

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the eleventh triennium of Horizons Regional Council (Live Streamed) held at 10.00am on Tuesday 21 July 2020, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs RJ Keedwell (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke, DB Cotton (via audio visual link), SD Ferguson, EB Gordon (via audio visual link), FJT Gordon, WM Kirton, JM Naylor, NJ Patrick, WK Te Awe Awe, and GJ Turkington.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager
Corporate and Governance Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr K Russell (Operations Manager), Mr L Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager), Mr R Smillie (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Mr A Smith (Chief Financial Officer), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), and a member of the press.

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited Cr Te Awe Awe to say a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

20-112

Moved

Keedwell/Benbow

That the Council receives Report No. PX20-95, Reid Line Floodway Property Purchase as a Supplementary Item.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Clarke declared a Conflict of Interest in Report No. 20-93, Jobs for Nature in relation to the Lake Horowhenua wetlands project.

Crs Benbow and Turkington declared a Conflict of Interest in Report No. PX20-94, Totara Reserve Poplar Removal.

JOBS FOR NATURE

Report No 20-93

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) introduced the item and provided an overview of the Jobs for Nature funding programme and the projects that had been announced for Horizons Regional Council to progress. The item asked Council to consider proceeding with those projects, and to consider the resourcing implications. Members' questions seeking clarity around the contractual arrangements and delivery targets of the projects were responded to by Dr Roygard and Mr Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager).

The Chair separated out the recommendations.

20-113 Moved Patrick/F Gordon

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-93.*
- b. *approves progressing the riparian fencing and planting project announced as part of the Jobs for Nature funding programme including:*
 - i. *Delegating to the Chief Executive to enter into a contractual arrangement for the project and the delegation to manage the project, including financial delegations.*
 - ii. *Acknowledging the total budget for the project of \$11,345,000 with Central Government Funding of \$4,681,000.*
 - iii. *Acknowledging the specific conditions for the projects identified by the Ministry for the Environment.*
 - iv. *Approving Horizons Regional Council's contribution to the project totalling \$2,698,000 over four years. This comprises \$1,545,000 from existing grant funding budgets in the Regional Freshwater and Partnerships programme; \$438,000 of new grant funding and \$715,000 for new staff costs. The new expenditure is to be funded by use of General Rate reserves of \$153,500 in Year 1 of the project, new rate funding of \$336,750 in Years 2 and 3, and \$325,750 in Year 4 of the project.*
 - v. *Approving the employment of 2.5 full-time equivalent staff per annum as permanent positions to deliver the programme, with new funding for 1.25 positions to be funded by Horizons. NB, the other 1.25 positions are to be funded by Central Government as part of the project at a total cost of \$715,000.*
 - vi. *Note all costings are exclusive of GST.*
- c. *approves progressing the enhancing native fish populations through fish passage remediation project announced as part of the Jobs for Nature funding programme including:*
 - i. *Delegating to the Chief Executive to enter into a contractual arrangement for the project and the delegation to manage the project, including financial delegations.*
 - ii. *Acknowledging the total budget for the project of \$3,215,000 with Central Government funding \$2,572,000.*
 - iii. *Acknowledging the specific conditions for the projects identified.*
 - iv. *Approving the Horizons Regional Council contribution to the project \$321,500 over four years. The \$80,375 annual cost is proposed to be from the Freshwater programme reserves for Year 1 and from a new rate contribution in Years 2 to 4.*

- v. *Approving the employment of one permanent full-time equivalent staff per annum to deliver the programme. The employment of four fixed-term “cadet” positions, each over four years, and annually employing four fixed-term “cadet” positions for a period of three months.*

vi. *Note all costings are exclusive of GST.*

CARRIED

During discussion of the Lake Horowhenua wetlands project and recommendation d. i,ii,iii,iv,v,vi, Cr Clarke left the table.

Dr Roygard outlined the details of the Lake Horowhenua wetlands project , provided a summary of the total budget which included Central Government funding, with contributions from Horizons and horticulture growers, and responded to Members’ questions.

20-114

Moved

F Gordon/Benbow

- d. *approves progressing the Lake Horowhenua wetlands project, including:*
 - i. *Delegating to the Chief Executive to enter into a contractual arrangement for the project and the delegation to manage the project, including financial delegations.*
 - ii. *Acknowledging the specific conditions identified for the projects.*
 - iii. *Acknowledging the total budget for the project of \$12,500,000 with Central Government funding of \$11,200,000.*
 - iv. *Approving Horizons Regional Council’s contribution to the project of \$1,300,000. This includes \$1,150,000 to be loan funded and paid back over a 20-year period, with payments starting in Year 2 of the project and to be paid from the currently allocated freshwater budget for work with the horticulture growers. The additional \$150,000 over a four-year period (\$37,500 per annum) is to be funded from the science budget in Year 1. In Years 2 to 4, \$15,000 per annum is to be paid from the budget currently allocated in the freshwater budget for work with the horticulture growers. The balance of this funding (\$22,500 per annum) is to be paid from the reserves for the Lake Horowhenua restoration rate (based on the funding policy) in Years 2 to 4.*
 - v. *Approving the employment of one full-time equivalent permanent staff per annum to deliver the programme, funded from within the project budget.*
 - vi. *Note all costings are exclusive of GST*

CARRIED

Cr Clarke returned to the table for recommendation e.

20-115

Moved

Ferguson/Benbow

- e. *approves the purchase of five additional utility vehicles, one quad bike and quad bike trailer, one LUV and LUV trailer and a plant transport trailer. These items would incur a maximum total budget of \$290,000, exclusive of GST, to enable the above projects, with funding approved as an overspend for the corporate vehicle budget*

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

20-116 Moved Keedwell/Clarke

THAT the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 and section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

CARRIED

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
PX1 Totara Reserve Poplar Removal	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. Involves awarding a contract.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX2 Reid Line Floodway Property Purchase (PRD 05 13)	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. This item contains commercially sensitive information due to a proposed property purchase.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX3 Council / Committee to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain and define the extent of the release		

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 11.08am and resumed at 12.32pm.

During the public excluded part of the meeting, Resolution PX 20-29 from the 21 July public excluded Regional Council Extraordinary minutes, recommended that resolution PX 20-27 from Report No. PX20-94, Totara Reserve Poplar Removal, be moved into the public domain.

PX 20-29 Moved Keedwell/Patrick

That the that Council recommends that the following resolution from Item PX1, Totara Reserve Poplar Removal, can be moved into the public domain:

PX 20-27 Moved Naylor/B Gordon

b. approves:

iii. Option 3: return to the market to undertake a full tender process for removing all of the poplar trees, and appropriately remediate the site. Noting this will delay the availability of the Kereru Campground for camping.

CARRIED:

The meeting closed at 12.33pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR