

Minutes of the twenty-sixth meeting of the tenth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee held at 10.30am on Tuesday 10 September 2019, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs EB Gordon JP (Chair), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell QSM, DB Cotton, RJ Keedwell, GM McKellar, JM Naylor (to 12.27pm and from 1.12pm), NJ Patrick, PW Rieger QSO JP, BE Rollinson, and WK Te Awe Awe.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Acting Group Manager
Corporate and Governance Mr D Neal
Committee Secretary Mrs KA Tongs / Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships, Mr R Smillie (Environmental Manager), Mr T Bowen (Principal Advisor), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Ms R Mercer (Senior Environmental Scientist), Mr A Smith (Acting Chief Financial Officer), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), and a member of the press.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10.32am.

The meeting reconvened at 10.38am.

The Chair 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

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Chair Bruce Gordon declared a conflict of interest in Report No. 19-138 in regard to lakes within the Rangitikei District.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SP 19-163 Moved Rieger/Naylor

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 13 August 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 27 August 2019.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Chair's Report

The Chair presented his report and, together with the Chief Executive, updated Members on the recent Regional Sector meeting in Wellington.

Councillors' Reports

Councillors commented on their attendance at various events.

NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS OPERATIONAL PLAN

Report No 19-138

This item presented the 2019-20 Operational Plan for the Natural Resources & Partnerships group of Horizons. The group was tasked with delivery of the non-regulatory programmes for land, water, biosecurity and biodiversity and delivery of Horizons' core science programme. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) gave a presentation and highlighted the key themes of the single operational plan which would replace seven operational plans. Members asked questions of clarification and discussion was had regarding ongoing feedback in relation to the operational plan, both with the current Council and the new Council to be formed after the local body elections, 12 October 2019.

SP 19-164 Moved McKellar/Burnell

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-138 and Annex.
- b. formally adopts, approves and releases the 2019-20 Natural Resources and Partnerships Operational Plan annexed to this item.

CARRIED

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT - CATCHMENT SUMMARIES

Report No 19-139

Ms Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager) gave a presentation which provided Council with a summary of the current state and trends of each of the region's major catchments (as defined by the Freshwater Management Unit). Each report summarised the current state and trends in air, land and water, and (in some cases) reported on performance against One Plan targets. Members provided feedback and suggestions for future summary information and target audiences.

SP 19-165 Moved Patrick/Burnell

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-139 and Annex.*

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**SP 19-166 Moved Cotton/Rollinson**

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 Award of Contract No. 2019/16 Land Mapping and Whole Farm Plans Under the Sustainable Land Use Initiative	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. The reason for this report being heard in public excluded is because of commercial sensitivity.	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 Update of Councillors' Expense Claims Process	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege. The reason for this report being heard in public excluded is because of commercial sensitivity.	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 Presentation: Results of 2019 Chief Executive Performance Review	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person. This report is confidential because it discusses employment terms of an identifiable individual.	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.

PX4 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
PX5 Members' Questions

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 12.01pm and resumed at 2.02pm.

During discussion of Report No. PX19-141, Update of Councillors’ Expense Claims Process, resolution PX SP 19-165 agreed that the item could be moved into the public domain.

UPDATE OF COUNCILLORS' EXPENSE CLAIMS PROCESS

Report No PX19-141

This report informed Members of the current system for processing Councillor Expense Claim Forms. The Chair introduced the item. Members provided their comments on the entry for Councillors expenses in the 2018-19 AR with suggestions on how to make it more transparent for future reporting. A followup action was taken for management to produce clear guideline principles for adoption by the incoming Council following the local body elections,12 October 2019.

PX SP 19-60 Moved Patrick/Keedwell

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. PX19-141 and Annex*
- b. requests management to bring back a revised policy and reporting model for Councillor Expenses.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.03pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR