



Minutes of public meetings of the Strategy and Policy Committee to hear submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2011-2012 held at The Peaks Motor Inn, Ohakune on **Monday**, 23 May 2011 from 9.30am to 11.15am, at Committee Room 2, Wanganui District Council offices, Wanganui on Monday 23 May 2011 from 1.30pm to 5.15pm, and at Horizons Regional Council offices, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North on **Tuesday**, 24 May 2011 from 2.55pm to 3.34pm, on **Wednesday**, 25 May 2011, from 9.05am to 5.20pm, and on **Thursday**, 26 May 2011 from 8.50am to 5.45pm.

PRESENT:

23 May 2011 Ohakune	Crs EB Gordon (Chair), J Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, MC Guy, GM McKellar, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon and JJ White.
Wanganui	Crs EB Gordon (Chair), J Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, MC Guy, GM McKellar, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker and JJ White.
24 May 2011 Palmerston Nth	Crs EB Gordon (Chair), J Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, MC Guy, GM McKellar, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker and JJ White.
25 May 2011 Palmerston Nth	Crs EB Gordon (Chair), J Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, MC Guy, GM McKellar, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker and JJ White.
26 May 2011 Palmerston Nth	Crs EB Gordon (Chair), J Barrow, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, MC Guy, GM McKellar, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker (from 9.00am) and JJ White.

Monday, 23 May 2011 (Ohakune and Wanganui)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Group Manager Corporate & Governance
Committee Secretary

Mr M J McCartney
Mr C Grant
Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager, at Wanganui), and two members of the public at Ohakune.

Tuesday, 24 May 2011 (Palmerston North) (from 2.55pm to 3.34pm, following Council meeting)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT (at various times throughout the Submissions Hearings):

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), and Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner).

Wednesday, 25 May 2011 (Palmerston North)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive	Mr M J McCartney
Group Manager Corporate & Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy (to 12.40pm) Ms K Booth (from 1.20pm to 5.20pm)

ALSO PRESENT (at various times throughout the Submissions Hearings):

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mr T Colle (Chief Financial Officer), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), and Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager).

Thursday, 26 May 2011 (Palmerston North)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive	Mr M J McCartney
Group Manager Corporate & Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Mrs J A Kennedy (to 3.30pm) Ms K Booth (from 3.45pm to 5.45pm)

ALSO PRESENT (at various times throughout the Submissions Hearings):

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr T Colle (Chief Financial Officer), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mrs M Sciascia, Mrs D Punnett, Mrs S Bryne, Ms S deJonge (Customer Service Officers), Mr D Meads, and students from Massey University.

Monday, 23 May 2011 – Ohakune and Wanganui

APOLOGIES

The Chair advised that Cr Walker had given his apology for the Submissions Hearings at Ohakune.

DCP 11-01 *Moved*

Plowman/Sheldon

that an apology be received from Cr Walker.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

Copies of Late Submissions, received after the closing date and after the Agenda was printed, were distributed to the Members. The Chairman confirmed these could be received, and advised they were additional to the Late Submissions included in the Agenda.

DCP 11-02 *Moved*

White/Barrow

that copies of Late Submissions be received.

CARRIED

FORMAT FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 11-87

This report set out a timetable to hear oral submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2011-12. Sixty-eight (68) requests for oral submissions were received. Extra requests to speak had been received after the Agenda had been printed.

The Chairman clarified that all submissions were valid, regardless of the age of the submitter, and that a person did not have to be a ratepayer to make a submission. While the usual process for hearing submissions was that submitters had five minutes to speak, and ten minutes for Members to ask questions, the Chair said he was relaxed about the length of time a submitter spoke for, although he would be closing off each submission after 15 minutes.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to Council on behalf of their submission.

Anne-Marie Westcott (Team Leader Environment) spoke in support of the submission from **Ruapehu District Council** (RDC). She thanked Horizons for all the work it had done with Ruapehu District Council (RDC) in the Ruapehu district. She highlighted points in the submission in support of current level funding for Tb control, the expansion of the possum control budget, continuation of the support and advice from Horizons around flood mapping, and continuation of the rook control programme. RDC supported continuation of the Kia Wharite programme and did not support reduction in funding for biodiversity. Ms Westcott explained the request for two rain gauges and calibration equipment above the township of Ohura. She also clarified questions around the continuation of the rock wall upstream of the Matapuna Bridge. Members asked further questions in regard to the points made.

Roger Beck, Chairman of the **Manawatu-Wanganui TFree Committee** explained the purpose of the TFree Committee, and spoke about the success in the reduction of bovine Tb in the area. He introduced Bruce Dornbusch and Brian McNeill who were also speaking to the submission. Mr Beck expressed disappointment that each year they had to make a submission for continuation of funding, and they asked that Horizons fund the requested AHB contribution of \$750,000. Mr Dornbusch explained they needed to secure funding before they could plan the programme for the following year. He added that in two years there would be a review of how the Animal Health Board (AHB) would be funded, when Horizons could consider whether regional funding was part of the future. In response to questions, Mr Beck said the AHB would spend the full amount of funding for this financial year, and two programmes were waiting for the right weather before proceeding. He noted that jobs were paid on completion. He also believed there was an urban benefit to the programmes, as well as rural benefit. Members asked further questions of clarification including planning by AHB for funding beyond 2012.

Winston Oliver highlighted the concern expressed in his submission to the rapid increase of plant pests in his area along the roadsides, the river, and in fenced off/'retired' land, in particular blackberry and Common barberry, and asked who was responsible for control of these areas. He was concerned that Darwins barberry was the priority, not Common barberry. He said the plant pests provided a seed source for birds, which then spread the plant pests onto his farmland. Mr Oliver supported Horizons continuing to fully fund the AHB Tb control programme and he mentioned the problem of possums coming onto his farm from Department of Conservation land. Mr Oliver also said he did not support funding for the Green RIG. He responded to Members' questions about the plant pest issues.

Submissions from Tawata Whanau Trust and Hinengakau Development Trust (HDT) were heard together, at their request. Gary Taiaroa (Chairperson) spoke for the Tawata Whanau Trust, and Steven Towler (Manager) and Graeme Bell (Trustee for HDT; Deputy chair for Whanganui River Maori Trust Board) spoke in support of the submissions from the Hinengakau Development Trust. Mr Taiaroa spoke of the desire to hear the sound of the kokako once again in the culturally significant area, and of the Trust's concern that loss of funding would impact on the work currently underway. He and Mr Towler referred to the successful work opportunities created for their young people through the projects, the possum control that was underway, and referred to the opportunities for Horizons to work with iwi. They noted the link between the Tawata Sanctuary and Kia Wharite and the spread of birdlife between both areas. Mr Towler mentioned HDT's interest with the environment and the economy, noted there was no industry in the area, and suggested ways to bring people and income into the area through education of future generations, tourism, development of cycle ways etc. Mr Bell spoke about the history of the area and keenness to protect biodiversity. He also referred to the Memorandum of Understanding that had been developed with Horizons. Members asked questions of clarification about matters raised.

The meeting adjourned at Ohakune at 11.07am.

The meeting resumed in Wanganui at 1.30pm.

Diana Loader spoke to her submission and stressed the importance of continuing possum control. She spoke of her success, with help from Horizons, enabling her neighbours to kill possums over the last 18 years, and reducing Tb in the area. However she was concerned as there was still a notifiable Tb area at the top of her road. She said she was passionate about possum control which would result in a successful tree planting programme, and save native birds. She encouraged Horizons to fully fund the Animal Health Board to continue the present level of possum control.

An apology was received from **Deirdra McMenamin** and Members considered her written submission.

Allan Anderson spoke in support of continuation of the Green RIG, which he believed was a valuable environmental education resource and investment for the future. He said in his experience, that when an initiative was 'parked up', sometimes it did not continue, and suggested a targeted rate would be acceptable. He answered questions of clarification.

Dave Feikert congratulated Horizons on its Whanganui River risk assessment and expressed concern that it was not continuing with the establishment of by-laws and a Harbourmaster as regulator. He highlighted that water activities were increasing on the River, and that assistance could be received from community groups and river user groups with river safety, however it was important to have a regulatory authority. Mr Feikert highlighted his concern at Horizons' suggestion to 'park up' the Green RIG which he saw as an important environmental educator; he also noted his concern at the proposed self regulation of meat inspection. He answered questions relating to his submission.

Eight students from **Wanganui Intermediate School** spoke to their submission in support of the Green RIG. They found the Green RIG made learning fun, enjoyable and relevant, and the messages were taken back to the classroom where activities were environment-linked. The students explained their school had a strong environmental focus using solar power, promoting recycling, and planting gardens. They believed it was important for the next generation to learn about biodiversity. Members asked the students about messages they had taken from the Green RIG. The Chair congratulated the students on their excellent oral submissions.

Mayor Annette Main and Chief Executive **Kevin Ross** spoke to the submission of **Wanganui District Council** (WDC). Mayor Main highlighted WDC's disappointment that water safety had not been included in the Draft Annual Plan and asked to work with Horizons on a lower cost safety management regime. She mentioned the good working relationship between the two councils and looked forward to its continuance around public transport, discussions on Stage 2 of the Lower Whanganui River Flood Protection Scheme and other areas. She said WDC also looked forward to further discussions on the proposed shared pathway to Upokongaro. Mayor Main referred to the submission from the students of Wanganui Intermediate School about the Green RIG and noted general support by WDC for its retention. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to water safety management on the Whanganui River, flood modelling data, feedback from Wanganui residents about flood protection work carried out to date, and the proposed shared pathway to Upokongaro.

Rusty Kane spoke to his submission and updated Members on discussions with other regional councils since his recent deputation to Horizons on water quality. He encouraged the use by farmers of natural fertilisers in and near the riparian strip to improve soil quality, as mentioned in his submission. He also touched on the topic of carbon credits. Members asked about the availability of natural fertilisers, and whether there was a research paper published on their use.

Nic Peet (Area Manager) spoke to the submission of the **Department of Conservation** (DOC). He highlighted the request for Horizons to reconsider a proposed reduction in funding for Kia Wharite and asked that the funding be maintained for the five year term, as initially planned. He provided a background to the project, highlighted the importance that DOC attached to the project, and commented positively on the shared services delivery of the project. He referred to DOC and Horizons working as good neighbours, and spoke of DOC's concern about the effects of reduced funding. In response to questions, he said that when the project started, there was concern amongst the community and this had now dissipated.

Josephine Rangooni thanked Horizons for providing staff expertise to the walkway project. She commented on the cooperation and collaboration of Horizons and other groups to this project. She highlighted that some people in Bulls were not getting access to medical treatment as they had no money for petrol, and asked Horizons to work collaboratively with St Johns and identify problem areas. She clarified Members' questions about the points made in her submission.

Alan Taylor, Chair of the **Wanganui Rural Community Board (WRCB)**, spoke to the submission. He drew Members' attention to the three points made in the submission and asked Horizons to continue its alignments with the Animal Health Board. He commented that the WRCB had developed a ten year plan. He responded to Members' questions about the Board's support for parking up the Green RIG for the 2011-12 year.

The meeting adjourned at 3.42pm.

The meeting resumed at 4.00pm.

Tony Grant-Fargie spoke to the submission from the **Combined Grey Power Associations**. He highlighted their concern that the Green RIG was taking up ratepayer money and was not a core function of Horizons. He said that each year they asked Horizons not to put up rates in excess of the CPI as their members were on fixed incomes. He explained how Grey Power members were polled for their responses to issues, and clarified questions in regard to the CPI.

Lisa Talbot highlighted her request for Horizons to keep the Green RIG in active use, and challenged the notion that education was not one of the core functions of the council. She spoke about the learning opportunities for students, she had experienced, by taking them through the Green RIG, and in particular the stream table. She acknowledged the environmental opportunities that Horizons provided, eg Enviroschools. She clarified Members' questions around environmental education, and aspects of the Green RIG that encouraged students' interest in their environment.

Tim Matthews distributed a summary of his oral submission to Members. This included a request for good financial management, an assumption of the operating costs of the Green RIG with a request for it to be either mothballed or sold, and support for Horizons to fully fund the Animal Health Board (AHB) contribution of \$750,000 giving consideration to who benefitted and how they should pay. He did not believe the cost of Horizons' vector control programme could match the value of the AHB programme. He challenged Horizons to meet the rate of inflation. Members asked questions about his thoughts on the proposed rates rise, payment of the AHB Tb vector levy (from per hectare rate to targeted rate), and his calculations for the cost of the Green RIG.

Keith Beautrais had supported the Wanganui Intermediate School students' oral submissions earlier in the day, and now spoke to his own submission. He passed on the students' thanks to Members for hearing their submissions. He highlighted the comments on possum control in his submission. He endorsed the submission from DOC which supported funding for Kia Wharite. He appreciated the assistance from Horizons to fence off a riparian strip and asked Horizons to encourage landowners further down the Mowhanau Stream catchment to cooperate. He also highlighted his comments on the Green RIG and endorsed its continuation, adding that he scheduled the RIG to visit the school every two years. He responded to Members' questions about his comments on the Green RIG.

The submission of **Sustainable Whanganui Trust** was represented by **Lynette Pearson**. She highlighted the points in the submission about retention of the Green RIG, and continuation of funding for the Kia Wharite project, adding that it provided local employment, supported local schools, and provided goat control. She commended Council for its vision around collective community projects. She clarified Members' questions about the Trust membership and the activities it was involved in.

The meeting adjourned at 5.20pm in Wanganui.

The meeting resumed at 2.55pm in Palmerston North on Tuesday, 24 May to consider written submissions.

Tuesday, 24 May 2011 – from 2.55pm to 3.34pm

At the conclusion of the Council meeting the Chairman took the opportunity to consider a number of written submissions and noted a copy of a Late Submission, received after the closing date.

DCP 11-03 Moved

White/Sheldon

*that the Late Submission from Mr Ross Wilson be **received**.*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3.34pm.

The meeting resumed at 9.05am in Palmerston North on Wednesday, 25 May 2011.

Wednesday, 25 May 2011 – Palmerston North

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies from Members.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

The Chairman advised he had received apologies from Hamish Lowe and John Catley. He then invited the first submitter to speak to Council on behalf of his submission.

Dr Jim Edwards spoke to his submission and reinforced the need to continue full funding for the control of bovine tuberculosis. He said past history suggested that to reduce funding prematurely would result in the re-emergence of the disease in herds and in the vector animals that spread the disease. He outlined the possible threat of Tb to humans through contaminated milk products, and spoke of the benefits to the export trade by continuing funding to eradicate Tb. Members asked Dr Edwards questions about possible trade barriers if Tb was not kept under control, and about other points made in his submission.

Barry Stevenson thanked Members for providing an opportunity for him to speak to his submission. He highlighted his concern that Horizons was not proposing to fully fund the Animal Health Board programme. He highlighted the changing nature of the disease, and the ongoing effects it could have to both animals and humans. He responded to Members' questions about the effects of Tb on animals and humans.

Lew Rohloff, President, Horowhenua Grey Power Association Incorporated addressed his submission and said he intended to seek an opportunity to work with representatives from Horizons, Grey Power organisations in the Region, and community organisations to address the affordability of rates to the community, before the commencement of work on the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan. He believed a more responsible and co-operative approach to moderating the impact of regional rates, particularly on low income families was required. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised in his submission.

Emmanuel Yiannoutsos introduced himself to Members and said he was the designer of the Green RIG. He was in support of retaining the Green RIG and believed it was a powerful and unique mobile education tool for the community. He proposed the introduction of new messages

whereby the Green RIG could be tailored to a theme of sustainable city life for sensible environmental living. He said consideration could be given to establishing a joint venture with the Palmerston North City Council to introduce the new messages. He believed there were many other possibilities available for utilising the Green RIG to raise awareness and maintain a healthy environment for the community. He responded to Members' questions about the proposal, ideas on future funding possibilities for operating costs of the Green RIG, and possible sponsorship.

Frederik de Jager passed on an apology from **Mr B Judd** who was unable to attend the Submissions Hearing. He said Mr Judd's suggestion for the future of the Green RIG was for Council to look at sponsorship for an environmental group to operate it. Mr de Jager spoke about the proposed programme to eradicate wattle weed from Waitarere Beach. He said the local ratepayers should not be faced with a rate increase to cover the cost to eradicate the wattle weed, which he believed was a problem created many years ago by the Crown. Members asked questions of clarification about the established wattle weed in the neighbouring forest.

Philippa Barriball representing **Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited** expanded on points in the submission about Fonterra's vision, water quality and quantity activity, emergency management activity, and in particular drew attention to Fonterra's extensive involvement with assistance after the Christchurch earthquake. She said Fonterra was also a proud sponsor of the Telethon held on Sunday 22 May to raise funds for assistance in Christchurch. In regard to the Animal Health Board Tb levy, she believed it was critical to the economy of the country that funding for Tb continued. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised and the Chair thanked her for the enlightening update on Fonterra's involvement with assistance after the Christchurch earthquake.

The meeting adjourned at 11.10am.

The meeting resumed at 11.25am.

Susette and David Playford – Mrs Playford spoke about the proposed weed control and enhancement project for Waitarere Beach. She said coastal wattle was a real problem but believed until it was controlled within the neighbouring forest block, the regular spraying that was undertaken would only limit the spread, rather than eliminate. Her main concern however was the proposed dune management programme which she believed would ultimately expose the dunes to erosion. She was therefore opposed to any significant redesign of the sand dune foliage but did support the ongoing management of coastal wattle by way of regular spraying, and she supported the restoration work proposed for the Wairarawa Stream. Members asked questions of clarification about her views on the proposed public walkway, and the control of pest plant species.

Susan Hanlon congratulated Council for a well written report on the Restoration Plan for Waitarere sand dunes and Wairarawa Stream. She said it would be great if everything in the report could be implemented but believed that was not possible. She expanded on her areas of concern including the thick covering of acacia spreading from the neighbouring forest, the rabbit infestation, the positioning of the proposed pathway, the proposed increased cost to ratepayers, and was concerned with the Pohutukawa tree being referred to as an indigenous weed. She was supportive of the cycle and walkway proposal along the Wairarawa Stream.

Murray Hanlon congratulated Council and Wildlands for producing an extensive report. He expanded on areas of concern about who would manage the project, the spread of weeds from the neighbouring forest area, the rabbit infestation, and was concerned that the Pohutukawa tree was listed as an indigenous weed. He opposed the walkway proposal from the eastern boundary of the dunes along the front of houses, and strongly opposed what he believed was an unfair increase in the spread of rates to cover the cost of the proposal. He did support the proposed suggestions for the Wairarawa Stream. Despite making some negative comments

about the proposal, he indicated a willingness to be part of the local collective to assist if the project went ahead.

Mr and Mrs Hanlon clarified Members' questions. The Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory clarified to Members and Mr and Mrs Hanlon the reference made in the report to the Pohutukawa tree as an indigenous weed.

John Harrison spoke to his submission and detailed his objection to the track proposed at Waitarere Beach, and in particular to the additional cost that ratepayers would be asked to provide for the overall restoration plan for Waitarere sand dunes and Wairarawa Stream. He believed the biosecurity portion of rates should be allocated to cover the proposed enhancement work and that all ratepayers should share the cost, rather than just the beach community. Questions of clarification were asked on the rates Mr Harrison paid to both Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council.

Federated Farmers was represented by **Richard Murfitt, Tim Matthews, Andrew Hoggard, and Tessa Mills**. Mr Murfitt said they appreciated their allocation of speaking time and would speak on different topics. He said they had elected to cover three key points of the submission: the regional share contribution for the Animal Health Board levy, the increase in water monitoring and research charges, and raised the issue of contiguous rating for properties being used as a single entity. Ms Mills questioned the proposed 6% rate increase, and reiterated their request from last year to adopt a contiguous property rates remission policy. Mr Matthews spoke in support of ongoing financial support for the Animal Health Board Tb levy, and Mr Hoggard expanded on their concerns at the increase in charges on the water quality monitoring and research. Questions to points raised were clarified by the Strategic Financial Planner, the Chief Executive and the Chairman. The Chief Executive suggested that it would be useful to schedule a workshop with members from Federated Farmers and Horizons staff to discuss some of the funding policy issues raised prior to the Long Term Plan process.

The meeting adjourned at 12.40pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.20pm.

An apology was received from **Diane Brown** and Members considered her written submission.

Michael McCartney (Chief Executive) spoke to the **Horizons' Staff Submission**. He highlighted the suggestion to offset the net fall in interest income to produce a nil effect on rates. He also commented on the suggestion to increase the Members' Resource Management Act training budget, the changes to Scheme budgets, updated on LAPP insurance discussions, and the fleet review that was currently underway. Members asked questions of clarification.

Andrew Day spoke to his submission and highlighted his comments about the Green RIG. He considered it a retrograde step to 'mothball' it, and wondered how that fitted with any ongoing obligations to sponsors. He said it was a great opportunity for Horizons to communicate with a large part of the Region, the RIG provided hands-on education, and was an important tool for environmental education. He clarified Members' questions in regard to his comments about the Green RIG.

Clare Wishart spoke to her submission, opposing the poisoning of rooks. She said she initially thought rooks were a huge pest, but after receiving letters of support from farmers, she changed her mind. She spoke against the use of DRC 1339, commented on its toxic nature, and the potential for the accidental poisoning of non target birds (eg kiwi) and other species. Ms Wishart suggested the use of Diaza Con birth control for rooks, to be distributed by ground bait lines, which would be humane and provide long term solutions. She also mentioned a 'Crow' CD which was apparently effective in dispersing rooks. Members asked questions about the CD

and its potential use, the suggested use of birth control and its dispersal, and when and where to use birth control bait lines.

Ian Clark spoke to the submission of **Figjam Trust**. He said the Trust opposed the rating levy for the proposed Waitarere Beach Community Weed Control and Enhancement Project and said there was a lack of detail in the proposal. He suggested the forestry company be told to eradicate coastal wattle on its land. Mr Clark believed that all properties in Waitarere should be treated the same, as all the owners enjoyed the beach, the walking tracks and dunes. He added that the cost of maintenance was beneficial to the whole region, and should be spread over the region, not just Waitarere Beach. He mentioned a project to replace marram grass with spinifex on the dunes, and asked why this had not progressed. He clarified Members' questions.

The submission of **St John Central Region** was represented by Gael McKechnie and Brian Crothers. Mr Crothers spoke about the success of the Health Shuttles and said St John was seeking funding to complement the services in Wanganui, Marton and Waimarino. He spoke about the success of existing services in other parts of the region enabling patients to keep their medical appointments. Ms McKechnie explained funding would enable the services to continue as donations did not cover all the costs. Members asked questions around cost per patient per trip in other areas, payments received from the District Health Boards and for which patients, and what other groups provided transport for medical appointments.

Paul Horton and **Dr Jonathan Procter** spoke to the submission of **Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated**. They appreciated the connection between Horizons and iwi, and highlighted the points made in their submission. They were concerned about the proposed cessation of the Green RIG service, and commented that its key themes were highly significant to TMI. They saw the Green RIG as a useful tool for public education for the community on the Manawatu River Accord Action Plan (MRAAP). They believed the MRAAP was a great step forward. They were also concerned over the proposed reduction in funding for environmental monitoring and biodiversity activities carried out by Horizons. They asked that Horizons continued to be an effective environmental manager. They saw value in the research and asked why it had been reduced so much. Members asked for their suggestions on how to continue funding the Green RIG, and asked for clarification on their comments around the proposed cut in funding for environmental activities.

The meeting adjourned at 3.15pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.32pm.

Cr Ross Linklater and **Andrew Boyle** (Community Planning) spoke to the submission of **Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)**. They appreciated the working relationship between the two councils and looked forward to it continuing in the future. They elaborated on the points made in their submission about the Lower Manawatu Scheme, and their concern around adequate flood protection for the Crown Research Institute campus across the Manawatu River. The intention was to attract scientists, and investment money, to the region and if the area flooded it would be a backward step. They fully supported any efforts Horizons wished to make to protect areas. They then highlighted their comments on the Ashhurst Stream Scheme. PNCC was currently consulting on areas of development for residential growth in Ashhurst, and some areas were not being developed due to concerns around flooding. Members asked questions around PNCC's policies on urban growth, the support for the retention of the Green RIG, PNCC's viewpoint on protection of Class I soils, and the intention for the land as a result of the possible boundary change with Manawatu District Council.

Elaine Reilly (Chief Executive) and **Mark Maxwell** (Economic Development Manager) spoke to the submission of **Vision Manawatu**. They highlighted the issue of young people getting employment and elaborated on their business development project - Project Possum. They said the area of economic development had shifted to sustainable work. The labour was there, the

markets were there and they sought a one-off funding payment from Horizons of \$200,000 to get the project up and running. They also sought retention of funding for the Green RIG. Ms Reilly and Mr Maxwell clarified Members' questions in regard to a return on investment, the expectation of reduced costs in the pest control budget through Project Possum, and the value in working collaboratively with Horizons and other agencies.

Two students from **Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School** spoke in support of the 22 submissions from students at the school. They were accompanied by Kaye Webber, from the school. The students supported the retention of the Green RIG and explained the resources on the RIG could not be duplicated in the classroom, they were high-tech and motivating, they covered all areas of environmental education and provided a springboard to learning. Even those students who were not interested in learning, enjoyed the Green RIG. They responded to Members' questions about the areas in the RIG of most interest to them, personally. Ms Webber clarified the Green RIG had visited the school a year ago. The Chairman thanked them for their very good presentation.

Peter Everton spoke to his submission. He did not support further rating through the proposed Waitarere Beach Community Weed Control and Enhancement project, and questioned the areas highlighted on the plan. He believed it was a Waitarere township issue. He reiterated he would continue to control weeds on his property. He was also concerned about telephone calls being taped without the caller being aware. Members asked about the rates he currently paid on his property from both Horizons and Horowhenua District Council.

Brent Barrett (Chair of the Trust) spoke in support of the submission from **Palmerston North City Environmental Trust**. He gave a brief background to the Trust, details of which were covered further in the submission. He said the submission was the collective view of the Trust. He referred to the Draft Annual Plan document, appreciated having it available on the website, although he said he found it challenging to work through the tabular information. He looked forward to specifics about the Manawatu River Accord funding, and he elaborated on the areas in the submission where the Trust 'supported in principle', 'supported', 'opposed', and 'queried'. He referred to the administration work the Trust undertook for PNCC and suggested the Trust partner with Horizons around that function. He elaborated on the Trust's opposition to 'moth-balling' the Green RIG, a reduction in support for the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, and the proposed reduction of the Living Heritage investment. He clarified Members' questions on his comments around failure to provide public transport (bus and train) to meet the demand, and his suggestion to administer the community grants.

Cr Rieger left the meeting at 4.53pm.

As there were no more submitters to be heard that day, the Council continued to consider the content of the Written Submissions. The Chairman asked Craig Grant (Group Manager Corporate and Governance) to respond to Mr Everton's comments about taping of phone calls. Mr Grant fully explained the background to the comment, and the steps taken to ensure the actions were legally sound. Members provided their own viewpoints about the matter.

The meeting adjourned at 5.20pm on Wednesday, 25 May 2011.

The meeting resumed at 8.50am on Thursday, 26 May 2011.

Thursday, 26 May 2011

APOLOGIES

An apology was noted from Cr Walker for lateness.

DCP 11-04 *Moved*

White/Chettleburgh

that an apology be received from Cr Cox.

CARRIED

The Chairman invited the first submitter to speak to Council on behalf of his submission.

Richard Green spoke to his submission. highlighted his concerns about the proposed Manawatu Drainage Scheme Burkes Pump Proposal and expanded on some key points as to how the pump would affect the drainage of his property. He was opposed to the current proposal which he believed was unaffordable and did not provide any further benefit to his farming operation, but did support the option of a smaller pumping scheme. Mr Green responded to Members' questions about rating categories and the provision of personal pumps as a secondary pumping option.

Chris Teo-Sherrell said he would speak to the public bus service part of his submission and referred to a link he had distributed to Members about a radio interview in regard to the decline of conventional supplies of oil. He said the bus service needed to be made more attractive to encourage more people to use the buses rather than their own motor vehicles. He suggested that the bus routes needed to be made more direct, with timetable information displayed at all bus shelters. Rather than raise bus fares he believed a better option would be to raise the transport portion contained in the rates. Members asked questions of clarification about the bus service and other points raised in his submission.

George and Christina Paton. Mrs Paton provided copies of extra notes to their submission. She began by commending the excellent communication generated by Cr Sheldon through her column in the media. She believed there was a lack of communication offered by Council for consultation with the community on the Draft Annual Plan. She expanded on other points in her submission about the Manawatu River Accord and the timelines for the Action Plan, pre-hearings for resource consent applications, the Foxton River Loop, and spoke about areas in Horowhenua at high risk of liquefaction. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Richard Green, Peter Wells, and Paul Argyle represented landowners from a joint submission about the suggested rating categories for the Manawatu Drainage Scheme Burkes Pump proposal. Mr Green expanded on landowners' views that landowners in the P4 and indirect benefit category areas would receive no economic benefit from the proposed pump stations. They supported contributor rating and therefore submitted that the P4 and indirect category be removed and be spread over the contributor rating category. In answer to a question Mr Green replied that if modifications were made to the P4 and indirect category areas, landowners would need to know the cost involved before committing to any new proposals. Mr Green, Mr Well, and Mr Argyle responded to further Members' questions.

Peter Wells spoke to his personal submission. He was opposed to the proposed 7.5 cubic metre pump as he believed his land would receive no economic benefit from it, however he did support a 5 cubic metre pump option. He believed that the P4 rating category should be removed and spread over all rating categories and that the indirect rating category be removed and spread over the contributor rating category. Members asked questions of clarification.

Neil Perfect addressed his submission and did not believe the proposed establishment of an annual rate for the control of coastal wattle at Waitarere Beach would work unless there was full support from the owners of the adjoining forest. He said the benefits of the beach were shared by a wider population than just those landowners who lived on the beachfront. He supported an initiative whereby volunteer work with support from Horizons could be undertaken. Questions of clarification were asked about the spread of coastal wattle from the adjoining forest land.

Clyde Rowland elaborated on his submission about the proposed Burkes Drain Pumping Options. Mr Rowland spoke against the proposal and said he did not see it as a viable option for the ratepayers of the area. It was explained to Mr Rowland that as a result of submissions received it was proposed to revisit, and possibly modify the rating categories. Members asked questions of clarification.

Kathleen Murphy represented cyclists in the Rangitikei who formed a group in the district called 'Cycle Marton'. The group would like to see more funding available for promotion through the functions of the Horizons' Road Safe Central Group around: signage to alert motorists of cyclist on the roads; education for cyclists and motorists; collaboration with local groups to assist with and energise projects. Questions were asked about the nature of the signage, and the possibility of cyclists contributing to costs as users of the road.

The meeting adjourned at 10.50am.

The meeting resumed at 11.10am.

Waitarere Beach Progresssive & Ratepayers Association was represented by Mr Herlihy. Mr Herlihy said at the time of the submission the Association had not had time to engage with the community about the proposal. Since that time the proposal was discussed with the community at a meeting held on 22 May 2011. The proposal was mainly supported but with modications required to the amount rated for beachfront ratepayers. It was felt that the increased amount for beachfront residents was not justified. Mr Herlihy answered questions of clarification about objectives contained in the proposal.

Peter Shaughnessy, Trust Chair of the **Horowhenua Community Health Shuttle** asked for consideration to be given for an increase in the subsidy for the continued running of the health shuttle service. He expanded on the activities, funding split, and the increased number of passengers using the shuttle service. Mr Shaughnessy clarified questions about the funding split from other organisations, and the growing passenger numbers.

Hopkins Farming Group - representatives from this group urged Council to ensure that the proposed Burkes Drain pumping option went ahead as soon as practical. They referred to the benefits to be gained by the community through any action taken to minimise the risk of farming in the area. Members asked questions of clarification.

Potangotango Foundation, Phil Taueki, Chief Executive introduced himself to Members and identified his historical and cultural connection to the mountain, river and sea. He referred to his submission and said his main point was that he believed there was a lack of consultation with tangata whenua in the past around Horizons' plans and strategies, in particular the One Plan. He expanded on various issues the Foundation was concerned about in regard to Lake Horowhenua: stormwater entering the Lake; overflows from the wastewater system entering the Lake; renewal of the lease on land for the sewage treatment plant; failure by Horizons Regional Council to adequately protect Lake Horowhenua; and failure to adequately consult with the owners of the Lake. The Chairman thanked Mr Taueki for his submission.

Trevor Donaldson spoke to his submission. He did not support the Animal Health Board Levy on land over 4 ha. He said the possums on his property were out of control and he was responsible for trapping and controlling the possums at his own cost. If the Council supported

the levy then he believed it should be a uniform rate to all ratepayers. Mr Donaldson did not support the Burkes Drain pumping options. He said the cost to the ratepayer was too high for little benefit. He believed there were other options available, such as the raising of the spillways. Members asked questions about the frequency of the operation of Burkes Gates.

Neville Gimblett, Foxton Community Board spoke about the deteriorating state of the water in the Manawatu River Loop and highlighted the number of signs displayed at the Loop to warn the public of the danger. He said the water had deteriorated incredibly in the last 12 months. His request was for Horizons to make their position known on where they stood in regard to the Foxton River Loop. Mr Gimblett responded to questions about E. Coli levels, and silting in the Loop.

Mina Teal referred to the work of the Te Awahou Trust and the need to support their efforts. She said the health of the Foxton Loop needed to be improved and expanded on the importance of future development in the Loop. She asked Horizons to give consideration to any assistance that could be offered. Ms Teal answered questions of clarification.

The meeting adjourned at 1.05pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.30pm.

Jim Waters spoke in support of the Waitarere Beach Proposed Coastal Wattle Control and Community Enhancement Project. He said the spread of the wattle was a severe problem and needed urgent attention. In regard to the proposed rate increase aimed at beachfront residents, Mr Waters believed the rates should be spread more evenly throughout the community. In response to a question the Group Manager Environmental Management suggested that engagement with the community could possibly be through the Ratepayers' Association, as they had a well established network. Members asked questions of clarification.

Rosemary Osborne spoke in support of maintaining full funding to the Animal Health Board for the continued control of bovine Tb. She detailed the social cost, and gave examples of the public health risk to humans and animals, if bovine Tb was not kept under control. Members asked questions of clarification.

Dr Robert Holdaway, Dr Robert Weir, and Peter Wood represented **MidCentral Health**. Dr Holdaway congratulated Horizons on the Manawatu River Accord and the active transport work carried out by Council. Mr Wood spoke about emergency management activity. He said MidCentral Health believed the Green Rig had a key role to play in the Region in that capacity and therefore supported continued funding for the Green RIG. MidCentral was opposed to the Council's decision to cancel the flood plain mapping programme. The cancellation of the programme would delay providing information that was required for flood protection measures. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

John Williams spoke to his submission and expanded on the benefits gained by the coastal wattle on his property. He spoke against the proposed project to eradicate wattle from the area and said the wattle protected his property from sea and rain, and also acted as a great windbreak. He raised concerns about erosion of the sand dunes if the wattle was removed. Mr Williams answered questions about alternative methods of erosion control if the wattle was removed.

Save Our River Trust was represented by **Tony Murdoch**. Mr Murdoch highlighted the request for Council to consider the introduction of a region-wide policy, not just guidelines, for the removal of livestock from the stopbanks in all riparian zones. He wanted to see all stopbanks in riparian zones fenced off completely. He was concerned about the degradation of the Foxton Loop and the deterioration of the biodiversity and the environment in the Loop. He would therefore like to see an increase in the biodiversity budget. He would like to see the Loop

included in the Lower Manawatu Scheme and funding to be provided to remove silt from the bottom end of the Loop. Mr Murdoch expanded on the many opportunities available for tourism in the Foxton area and educational ideas for utilising the Green RIG. Mr Murdoch asked Council to consider the piping of King's Canal at the corner of Steward Street and Purcell Street. Members asked about the siltation and water flow in the Loop, and the educational opportunities available for the Green RIG.

Submissions from Surf Life Saving New Zealand represented by **Sue McMaster, Kate Dench and Alec MacKay** were heard together. Ms McMaster said their submission sought support by way of an annual grant of \$80,000 for surf life saving activities in the Horizons Regional Council area. Together they expanded on the activities and services provided, the public education, the current situation, combined rescue statistics, and the future vision for the provision of surf life saving services in the Region. Members asked questions about the intended split of any possible funding between clubs, beach education programmes, statistics on rescue operations, and clarification on any funding received from other territorial authorities in the Region. A suggestion was made that the Chairman could raise, at a future regional chiefs' meeting, the role of territorial authorities to support funding for life saving services in the Region. It was also suggested that Surf Life Saving New Zealand present a business plan to Council, for discussion during the Long Term Plan process.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.45pm.

Malcolm Guy spoke to his submission. He asked for more communication and information to ratepayers about the coastal wattle problems and the proposed rating: why, how long, rating area, and discussion about a fair way to rate. He mentioned that people from other areas visited Waitarere and asked why it was proposed to only rate Waitarere landowners. Members asked questions about the area delineated on the plan, and whether Mr Guy had an issue with the plant pest on his land.

Bill Wallace explained his submission was on behalf of the **Queen Elizabeth II National Trust** (the Trust). He provided information about the Trust's covenants in the Horizons' Region, including wetlands, indigenous cover etc. He highlighted the points in his submission about the proposed reduced funding for environmental grants being a backward step and a threat to biodiversity (preventing regeneration etc). The proposed reduction also affected the leveraging received by the Trust, and Mr Wallace clarified Members' questions about the leveraging, and other funding options available to the Trust.

Viv McGlynn represented **Forest and Bird Manawatu Branch** and spoke to its submission. She commented that the four points in the submission were generally around biodiversity. She highlighted the concern around the proposed reduction in funding of the biodiversity budget, and endorsed the comments from Bill Wallace about the leverage to be gained from funding. Ms McGlynn elaborated on the points in the submission around compliance in the Manawatu Catchment, and opposition to 'moth-balling' the Green RIG. She clarified Members' questions around Forest and Bird's comments on the Manawatu River Accord Action Plan budget.

Murali Gopalan (Interim Chair), Bruce Bulloch (Treasurer) and Sally Pearce (Coordinator) represented **Environment Network Manawatu (ENM)**. Mr Gopalan highlighted that ENM opposed the cancellation of the Green RIG due to its important education function and suggested possible outsourcing as an option. The decline of biodiversity nationally was of concern and ENM opposed the proposed reduction in funding. He urged Horizons to prioritise the SLUI programme to finish within the ten year timeframe. ENM was delighted public transport patronage had increased with Horizons' help, and urged Horizons to continue improving routes, improving services to hospitals, and improvements for small communities. ENM opposed the proposed cuts to road safety activities. In response to questions, Mr Gopalan explained the

value his school-age children found from the Green RIG and commented on opportunities for outsourcing and sponsorship. Mr Bulloch and Ms Pearce responded to questions around ENM's comments on SLUI and the Trees for Survival programme.

The submission of the **Animal Health Board** (AHB) was addressed by **John Dalziell** (Board Chair), **William McCook** (Chief Executive), **Matthew Hall** (Vector Operations Manager) and **Bruce Dornbusch** (Board member). Mr Dalziell emphasised the importance of this Region to the AHB strategy, and asked Horizons to provide \$750,000 funding for the AHB as requested in its submission. Mr McCook advised a revised AHB strategy would commence on 1 July 2011 which set out funding for five years, and in two years time, the funding process would be reviewed. They all responded to Members' questions as appropriate. Members asked whether the funding for the current programme would be fully spent in this financial year and were assured it would be. They questioned the level of funding requested in light of the decrease in area worked, and asked about the funding assigned to Head Office administration. Members asked about the letter sent to farmers by the AHB (enclosing a submission form to be sent back to Horizons) and questioned whether the letter contained accurate information. Members also asked about the planned 1080 drops and research into alternatives to 1080.

Jim Howard spoke to the submission of the **Rangitikei Environment Group** (REG) in support of continuation of funding of \$85,000 to the REG for the control of Old Man's Beard. He looked forward to satisfactory progress in the future, and clarified Members' questions.

The Chairman advised that was the completion of the oral submissions. He noted that Members had considered and discussed the content of the majority of the Written submissions, as time allowed, during the Submissions Hearing process and also at the end of the Council meeting on Tuesday 24 May. He asked Members to let him know if they had any matters they wished to raise once they had read the remainder of the Written submissions.

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 11-88

The Members considered all written submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2011-2012, and asked questions of clarification where required.

While a total of 892 submissions were received by the closing date, eight hundred and twenty-three (823) did not wish to speak to their submissions. Copies of all submissions were circulated to Members for their consideration during the Submissions Hearing process.

DCP 11-05 **Moved**

White/Barrow

*that the Committee **receives** and **considers** all written submissions, copies of which have been distributed under separate cover.*

CARRIED

