

Minutes of the second meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Environment Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 12 February 2020, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs NJ Patrick (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke (from 9.32am), DB Cotton, SD Ferguson, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon (to 11.04am, from 11.18am to 12.15pm, from 12.59pm), RJ Keedwell (from 9.39am), WM Kirton, JM Naylor (to 12.15pm), WK Te Awe Awe (from 10.13am to 12.15pm, from 12.58pm), and GJ Turkington (to 12.15pm, from 12.58pm).

IN ATTENDANCE Committee Secretary Mrs K Booth

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate & Governance), Mr R Smillie (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Mr G Bevin (Regulatory Manager), Mr L Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager), Ms R Mercer (Senior Water Allocation Scientist), Mr D Neal (Business Services Manager), various staff members, Ms A Hunt, Ms V Taueki, Mr P Taueki, Mr L Dalzell, Mr D McGahan, Mr I Sloane, members of the public and a member of the press.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Naylor to say a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

ENV 20-7 Moved Turkington/B Gordon

That the Committee receives an apology for lateness from Rachel Keedwell, Emma Clarke, and Wiremu Te Awe Awe.

CARRIED

After the lunchbreak, the Chair advised an apology had been received from Cr Naylor (from 12.15pm).

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were requests for a deputation from Anne Hunt, Vivienne Taueki and Phil Taueki in regard to Lake Horowhenua. The Chair advised this would be heard at 10.30am.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Turkington declared a possible conflict of interest due to his presence in the Agenda.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ENV 20-8

Moved

Naylor/F Gordon

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13 November 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 26 November 2019.

CARRIED

NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS PROGRESS REPORT

Report No 20-01

This item updated Members on the progress made in the Natural Resources & Partnership Group's activities over the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. It provided updates on progress against the annual plan targets and aspects of the Group's Operational Plan 2019-20. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) introduced Mr Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager), Mr Smillie (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Ms Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager) and Ms Mercer (Senior Water Allocation Scientist). Dr Roygard advised he would address key items in the Agenda, followed by Ms Mercer's presentation on 'Low Flow Update', and Members' questions.

Cr Keedwell joined the meeting at 9.39am.

During Ms Mercer's presentation, she explained how the telemetry system worked and clarified questions around groundwater and river takes.

Cr Te Awe Awe joined the meeting at 10.13am.

Mr Brown, Mr Smillie and Ms Matthews responded to questions arising from their reports including information on weirs and fish passes.

ENV 20-9

Moved

Clarke/F Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-01 and Annexes.

CARRIED

DEPUTATION

The Chair invited Ms Anne Hunt, Ms Vivienne Taueki and Mr Phil Taueki to speak to their deputation in regard to Lake Horowhenua. Ms Anne Hunt spoke about the history of the Lake and legal processes to date. Ms Vivienne Taueki spoke about the relationship with Horizons Regional Council and staff, and tabled documents as follows:

- Letter of 9 February 2020 from Vivienne Taueki to Chair Rachel Keedwell and Cr Jono Naylor.
- Letter of 5 February from Hokio A Maori Land Trust to Ms Jasmine Mitchell re lodgement of resource consent application for Rakau Hamana
- Letter of 3 February 2020 from Hokio A Maori Land Trust to Ms Jasmine Mitchell re lodgement of resource consent application for Rakau Hamana
- Correspondence between Vivienne Taueki and Clinton Hemana
- Information from Lowe Environmental Impact
- Excerpts from the Waitangi Tribunal enquiry into Freshwater and the matters identified there

Ms Taueki commented they wanted an open and transparent relationship with Council that met the objectives of the One Plan. Mr Taueki spoke about the governance of Lake Horowhenua, cultural matters, and issues.

The Chair thanked them for their deputation. She then advised the meeting would adjourn in accordance with Standing Orders 4.2, prior to the presentation on the Te Ahu a Turanga project.

The meeting adjourned at 11.04am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.12am.

PRESENTATION: TE AHU A TURANGA PROJECT

Report No 20-03

A presentation on the Te Ahu a Turanga project was made by Lonnie Dalzell (NZTA and Alliance Owner Interface Manager), Damien McGahan (Planning Manager) and Ian Sloane (Chair of Project Alliance Board).

Cr F Gordon joined the meeting at 11.18am.

They explained the relationships between parties involved in the project and with Horizons Regional Council, the history and progress to date, the Alliance partners, the concept design, and the timeline. They clarified Members' questions arising from the presentation.

ENV 20-10 Moved Benbow/Cotton

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. *receives the presentation on the Te Ahu a Turanga project.*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm.

The meeting reconvened at 12.52pm.

An apology was received from Cr Naylor.

Crs Turkington, Te Awe Awe and F Gordon joined the meeting at 12.58pm.

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Report No 20-02

This report updated Members on regulatory activity for the period October to December 2019, and provided a summary of the compliance programme associated with the Mercury Windfarm. Dr Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation) introduced the report, commented on the size and complexity of the Windfarm work, and referred Members to the summary of the compliance programme associated with the construction of the Mercury Windfarm.

Mr Bevin (Regulatory Manager) summarised the compliance programme and regulatory action and clarified when infringement and abatement notices were issued. Members provided their views and comments around Horizons approach as a regulator to enforce consent conditions, and its responsibilities to ensure consent conditions were complied with. It was noted that consents were public documents.

ENV 20-11 Moved Te Awe Awe/Keedwell

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-02 and Annexes.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 1.42pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER
STRATEGY & REGULATION

CHAIR