	24	WCB	22	JC*	19	JC*	24	
FRI	23		20	20	JC*	24		22	JC*	26		24		21	23	20	INFRA & CBs	25	25	JC*	23		20	25	Christmas Day	
SAT	24		21	21		25		23		27		25		22	24	21		26	26		24		21		26	Boxing Day
SUN	25		22	22		26		24		28		26		23	25	22		27	27		25		22		27	
MON	26	Auckland Anniversary	23	23		27	ANZAC Day (observed)	25	AC	29	TCB	TPCB	27	24	26	23		28	28	AC	26	23	28	28	28	Boxing Day (observed)
TUE	27		24	24	DPH	28	LTP-Hearing	26	ED	30	CCCB	MBCB	28	25	27	24		29	29	ED	27	24	29	29	29	
WED	28	CL - LTP	25	25	INFRA	P	25	CL	DPH	29	LTP-Hearing	27	INFRA	P	26	23		30	30	INFRA	P	28	25	30	30	
THU	29	JC	26	26	DPH	30	LTP-Hearing	28	JC			30	JC*	27	24	21		31	31	JC*	29	26	31	31		
FRI	30		27	27	JC*			29				31		28	25	22					30	27				
SAT	31		28	28				30						29	26	23					31	28				
SUN				29				31						30	27	24						29				
MON				30										31	28	25						30				
TUE				31																						

KEY	JC	Judicial Committee	INFRA	Infrastructure Committee	CCCB	Coromandel-Colville Community Board	TCB	Thames Community Board	LTP	Council meetings for Long Term Plan
CL	JC*	Judicial Committee Reserve	INFRA CB	Infrastructure & All CB Six-Monthly Workshop	MBCB	Mercury Bay Community Board	WCB	Whangamata Community Board	ED	Economic Development Committee
CTZN	AC	Audit Committee	DPH	District Plan Hearing	TPCB	Tairua-Pauanui Community Board	CLW	Council workshops	P	Policy Committee