



Minutes of the fourth 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 10.06am on Tuesday, 12 April 2011.

PRESENT

Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, M Guy, GM McKellar, MW Plowman, PW Rieger 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	Ms K Booth (from 10am to 12.25pm)
	Mrs J Kennedy (from 1.03pm)

ALSO PRESENT at various times during the Meeting:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Ms A Russell (Manager Environmental Protection), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist), Mr S Bayley (Manager Emergency Management), Dr J Roygard (Manager Research), Mr A Beveridge (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality), Mr Collé (Chief Financial Officer), Mr T Mr R Thompson, and a member of the Press.

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS:

There were no late items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr McKellar indicated a possible conflict of interest during discussions on the Manawatu River Accord. Cr Plowman indicated a possible conflict of interest during discussions on the ~~Manawatu River Accord, and the~~ proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) on Indigenous Biodiversity. It was agreed that the discussion on the NPS item did not need to be held in public excluded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SP 11-18 **Moved** **Chettleburgh/Guy**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

The Chairman requested that the meeting go into public excluded to receive a deputation from Mr Hugh Dalrymple.

SP 11-19 Moved Gordon/Guy

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Strategy & Policy meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX3 Deputation: Mr Hugh Dalrymple – Ohakea Development	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 10.12am and resumed at 10.29am.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE

Report No. 11-54

This report provided Members with an update on the current lessons learnt from the Canterbury earthquake. The Chief Executive provided an overview of the involvement by Horizons' management and staff in response to the Canterbury earthquake emergency.

Mr Bayley (Manager Emergency Management) made a presentation to Members that showed the structure of Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM), the CDEM groups in New Zealand, the role of the Ministry, the structure of the Manawatu-Wanganui CDEM group, and how the CDEM groups work, the hazards faced by the Groups, and what happens during an emergency. He acknowledged that the structure was changed for the Canterbury earthquake and referred Members to the information in the Report. Mr Bayley advised that being declared a national emergency enabled national and international support and help, to be offered and received. He commented that the national declaration was still in place.

Mr Bayley clarified Members' questions about Horizons' help to the Police and other emergency services, and how the Green RIG was used as Police Headquarters to free up the offices they were using at Regional House and enable Horizons' staff to go back to 'business as usual'. He commented on the new service units the Fire Service now had in operation and which had been used very successfully in Christchurch. It was acknowledged that having established relationships amongst groups prior to any disasters enabled faster and smoother responses in an emergency.

SP 11-20 Moved Guy/White

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-54.

CARRIED

The Chairman and Chief Executive expressed their appreciation to Mr Bayley for his work on this emergency on behalf of Council. The Chief Executive elaborated on the work undertaken that was not always obvious to Members in this area of business. He was very proud of the results and successes from the days of the 2004 floods to the present, and the benefits of the relationships that had been built with territorial authorities and other organisations, and thanked Mr Bayley for his leadership in this area. Members wanted their appreciation to Mr Bayley noted in the minutes, and moved accordingly.

SP 11-21 **Moved** **Rieger/White**

that the Committee:

- a. **requests** that the Committee's thanks to Mr Shane Bayley be minuted.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' REMUNERATION 2011-2012

Report No. 11-53

This item presented, for Members' consideration, the recommended levels of remuneration for Councillors for 2011-2012. The Group Manager Corporate and Governance (GMCG) advised that the policy entitled 'Proposed Councillors' Allowances and Reimbursements Policy' had been omitted from the annexes to the Report, and it was distributed to Members at the meeting. He said this was the same Policy that Members had approved post elections, but the Remuneration Authority (RA) required sign off of this Policy and the Remuneration and Expenses policy for the 2011-2012 indicative pool, by 6 May 2011. Amendments were noted to the subclause references in clause 9.

Members fully discussed the issue of the reduction made by RA, post elections, to the mileage claimable by Members, and expressed sympathy for the Ruapehu representative who had the greatest distance to travel to each meeting. Cr Plowman, the Ruapehu representative, thanked them for their concern and advised he had discussed this with his lawyer. His lawyer had explained the RA was allowing for the fact that Members used their vehicles for both council business and for personal use.

Following further discussion on this issue, Members discussed the options of taking the matter to the Minister, and/or through the next Regional Sector Group meeting (in early May), to the Local Government New Zealand President, Lawrence Yule. It was noted this was a matter of urgency, and that since the rationale had been received by the RA for its decision, the price of petrol had increased.

SP 11-22 **Moved** **Rieger/McKellar**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-53; and
- b. **approves** the Members' Remuneration and Expenses policy for 2011-12 at Annex A;
- c. **approves** the Proposed Councillors' Allowances and Reimbursements Policy;

- d. **seeks** a deputation to the Minister/Local Government New Zealand responsible for the Remuneration Authority to advance a case for more equitable recompense of travelling costs for councillors currently disadvantaged.

CARRIED

HORIZONS SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

Report No. 11-55

This item tabled Horizons' submission on the proposed National Policy Statement on indigenous Biodiversity as drafted by staff. The Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory (GMRPR) and Ms Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist) spoke to the report.

The GMRPR outlined the extensive work that had been undertaken in preparing the submission and took Members through the process as noted in the report. He asked Council to consider the submission and determine what it wanted to submit.

Members fully discussed the draft submission. Cr Plowman was opposed to Horizons making the submission and amongst other issues, referred to sections 31 and 33 of the Resource Management Act where he said TAs had not devolved their function for biodiversity. Crs Chettleburgh, White, Cox, Barrow, Sheldon, McKellar and Rieger asked questions, made comments, and noted their issues. Questions were clarified by the GMRPR, the Chief Executive and Ms Maseyk.

Cr Plowman said he would repeat the points he had already made, and although the Chairman asked him to stop speaking as it was repetition, he would not. The Chair therefore asked Cr Plowman to withdraw from the meeting for five minutes.

Cr Plowman left the meeting at 12.05pm and returned at 12.10pm.

The Chair provided an opportunity for all Members to comment on the draft submission. Amendments were made to the recommendation. Cr White, in her right of reply, said a lot of thought had gone into the submission.

SP 11-23

Moved

White/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-55; and
- b. **approves** Horizons' submission to the Ministry of the Environment on the proposed National Policy Statement on indigenous Biodiversity subject to amendments listed below:
- *an amendment to the position of Territorial Authorities;*
 - *subject to further amendment by the deletion of submission point 78*
 - *submission point 1 – change 'some' to 'rare'*
 - *notes that the 'economic social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities depends on, amongst other things, making reasonable use of land' and this is true for the Horizons' region.*

Against: Crs Plowman and McKellar

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm
The meeting resumed at 1.03pm*

MANAWATU RIVER ACCORD: VERBAL UPDATE FROM MR RICHARD THOMPSON

The Chief Executive (CE) introduced Mr Richard Thompson who was invited to address Members on the process undertaken to compile an action plan for delivery and objectives of the Accord, including agreement around timeframes for achieving and implementing those targets. The draft action plan, including a public release of the detail, would be launched at the Manawatu River Leaders' Forum Group meeting on Friday, 15 April 2011. Mr Thompson clarified Members' questions about input from sub-groups, and the future monitoring role of the Forum group and workshop groups. Members provided their comments and concern was expressed about the overall cost to implement the proposed action plan. Members asked that updates on progress toward achieving the goals of the action plan be provided on a regular basis. The Chairman thanked Mr Thompson for his report.

SP 11-24

Moved

McKellar/White

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the verbal report on the Manawatu River Accord from Mr Thompson.

CARRIED

FUNDING OF TARARUA FENCING CAMPAIGN

Report No. 11-58

This report updated Members on the current status of the Tararua Fencing Campaign and made recommendations on its funding.

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) spoke to the report and expanded on the proposed funding options. Members provided their views and asked questions to ensure clarity around the identified funding options. Mr Alistair Beveridge, (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality) explained the change in circumstances for the 11 farmers who had cancelled out of Campaign.

Several Members believed that Council could learn from the experience and expressed their concerns about the poor delivery of the Campaign.

SP 11-25

Moved

Cox/Sheldon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-58; and
- b. **endorses** the proposed funding strategy to partially bridge the funding shortfall for the Tararua Fencing Campaign.

CARRIED

MEMBERS QUESTIONS

The Chairman referred to the Notices of Motion, presented to the Chief Executive by Cr McKellar. He said it was a governance matter and should have been forwarded to himself as Chairman. The Chairman asked Members to give some thought to forming a 'buddy' system to use as a way of educating and informing new Councillors.

The Chairman then commented on the Notices of Motion from Cr McKellar and said that everything possible was currently being undertaken to manage Council matters as efficiently as possible. Members provided their comments on the meeting schedule and length of meetings.

The Chairman referred to a document distributed by Cr Plowman at an earlier Council meeting. He said a verbal determination had already been provided to him by Mr Maassen. The matter would was also form part of the One Plan negotiations Appeal process.

Cr White requested a copy of the final report on the Land and Water Forum for all interested Councillors.

SP 11-26 Moved

Chettleburgh/Guy

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Strategy & Policy meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing of this resolution is as follows:

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PX1 Financial Delegations <i>Report No. 11-52</i>	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX2 Chief Executive Performance Review	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to protect the privacy of natural persons.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 2.44pm, Tuesday 12 April, 2011, and resumed at 10.05am, Wednesday, 13 April 2011.

The meeting closed at 10.06am, Wednesday 13 April 2011.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN