

Minutes of the third meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee (Live streamed) held at 10.00am on Tuesday 11 February 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, SD Ferguson, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon, WM Kirton, JM Naylor, NJPatrick, 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:
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), Mr J Twomey (Senior Policy Analyst Iwi), Mrs R Tayler (Manager Policy & Strategy), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Dr E Daly (Senior Scientist Ecology), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), and a member of the press.

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

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SP 20-12 **Moved** **Patrick/Naylor**

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 10 December 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 17 December 2019.

CARRIED

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Report No 20-04

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) introduced the report which summarised the key issues identified in the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB), and discussed the potential implications for the management of biodiversity in the Horizons Region and the work that may be required from the region's territorial authorities. The report sought council agreement to key themes for Horizons' submission on the NPSIB and the process for councillor input into finalising the submission. Dr Daly (Senior Scientist Ecology) summarised the aims, purpose, and implementation of the NPSIB policies. She highlighted the concerns amongst regional councils around the current timeframes associated with its implementation, commented on the strong focus within the NPSIB around the promotion of restoration, and the shift of responsibilities from Horizons Regional Council to territorial authorities. Members expressed their views around the draft NPSIB, sought clarification, noted their concerns, and outlined their thoughts around issues to be included in the submission.

Ultimately the recommendations were moved with several suggested additions:

- c.ii – include 'potential' before 'trade-offs'; and include 'in the absence of additional funding and resourcing' after 'may need to be made'.
- An additional iv. and v. were included.

Before the amended recommendations were put by the Chair, Cr F Gordon had the opportunity to clarify her suggested amendments.

SP 20-13

Moved

F Gordon/Kirton

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-04; and*
- b. *notes that the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) could have a significant impact on how the council manages and regulates indigenous biodiversity in the Manawatū-Whanganui region;*
- c. *agrees to the following key themes to be progressed in the development of the submission for the council on the draft:*
 - i. *sets out the approach to indigenous biodiversity regulation and management in the Horizons Region and discusses the efficiency gains that can be realised when taking an adaptive management planning approach;*
 - ii. *demonstrates the estimated financial impact for councils within the region to implement the draft NPSIB and the potential trade-offs that may need to be made in the absence of additional funding and resourcing*
 - iii. *demonstrates the importance of non-regulatory interventions and partnerships in realising biodiversity gain;*
 - iv. *sets out Horizons Regional Council progress on priority sites biodiversity programme to date, as per the State of Environment report and including the number of sites currently under active management (L4-6);*
 - v. *sets out the likely barriers to increasing the number of priority sites under active management (L4-6) into the future, including any science needs, funding or resource issues.*

- d. *directs the Chief Executive to circulate the submission to council for comment via email and to finalise the submission with the Chair.*

CARRIED

HORIZONS BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Report No 20-05

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) presented the report which introduced Horizons current approach to biodiversity management with a focus on the non-regulatory biodiversity activities. The paper also overviewed a review of non-regulatory biodiversity activity that had been underway for some time and sought council's decision on one part of the review in relation to Horizons' Biodiversity Partnerships Programme. The programme included the range of collaborative projects with other agencies and community groups to enhance biodiversity within the Region. Dr Daly (Senior Scientist Ecology) then took Members through the detail of the biodiversity programme, commented on the One Plan's strategy of a two tiered approach, and clarified Members' questions.

SP 20-14

Moved

Ferguson/Cotton

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-05 and Annex.*
- b. *Holds a council workshop to scope:*
 - i. *the strategic overarching goal for the non-regulatory biodiversity programme;*
 - ii. *the goal/s for the community biodiversity programme;*
 - iii. *the process and criteria for allocating funds to the biodiversity partnerships projects with other agencies and community groups;*
 - iv. *options for a broader programme of community engagement around biodiversity projects; and*
 - v. *options for the allocation of funding between projects that engage with community groups; initiatives that mobilise community members at an individual or household level; and ensuring budget is available to capitalise on opportunities that bring additional funding to projects.*
- c. *directs the Group Manager of Natural Resources and Partnerships to report back on work of the Councillor workshop to Council for final decisions around the matters identified in (b).*

CARRIED

IWI QUARTERLY REPORT*Report No 20-06*

Mr Twomey (Senior Policy Analyst Iwi) introduced the report which provided Council with an update on iwi matters in the region including progress in Treaty settlement negotiations, and ongoing iwi engagement. The quarter also provided information on some of the economic opportunities that iwi were advancing within the region. Members' questions were responded to by Mr Twomey and the Chief Executive, and discussion was had around a process and approach for consultation and engagement for the management of freshwater.

SP 20-15**Moved****Clarke/Patrick**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20.06;*
- b. notes that Te Arawhiti is due to distribute the Ngāti Maniapoto draft Deed of Settlement for discussion and an indication of support from Council;*
- c. notes the economic opportunities that iwi are pursuing for the benefit of their people;*
- d. notes that Horizons staff are developing a relationship agreement in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Tūpoho;*
- e. notes that Horizons staff are in the initial stages of planning for an iwi regional hui.*

CARRIED

Cr Te Awe Awe closed the meeting with a Karakia.

The meeting closed at 11.19am.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR