



Minutes of the public meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group to hear and deliberate on submissions made to the proposed Manawatu River and Tributaries Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2010 held in the Tararua Room of Council's offices at 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 7.58pm on Tuesday, 1 June and 3.10pm on Friday, 11 June 2010.

PRESENT Crs LR Burnell (Chair), and L Bailey.

IN ATTENDANCE Harbourmaster Mr E Lloyd
Committee Secretary Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT

1 June 2010 Mr B Culley and Mr J Story (Manawatu Marine Boating Club), Mr R Crawford (Manawatu Marine Boating Club – Sailing Section), Mr G Hyde, Mr R Anderson and Mr B Eccles (Jet Boating New Zealand), Mr M Wheatley (Manawatu Four Wheel Drive Club), Mr I Taylor and Mr D Booth (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club), Mr P Horton (Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Inc), Ms J Rapson, Mrs J Leckie, Mr N Leckie, Mrs C Paton, and Mr G Paton (Manawatu Estuary Trust), Mrs K Lane, Mr K Lane and Mr S Bayley (Manager Emergency Management, Horizons).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items.

PROPOSED MANAWATU RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES NAVIGATION AND SAFETY BYLAW 2010

Report No: 10-78

The purpose of the hearing was to consider submissions to the Proposed Manawatu River and Tributaries Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2010 (Draft Bylaw).

The Chair advised that he and Cr Bailey would be hearing the submissions. He said the meeting would be adjourned once the submitters had been heard, and he and Cr Bailey would meet with staff prior to deliberating on a day, yet to be determined. The recommendation that would go to Council would be conveyed to those present, before the Council meeting.

The Chair referred attendees to the format for oral submissions on page 27 of the Agenda. On behalf of Council, he apologised to Mr Paul Horton, representative of Tanenuiarangi o Manawatu Inc, for any inconvenience that may have been caused through late discussions.

The Chair then called the first of the submitters to speak.

Central Districts Branch Jet Boating NZ Incorporated (JBNZ) Submission 1 – Manawatu River

Mr Brian Eccles and Mr Richard Anderson spoke on behalf of JBNZ. Mr Eccles reiterated the points made in the submission. He said that boats were allowed to go at speed except within 200m of shore, and commented that the Manawatu River was less than 200m wide.

Mr Eccles referred to section 3.2.1 of the Draft Bylaw (version 2) provided for consultation, and explained JBNZ was interested in two rules, namely (a) and (b) of that section. JBNZ reiterated that, in their submission, they were asking for uplifting of Subclause 3.2.1(b) only (the 200 metre rule), and that 3.2.1(a) (the 50 metre rule) would always remain. He also noted they were requesting the uplifting of the speed restrictions for a restricted time period from 1 April to 30 September in each year in consideration of other users of the river, such as anglers, swimmers, duck shooters etc.

In response to questions, Mr Eccles clarified that members of JBNZ would continue to negotiate with other users of the river, should they wish to pass them, as they have done in the past. He also confirmed that swimmers could be seen in the water and that jet boaters always paid careful attention as there were often logs in the water.

There was discussion about the time frames requested in the submission, and the time frames suggested by the Harbourmaster. Comments made, related to the desire for rules that were easy to understand and follow, and be enforceable. There was also comment that while members of JBNZ understood and obeyed the rules, there was the issue of educating jet boaters who were not members of JBNZ.

Cr Bailey reminded members of the public, that only the submitters and the Commissioners had the opportunity to speak at the Submissions Hearing.

Central Districts Branch Jet Boating NZ Incorporated (JBNZ) Submission 2 – Ashhurst Domain

Mr Brian Eccles and Mr Richard Anderson again spoke on behalf of JBNZ. Mr Eccles reiterated the points made in the submission and highlighted the speed restriction issue for jet boaters wishing to launch their boats at the Ashhurst Domain in order to visit the White Horse rapids in the Manawatu Gorge. He also pointed out the request for clear signposting in the area. JBNZ's request was to retain rule 3.2.1(a) (50 metre rule) and uplift 3.2.1(b). He believed that if the 50 metre rule was retained, there was no need for a caveat as suggested.

The Harbourmaster explained, that after researching this matter, it was clear it was a popular recreational area. He believed a compromise was possible which would retain the restriction, but allow jet boaters to transit in and out of that area while maintaining 50m from other vessels or people. At Cr Bailey's request, he read out a suggested amendment to 3.2.5(c) from Draft Bylaw (version 3).

Messrs Eccles and Anderson considered the suggestion and discussed further. Mr Anderson reiterated that JBNZ was not asking for an uplifting for the whole year, but only from 1 April to the end of September so they did not interfere with swimmers and fishermen. There would still be a bylaw that restricted jet boaters to 5 knots through that period. Mr Eccles noted that the JBNZ submission was for jet boats and not for PWCs (personal water craft – jet skis).

Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Inc (TMI)

Mr Paul Horton thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak to the submission. He explained he was the Environmental Officer for Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre. He commented they had a 700 year uninterrupted connection to the area he administered, which was identified in the submission. His knowledge of the MRUAG came about through the submissions

process. He said it was unfortunate he was not able to comment on all aspects of the Bylaws, but looked forward to future connection with the Council and other users of the Manawatu River, and hoped to have input into future Bylaw changes. Mr Horton said the operations of the Te Ao Turoa Centre were about ecological and community activity impacts on their cultural resources. He extended an invitation to Council and others to talk to members of the Centre about how some of the ecological impacts from higher speed restrictions on that stretch of the Manawatu River, could be managed.

The Chair thanked all submitters for their presentations. He took the opportunity to explain the process that would follow the Submissions Hearing. He clarified the meeting would adjourn and then Cr Bailey and himself would meet in the next 10 days to deliberate on the way forward. The recommendation would go to Council and to all those present at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8.49pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.10pm on 11 June 2010.

PRESENT Crs LR Burnell (Chair) and L Bailey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr E Lloyd (Harbourmaster) and Ms K Booth (Committee Secretary)

Mr Lloyd advised that he had been in discussions with JBNZ. He said a suitable location for a 5-knot sign would be 350m upstream from the SH3 Bridge at Ashhurst. The proposed wording for 3.2.5(c) would impose a 5-knot restriction from the sign to the Bridge over the period 1 October to 31 March in the area where most people swam. Cr Bailey commented on the need to ensure that an information sign was situated near the launching area, was easy to understand, and clearly outlined the Bylaw. The Chair referred to conversations he had had with people from Ashhurst and the concern was about 'rogue' boaties rather than members of JBNZ.

The Harbourmaster distributed a copy of the Draft Bylaw (version 4) which had been amended following the presentations by submitters. He went through the document with Crs Burnell and Bailey, noting sections where amendments had been made, and in particular he referred Members to amendments made to section 3.2 "Speed of Vessels". The Chair and Cr Bailey asked questions of clarification. They requested that the map at Schedule 1 (Bylaw Limits), be labelled with the geographical points that mark the start/end of areas identified in Schedule 2 (Speed Uplifted Areas).

Moved

Bailey/Burnell

That the Hearing Committee recommends to Council that the Draft Manawatu River and Tributaries Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2010, as amended, be adopted, that all submitters be advised of the outcome, and that the Manawatu River and Tributaries Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2010 be uploaded onto the Horizons Regional Council's website once the process was completed.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Confirmed

CHAIRPERSON

HARBOURMASTER