Minutes of the first meeting, eighth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.02am on Tuesday, 14 December 2010.

PRESENT

Crs M Guy (Chairman), JJ Barrow, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, EB Gordon, GM McKellar, MW Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker JP, and JJ White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

At various times during the Meeting:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Scientist-Ecology), Ms C Barton (Senior Consents Planner), Mr C Davey (Environmental Management Officer), Mr R Munneke (Policy and Consents Manager), Mr A Beveridge (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality), Mr C Speedy and Dr P Williams (Wildlife Management Associates), Mr J Howard (Rangitikei Environment Group Limited), and Mr J Beard (member of the public).

APOLOGIES:

An apology was received from Cr Burnell.

SP 10-01 ***Moved*** ***White/McKellar***

that an apology be received from Cr Burnell.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS:

There were no late items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF HORIZONS' FUNDED OLD MAN'S BEARD CONTROL
Report No. 10-201

This item was two-fold:

a. provided background and context on pest plant management within the Region with a particular focus on Old Man's Beard, and

b. presented to the Committee the findings of an external region-wide review of Horizons' funded Old Man's Beard control.

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (GMRP&R), introduced Dr Williams and Mr Speedy, Wildlife Management Associates, authors of "Review of Horizons Regional Council Old Man's Beard *(Clematis vitalba)* Management Strategy", and Ms Maseyk, Senior Scientist-Ecology. The GMRP&R drew Members' attention to the recommendations contained in the item to recommend ongoing funding of the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG), and emphasised the need for greater accountability for any funding received by REG.

Ms Maseyk provided a presentation about the introduction of pest plant species to New Zealand, outlined the importance of pest plant management, spoke about the aggressive nature of Old Man's Beard (OMB), and explained objectives around Containment and Control areas for OMB. Members considered the presentation and asked questions of clarification.

Mr Speedy together with Dr Williams provided a presentation about the establishment of OMB as a major weed, the historic investment in treatment/control, effectiveness of control operations, Horizons' strategy to manage the environmental issues associated with OMB, and the importance of collaboration with interest groups to enable a cost-effective and accountable way to achieve desired outcomes. Mr Speedy spoke about OMB as a well established vine in New Zealand, especially in the Horizons Regional Council Region, which required a clear site-led approach in order to achieve successful management. Members asked questions of clarification.

The Chairman invited Mr Howard, Chairman, REG to speak and drew attention to the two letters from REG which commented on the findings of the Review of Old Man's Beard *(Clematis vitalba)* Management Strategy. Councillors were asked to read the content of the letters at a convenient time. Mr Howard explained the goals and dedication of REG to continue to work positively toward the control of OMB in the Rangitikei district, in conjunction with Horizons Regional Council.

In order to ensure accountability with further funding to REG for OMB management within the Rangitikei District, recommendation (c) was altered.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their time.

SP 10-02 ***Moved*** ***Gordon/Chettleburgh***

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. ***receives*** *the information in Report No. 10-201;*

b. ***acknowledges*** *the independent reviewers' work; and*

c. *directs the Chief Executive to prepare a funding bid for the annual plan process which provides for the following option:*

> ***"****Internalise the current targeted rate on Rangitikei constituents for Old Man's Beard control into Horizons' budgets. This funding (85K) can then be targeted towards prioritised high value sites on private property within the Rangitikei District in-line with Horizons' strategic direction. Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) could then be contracted to undertake the control operations following a sound work plan. Advantages of this approach include a more strategic approach focussed on the protection of high value biodiversity, and a greater accountability for the rate spend. The task of work planning and reporting would be shifted from REG to Horizons' staff.*

CARRIED

SUBMISSIONS MADE BY THE POLICY TEAM SINCE APRIL 2010 AND AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF VARIOUS NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS / NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS
Report No. 10-207

This report informed the Strategy and Policy Committee about submissions that had been made on draft District Plans and associated discussion documents, Ministry for the Environment Discussion Documents and proposed National Environmental Standards and Policy Statements. The report also included a summary table updating the status of various National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards.

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (GMRP&R), introduced Ms Clare Barton, Senior Consents Planner. Ms Barton introduced the report and expanded on details about the Discussion Document produced by the Ministry for the Environment, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and the regulations surrounding Water Use Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes which came into force from November 2010.

Discussion ensued about a process to enable councillor involvement in the preparation of submissions. Mr Munneke, Policy and Consents Manager explained there was not always sufficient time to present a submission to Council due to tight timeframes. There was further discussion about points of interest presented in the paper and Ms Barton clarified Members' questions.

SP 10-03 ***Moved*** ***White/Sheldon***

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. ***receives*** *the information contained in Report No. 10-207;*

b. ***notes*** *that further updates on the status of National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards will be provided on a recurring six monthly basis.*

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Chettleburgh asked for a report outlining any issues associated with the land situated at the end of Albert Street, Palmerston North. He believed there was confusion about whether or not the land was contaminated.

In response to a question from Cr Sheldon, the Chief Executive gave a brief update on the status of the Palmerston North bus terminal upgrade.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CHAIRMAN