



Minutes of public meetings of the Strategy and Policy Committee to hear submissions on the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019 held in the Tararua Room of Council's offices at 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North on Monday, 25 May at 9:30am, Thursday, 28 May at 9.30am, Tuesday, 2 June at 1.00pm, and on Wednesday 27 May at Ohakune from 10.00am until 1.10pm and then at Wanganui from 3.30pm to 5pm.

- PRESENT:**
- 25 May 2009 Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon (to 5.40pm), A K Main (from 11.30am), D B Meads, M Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker and J J White (to 7.15pm).
 - 27 May 2009 Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, A K Main, D B Meads, M Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker and J J White.
 - 28 May 2009 Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, A K Main, D B Meads, M Plowman, R G Walker and J J White.
 - 2 June 2009 Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey (from 1.14pm), L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, A K Main, D B Meads (from 1.20pm), M Plowman, and J J White.

Monday, 25 May 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Ms K Booth (Governance Coordinator), Mrs C Atkinson (Manager Communications), Mrs D Lauridsen (Records Officer), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), at various times throughout the Submissions Hearings.

Wednesday, 27 May 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive	Mr M J McCartney
Group Manager Corporate & Governance	Mr Craig Grant
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), and Ms E Collins (Media & Publications Advisor) at various times throughout the Submissions hearings.

Thursday, 28 May 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive	Mr M J McCartney
Group Manager Corporate & Governance	Mr Craig Grant
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), and Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information) at various times throughout the Submissions hearings.

Tuesday, 2 June 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive	Mr M J McCartney
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), at various times throughout the Submissions hearings.

Monday, 25 May 2009

APOLOGIES

DCP 09-01 Moved

Murfitt/White

that an apology be received from Cr Guy (Leave of Absence), and Cr Main (for lateness).

CARRIED

An apology was received from Audrey Jarvis, Submitter No. 59, scheduled to speak at 11.45am. Mrs Jarvis was unavailable to attend at that time and would reschedule to speak on Thursday 28 May, if possible.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr White advised a conflict of interest in regard to the Palmerston North Heritage Trust, Submission No. 55.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

There were no late submissions to be noted.

SUBMISSIONS TO DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-19

Report No. 09-77

This item provided the background and introduction to the submissions made on the Draft Community Plan 2009-19. It was agreed that the recommendations would be carried forward to the Deliberations meeting to be held on 9 June 2009.

FORMAT FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 09-78

This report set out a timetable to hear oral submissions on the Draft Community Plan 2009-19. Fifty six (56) requests for oral submissions were received.

The Chairman explained to submitters that five minutes had been allocated for them to highlight significant points in their submissions or elaborate on particular details, and this would be followed by 10 minutes for Councillors to ask questions of clarification. There would be no debate on submissions at that stage and all submitters would receive a detailed written reply to their submissions in due course.

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

Ms Elaine Reilly (Acting Chief Executive, **Vision Manawatu**) spoke in support of the submission and commented it was a pleasure for her to be involved for the first time in the Draft Community Plan Submission process. She noted the importance of economic development in the area and added that she would like to see Horizons take a pro-active approach in that area, and Vision Manawatu would welcome the opportunity of ongoing discussions towards the Region's future economic development.

Mr Allan Gillingham and **Ms Dorothy Booth** supported their submission with a photograph showing erosion on their property. Mr Gillingham strongly endorsed the proposal to realign the Manawatu River in the vicinity of the Anzac Park Cliffs, adjacent to their property. Ms Booth outlined the personal effects of the erosion on their lifestyle, eg. dust blowing onto their dwelling from the exposed cliff face, contaminated rain water from dust, and emotional effects. Members suggested they should also approach Palmerston North City Council in regard to required planning changes for the development. Horizons' staff would check that adequate warning signs were in place on the river bank opposite the Anzac Cliffs' slip.

Mr David Parham had also submitted on transport issues at the Regional Land Transport Submissions Hearing held on Wednesday 20 May 2009. Mr Parham sought a more frequent bus service for residents in Kelvin Grove. He emphasised the importance of an efficient public transport service to enable senior citizens good access to shopping centres. He urged the use of a more efficient waste management strategy in Kelvin Grove. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mayor Maureen Reynolds, and **Mr Blair King** (Chief Executive) of **Tararua District Council**, spoke in support of their submission. Mayor Reynolds noted their support for the Road Safety Coordinators in the Tararua Region, and in regard to the proposal to divest the Port of Napier shares she expressed their desire for the proceeds of the sale to be returned to the Territorial Authorities who originally held the voting rights in the port company. Mr Blair made comment on their support for water harvesting in the Tararua District, and the high cost of resource consents, in particular consent charges for multiple inspections. Members asked questions of clarification on the issues highlighted.

Mr Ray Swadel and Mr Andrew Boyle (Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)) addressed their submission and extended an apology from Mayor Jono Naylor and Cr Anne Podd. Mr Boyle advised that PNCC supported the direction as outlined in the Draft Community Plan and looked forward to working together on joint projects such as emergency management, environment protection, flood protection, biodiversity, and land transport. They would like to see more emphasis on the extension of public transport services, and the improvement of water quality in the Manawatu River. Mr Boyle and Mr Swadel answered questions of clarification on points raised in their submission.

Mr Bruce Dornbusch and Mr Terry Hynes (Tbfree New Zealand) expressed concern at the proposal to reduce the level of funding to the Manawatu Wanganui Tbfree Committee. They highlighted their results in the eradication of Tb in the area, and believed that any reduction of funding would have detrimental long-term effects on the ability of the Region to eradicate Tb. They urged Horizons to review the proposed plan and maintain the level of funding for Tb control for the 2009-10 year, and until the Tb Strategy was reviewed. Members asked questions of clarification.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

The meeting resumed at 11:30am.

Cr Main joined the meeting at 11:30am.

Mr J Dan Ramsden spoke to his submission and objected strongly to the proposed reduction in funding to the Animal Health Board. Mr Ramsden was made aware of an increase in funding for a follow-up Horizons Regional Council possum control programme.

Mr Trevor Donaldson commented on his submission. He believed the figure of 4.66% increase in rates was misleading, objected to Horizons Regional Council's involvement in the transport programmes as outlined in the summary sheet, supported a new and updated rating system for the Lower Manawatu Scheme, and highlighted some suggestions he wished to see included in that Scheme. Members considered the comments made in his submission and suggested that Mr Donaldson receive a visit from Mr Philpott in order to clarify matters in regard to channel rating.

Mr David Hammond, Chief Executive of **Ruapehu District Council** and **Ms Pauline Love**, (Strategic Development) spoke in support of their submission. They commented that the document was easily read and well constructed. They commented specifically on concerns over the reduced funding in pest control, and the lack of sufficient and appropriate section 32 analysis for the proposed One Plan. **They asked for a full section 32 analysis of the proposed One Plan and an economic analysis**, in order to give sufficient guidance for the future of hill country environment. Members made comment on points raised in the submission and asked questions in regard to pest control funding, Sustainable Land Use Initiative and funding for Whole Farm Plans, and the Green RIG education programme.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40am.

The meeting resumed at 1:30pm.

Mr and Mrs Catley spoke to their submission and noted their concern around the level of gravel extraction undertaken on the Ohau River. They believed the job was only half done and that more gravel should be extracted in order to restore the channel to the state of earlier years. Mr Catley provided a photograph of the channel taken in 1920 and another taken in the same

spot in 1990 highlighting the changes that had occurred. Members noted their submission and asked questions of clarification.

Mr William McCook, Chief Executive (Animal Health Board) referred to his submission and outlined the need for an active vector control operation in the Region. He reiterated the possible implications of a reduction in Council's contribution as outlined in his submission, and urged Members to reconsider and reinstate the full contribution of funding for the Animal Health Board. Members asked questions of clarity around the present ratio of funding, and the proposed spend from the Animal Health Board in the next financial year.

Mr Andrew Day - Tararua, Mr Brian Doughty - Wanganui, Ms Lyn Neeson – Ruapehu, Mr Gordon McKellar – Manawatu/Rangitikei, and Mr Tim Matthews representing provinces of **Federated Farmers of New Zealand** spoke in support of their submission. Ms Neeson outlined some key points in regard to Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), and indicated their wish that Horizons retained the current level of funding for the Animal Health Board. Mr Day spoke in support of the SLUI programme, strongly supported the targeting of Whole Farm Plans, and acknowledged some pleasing results in the Lower Manawatu Scheme deliberations. Mr McKellar commented on the level of general rate increases and referred to a paper from the Minister of Local Government outlining that rates rises should be capped at the rate of inflation, or less. He added that farmers were generally not happy when cut backs were made to funding of core activities such as plant pest and animal pest, and rate rebate reductions, with increased funding on non-core activities. Members asked questions of clarification around funding of Scheme upgrades, SLUI, consent charges, One Plan costs, and clarification on what they believed was the core business of Council.

Mr Mike Daisley (Sports Manawatu) noted he had submitted on roading issues to the Regional Transport Submissions Hearing held on Wednesday 20 May 2009. He also noted support for the transport initiatives as outlined in a submission from the District Health Board. He strongly supported the proposal to add a clip on walking and cycling lane to the Ashurst State Highway bridge, and requested that the proposal be given a higher priority. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mayor Chalky Leary, Chief Executive of **Rangitikei District Council** (RDC) introduced his submission which he said was self-explanatory. He highlighted that RDC was disappointed with the decision in regard to a change in funding of the Rangitikei Environment Group and the Animal Health Board, and strongly urged Council to reconsider. He commented on the management of gravel consents and the impact of that on the roading network. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to suitable sites for stock effluent disposal, and other points raised in the submission.

Mr J Howard and **Mr H Stewart** spoke to the submission of the **Rangitikei Environment Group**. Mr Howard emphasised he was opposed to the proposal to discontinue funding of the Rangitikei Environment Group. He said the Group was making good progress with the control of Old Man's Beard, and that there was still a lot of work to be done. Mr Stewart highlighted that funding from other contributors and job security would be jeopardised if Horizons funding was withdrawn. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to ratepayer support for the Group, and funding from other contributors.

Ms Del Hood (Health Waikato) and **Ms Jill McKenzie** and **Mr Robert Holdaway** (MidCentral Health) spoke to their submissions collectively. Health Waikato was concerned about the lack of information in regard to resource consent applications available to them, thanked the Council for the commitment to monitoring air quality in urban Taumaruni, and asked that consideration be given to resuming air quality monitoring in other areas, in particular, Taihape. MidCentral Health outlined concerns in regard to air quality monitoring, and recreational water. They highlighted the difficulty of interpreting the air quality monitoring data available on the Horizons Regional Council website, and emphasised they would like the opportunity to have a formal meeting with Horizons' management to discuss the issue.

*The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.
The meeting resumed at 4:00pm.*

Mr Jim Owen strongly supported the concept of Horizons Regional Council divesting itself of shares held in Port companies. The funds from the shares could then be made available to shorten proposed timetables for the commencement of other projects such as flood protection, soil erosion control, and pest reduction programmes. Members asked questions around the level of community support for selling shares in Port companies, and the loss of investment returns.

Ms Alison Mildon highlighted her submission and emphasised that Horizons Regional Council had failed to consider and protect natural landscapes. Members asked questions of clarification and congratulated her on a number of points in the submission, and noted her excellent observations on climate change.

Ms Margaret Tennant thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Palmerston North Heritage Trust. She highlighted the Trust's support for the Regional Archives Facility, however, expressed concern that there was no provision for public access to the facility, or to the archivist, and therefore questioned the level of service the facility would offer to the public. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mr Andrew Rushworth thanked Councillors for the opportunity to submit. He commended the Council on the excellent presentation of the Draft Community Plan. He acknowledged his support for the policies relating to transport, however, outlined that while attention had been given to promote an increase in public transport services, the policies did not consider the nature of the public transport system, nor did they give any consideration to the use of sustainable energy. Mr Rushworth said he would like to see the use of renewable energy included in the Plan, initiatives that made public transport more appealing to a wider range of users, and a commitment from Horizons Regional Council to commit to a working group to develop sustainable practices and strategies. Members asked questions of clarification around the economics and efficiency of battery operated vehicles, and what area of public transport they could be best suited to.

Mr Gordon McKellar spoke in support of his submission and outlined his objection to the Mangaone West Catchment Area being included as a contributor rating area in the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS). He had also submitted to the Lower Manawatu Scheme Submissions Hearing on Monday 24 October 2008. Members asked questions of clarification, thanked Mr McKellar for his submission, and noted there would be further investigation into the total contributor rating of the LMS.

Dr Chris Teo-Sherell said he was very impressed with the consultation process, and in particular, the personal response given to submitters. **Dr** Teo-Sherell noted his support for the proposed increases to the level of public bus services for Palmerston North, however, would like to see additional allocations, above those currently budgeted for, to improve services further. He added that provision of more bus shelters, and timetable and route information at every bus stop would help improve the service. Members asked questions of clarification on points made in his submission.

Mr Hugh Stewart spoke to his submission and noted his support for Horizons Regional Council staff and the work they do, especially the possum control work and the Kia Wharite restoration at Retaruke. He was opposed to the proposal to have no provision for an increase in pest plant control, and also opposed the proposal to cease funding for the Rangitikei Environment Group. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to the quality of the possum control work undertaken by the Group, and the likelihood of reinfestation.

Cr Gordon left the meeting at 5:40pm

Mr and Mrs Pauline and **Bryan May** were opposed to the excessive rate increase to their property in regard to the Ohau-Manakau Drainage and Flood Protection Scheme. They outlined that their property drained out to the sea via the Waiwiri Stream and not into the Ohau, and therefore did not believe their property should be expected to carry such a significant portion of the proposed increase. They did not receive any direct benefit from the Scheme and objected to being rated for it. Members asked questions of clarification on the rating classifications and location of the property.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

The meeting resumed at 6:45pm.

Mr Pat Kelly addressed his submission and was opposed to the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) for the purpose of holding port investments, and had particular reservation in regard to selling shares in the Port of Napier and transferring the funds to the proposed CCO. He also opposed the long-term funding strategy proposal for creating cash reserves over the life of the Draft Community Plan. Members asked questions of clarification around his comments on uniform annual charges, One Plan costs, the option of divesting port shares, and his thoughts on shared services.

Mr John C Macdonald spoke to his submission and said he was appalled at the idea of selling the Port of Napier shares. He believed the price obtained for the shares at present would not be a reflection of their true worth. Members asked questions of clarification.

Cr White left the meeting at 7:15pm

Mr Gordon S Claridge and **Mr Hugh Moleta** spoke on behalf of farmers in the Opiki Basin and submitted a copy of their submission containing signatures from farmers in the F1 and F2 areas. They commented on the upgrade and reclassification of rates for the Lower Manawatu Scheme, and believed the spread of rates was not fair and equitable, and the differentials between F1 and F5 were too great. They believed there was a lack of consultation with ratepayers on the proposal to extend the loan period from 20 years to 30 years. They spoke against a 30 year loan period and believed it was too long. Because of the significant changes required to be made to the differentials and other matters, it was requested that the interim funding be extended by one year to enable the matter to be satisfactorily resolved. Cr Meads noted that the Council was aware of issues outlined in the submission and these were being further investigated. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

*The meeting resumed in **Ohakune** at 10:00am on Wednesday, 27 May 2009.*

Wednesday, 27 May 2009

APOLOGIES

DCP 09-02 *Moved*

Murfitt/Gordon

that an apology be received from Cr Guy (leave of absence).

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

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

Mr and Mrs Don and Velma Siemonek spoke to their submission. They noted their concern with increasing rates from Horizons Regional Council, and reiterated their request that the One Plan and the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) be withdrawn as they believed SLUI was not necessary in the Ruapehu district. In response to the statement in their submission that they did not believe transport should be a function of Horizons but should be a function of district councils, the Chairman clarified that regional councils were statutorily required to undertake the transport function. Mr and Mrs Siemonek also referred to the Green RIG and stated that education of children was the responsibility of the Education Board, not Horizons. Members asked questions of clarification in relation to their concern expressed about the possibility of protection orders on landscapes and other environments.

Ms Annie Carmichael opposed the Green RIG, believed it was presently full of propaganda, was not educational, was a cost on the ratepayer, and questioned its value at Field Days. She suggested that Horizons plant tawa trees instead of poplar trees, as tawa grew fast, were durable and had an economic value. Ms Carmichael spoke in support of retaining the Animal Health Board funding and said it was important to exterminate possums. She also supported agricultural chemical collection points, and retaining the funding for rook control. Ms Carmichael asked for more transparency and accountability for SLUI funding and said there was no proven science that farmers were not farming sustainably. Questions of clarification were sought in regard to the comments on SLUI, on agriculture chemical stockpiles and disposal, and the work carried out by the AHB and Horizons on Tb and possum control.

Mr Don Coles said he had been given delegation on behalf of **Property Rights in NZ Inc** to speak to the submission. He elaborated on the points made in the submission and highlighted that PRINZ believed biodiversity was a central government conservation issue and not a local authority issue. He reiterated the references in the submission to the Green RIG. He asked Horizons to understand and not guess the reasons for hill-country erosion and sediment in the rivers. Members asked questions in regard to his comments on sediment build up in rivers.

Ms Ashley Cole emphasised the points in her submission asking Horizons to consider the economic environment, especially for those working in the agriculture area, when it proposed the rates rises for the next three years. She noted that many farmers lived in a revolving credit situation and rate increases would worsen their situation. The farmers would have to cut costs and Ms Cole asked to see Horizons' cost cutting measures. She would like to see Horizons and ratepayers communicating and working together, not having an 'Us' and 'Them' situation. Questions of clarification were asked around her statement that the Councillors did not question the advice or decisions made by their advisors, and she amended the wording to 'It appeared that Councillors did not question...'

Ms Jackie Egan spoke to the submission of **NZ Forest Managers Ltd.** She reiterated the points made in the submission relating to the Catchment Management and Environmental Protection chapters, and spoke in support of the statements made in the submission. She asked for greater recognition of forestry in the Draft Community Plan. Members asked questions around carbon credits, the request to exempt forestry companies from the uniform annual charge, and from targeted rating for rook control.

Dr Liley supported the points made in her submission. She emphasised the importance of continuing possum control. She observed that landowners pay rates on areas of their bush that is of no economic benefit, and asked that ratepayers in general help to cherish it and keep it free from plant and animal pests. She referred to animal pests other than possums, such as goats. Dr Liley mentioned the Sustainable Land Use Initiative and observed that many King Country farmers had always addressed slips and erosion on their properties and did not need an Initiative to prompt them to do it.

Mr Trevor Shroeder and Mrs Shroeder spoke to their submission. They believed the rate increases were getting out of hand and asked Horizons to live within its means, in the same way that ratepayers had to do. They wanted to see the benefit of their rates being seen in their area, and believed that restrictions being imposed under the One Plan/SLUI would prevent young people from coming onto the land. They advised they were paying rates on bush land. Mr and Mrs Shroeder asked Horizons to stick to its basic business and not get involved in different areas such as transport. They supported a waste chemical collection point in Taumarunui. Members asked questions of clarification on the matters raised by Mr and Mrs Shroeder.

Mrs Elaine Wheeler and Mr Wheeler spoke to their submission. Mrs Wheeler believed that Horizons had evolved into a super power and those in the Ruapehu area were not getting true value for money. She reminded Members the country was in a recession. She reiterated the request in her submission for Horizons to withdraw all authority from the Ruapehu district in readiness for a proposed Ruapehu District Council unitary authority with the addition of one significant activity – environmental activity. Mr and Mrs Wheeler believed farmers looked after their land well, and should be allowed to manage it themselves without assistance from Horizons. They spoke of the amount of time they spent trying to keep abreast and informed on plans and projects proposed by organisations, as well as Horizons. They did not support the Green RIG and its messages. Councillors asked for clarification on Mr and Mrs Wheeler's comments about Horizons' environmental grants, why they said communities were becoming divided because of environmental grants, and whether they thought a unitary authority should be solely Ruapehu or combined with Wanganui.

Mr Don Dempsey requested the continuation and completion of possum eradication and Tb control. Similarly with the rooks' control programme. He referred to his comments in the submission on Climate Change and said his own records (kept for NIWA for over 40 years) showed that extreme rain events were coming at a high rate. He commended Horizons for its initiatives in response to climate change and said that every dollar spent now would save many dollars in the future. Mr Dempsey supported the proposed long term funding strategy and accumulation of reserves, and in response to a question replied that Council would be better placed financially in the event of future floods, and would not have huge interest costs. Mr Dempsey questioned Horizons' involvement with transport and the Chairman explained it was a legislative requirement for regional councils.

Mrs Sivyver spoke to the submission from herself and **Mr Alf Sivyver** and highlighted the points made. They were concerned that not enough publicity had been given to either the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, or the One Plan and that urban ratepayers believed the One Plan applied only to farmers. They asked for advertised meetings that were open to everyone. Mrs Sivyver expressed concern about the erosion effects from hydrostatic loading on hillsides and in water currents. She was also concerned that urban ratepayers had not been advised about the firewood clause in the One Plan and its effects if the power lines in Ruapehu were adversely

affected. The Chairman clarified that the **Sustainable Land Use Initiative One Plan** was voluntary.

Mr Gary Rawnsley emphasised the statements in his submission and asked Horizons Regional Council to benchmark its rates increases to the CPI and return to its core business. He distributed a paper showing suggested rates and suggested a new approach to rate funding to ensure rural people were not charged excessively. He believed that only ratepayers should be able to make submissions to Horizons as they were the financial contributors. Mr Rawnsley did not support the Green RIG, funding for possum control (as he did his own), the One Plan, or programmes benefiting organisations/groups that were not ratepayers. Mr Rawnsley clarified Members' questions.

Mr Michael Petersen spoke to the submission on behalf of the **Taumarunui Farmers Group 2008 (TFG)** and elaborated on points made. He asked that the SLUI and Whole Farm Plan activities be withdrawn from Horizons' business as there was no science to identify silt sources and damage. He said that while SLUI had credence, the system was divisive, intrusive and very costly. Mr Petersen believed the Green RIG should be abandoned and did not agree with some of the environmental messages it portrayed. The TFG believed the One Plan should be abandoned to avoid borrowing money. The TFG supported other submitters' concerns for reduced pest plant/animal funding, unacceptable rate targets, and any Council 'job creation' aspects. Members of the TFG who joined Mr Petersen, responded to Councillors' questions with Mr Siomenek explaining the difference he had experienced between farming in the Rangitikei and in the Ruapehu districts.

*The meeting at **Ohakune** adjourned at 1:10pm.
The meeting resumed at **Wanganui** at 3:30pm.*

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

Mr Tony Grant-Fargie spoke to the submission of **Grey Power Wanganui Inc** and highlighted the concern of Grey Power members with the rates increases relating to Stage One of the Whanganui River Flood Protection Plan. He explained that increased rates caused concern and hardship to those ratepayers who were on fixed incomes. Councillors were supplied with confidential rates increases over the past three years on identified properties. Mr Grant-Fargie stated that only 50% of Wanganui Grey Power members received copies of the pamphlet 'Keeping Wanganui Dry' and believed Horizons' should communicate better with the ratepayers. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to the submission on water ownership, rating rebates, and better communication.

Deputy Mayor Dot McKinnon and **Mr Stuart Hylton** spoke to the submission of **Wanganui District Council (WDC)**. They asked Horizons to keep rate increases to a minimum, as their Council had, and to consider other ways of cutting back that would benefit Wanganui ratepayers. They said that WDC would like to work collaboratively with Horizons, and saw great merit for local authority shared services. They believed a collaborative approach would also benefit passenger transport. They asked about progress with the Whanganui River Bylaw, and in response to questions clarified it was for the lower part of the River. They agreed the stage of the Lower Whanganui River Flood Protection scheme that would protect the Moutoa Quay/Lower Victoria Avenue area needed to be undertaken at some stage, but wished to delay it in the meantime.

Mr Peter Fraser emphasised the points raised in his submission that he did not consider public transport to be Horizons' core business and asked why Horizons' assumed responsibility without full funding from central government. He stated ratepayers were already paying for this through other levies and taxes such as ACC, registration etc. and questioned whether he (and others)

were being subjected to double-dipping. Mr Fraser believed it was the mandate of the NZ Transport Agency and National Land Transport Fund to produce a Regional Land Transport programme. Mr Fraser asked Horizons to 'tighten its belt' and keep rate increases to the rate of inflation. In response to questions about Horizons' core business, he said that if central government wanted regional councils to adopt policies, then the councils must demand the funding or no programmes. The Chair of the Regional Land Transport Committee clarified Horizons' involvement with transport.

Mr Alan Catchpole spoke to the submission of the **NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)**. The NZTA urged Council to lead a strategic transport study with participation from territorial authorities. The NZTA considered the appropriate study area would be roughly bounded by Sanson, the Manawatu Gorge and Tokomaru, and would involve participation and funding from PNCC, MDC, Horizons, and the NZTA. Members asked questions of clarification about studies in other areas and Mr Catchpole advised the extent of the Region was beyond the scope of the study. Cr Gordon clarified that Horizons' contribution would be in the area of administration and coordination.

Mr David Matthews spoke to his submission and highlighted his concern with his rates. He suggested that landowners should kill their own possums, and control weeds on their properties. He did not believe he should pay a Whangaehu contributor rate. Mr Matthews did not support the One Plan and believed it should be abandoned before more money was spent. He believed that farmers should self fund their own Whole Farm Business Plans (WFBP) rather than Horizons' paying for them. He spoke of the erosion issues once pine trees had been harvested, and distributed photos to support his statements. Mr Matthews suggested that WFBPs were resulting in the loss of productive farmland. Mr **Matthews Fraser** did not support either the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, or the Green RIG and its messages. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mr Jason Pou, together with **Mr Aiden Gilbert** and **Mr Don Robinson** from Uenuku, spoke to the submission on behalf of the **Peoples of Uenuku**. Mr Pou said that the **Peoples of Uenuku** want to work with, and build a relationship with Horizons, and be proactive and not reactive. He highlighted the concern in the submission relating to a proposed 20% reduction in funding for iwi initiatives, acknowledged that it sat within a Uniform Annual General Charge, and noted that if there was a little discretion built in, a needs based assessment could be done should it be required. They would then be more comfortable with a reduction. The Chairman advised that Horizons was very open to discussions with all iwi and hapu and encouraged that approach. In response to Members' questions, Mr Pou explained the Peoples of Uenuku were an amalgamation of hapu on the boundaries of other iwi and had a strong relationship with Ruapehu District Council.

The meeting adjourned at 4.55pm.

*The meeting resumed in **Palmerston North** on Thursday, 28 May 2009 at 9.30am.*

Thursday, 28 May 2009

APOLOGIES

DCP 09-03 Moved

Murfitt/Chettleburgh

that apologies be received from Cr Guy (leave of absence), and Crs Rieger and Burnell (attending external meetings).

CARRIED

An apology was received from the Department of Conservation (Wanganui conservancy), however it was understood a representative would endeavour to attend the meeting.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

Mr Duggan distributed a paper copy of the "Finances, and Revenue and Financing Policy" to Councillors.

DCP 09-04 Moved

Murfitt/Walker

that the document "Finances, and Revenue and Financing Policy" be received.

CARRIED

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

Mr A G Walter spoke against the increase in his rates and believed they should be no more than the previous year's rate of inflation. While he did not want any increase at all, he said that if an increase was required, then keep it to a minimum. He suggested Horizons either pay interest on the funding of a project, or wait until it had the money. In response to Mr Walter's statements on his apparent rates increase, Councillors discussed how to better communicate possible rates increases to ratepayers for future Plans

The submission of **Ms Clare Wishart** was also on behalf of **International Emailers** and provided comprehensive supporting material. Ms Wishart opposed the inhumane poisoning of rooks and requested a complete ban on all use of poisons in rook control, and in particular DRC 1339. She stated that other animals and birds were at risk from bait lines, and there was possible water contamination from the poisons. Ms Wishart suggested alternative means of control, such as non lethal harassment techniques in zero tolerance zones, and setting up tolerance zones in other areas. She believed rooks were on the decline in New Zealand. Ms Wishart clarified Members' questions in regard to alternatives to the use of poison.

Mr Milton Pedley spoke to his submission and expressed his disappointment with Horizons. He asked that Council look to the future, and direct its function and responsibility in the areas of water and sewage, health and building regulations, and roading and bridging. He said the region was in survival mode and Council must only spend what it earned. He believed the method of collecting rates levied was very unfair, and that GST on rates should be cancelled. In response to Members' questions, Mr Pedley asked Council to concentrate on the above aspects first, before social activities such as bus transport.

Mrs Audrey Jarvis thanked Members for the opportunity to change her speaking date. She highlighted two areas of her submission, namely the Living Heritage programme, and Biosecurity. She spoke of the need for appreciation of the biological diversity of this region and the preservation of the environment for future generations, particularly in terms of native bush and wetlands. She was concerned with Horizons' proposal to decrease the biodiversity funding. Mrs Jarvis also opposed a reduction in funding for pest control, both animal and plant, and believed Council's work in this area would be undone and lose momentum. She also suggested Council undertake more research before embarking on further rook poisoning programmes. Mrs Jarvis clarified Members' questions.

Mr Shane Carroll spoke to the submission of the **Pohangina-Oroua Catchment Control Scheme Liaison Committee**. Mr Carroll referred Members to the summary in the submission. The Committee felt the Scheme was disadvantaged, and Mr Carroll highlighted the request that the funds from direct farmer contribution attract the general rate contribution in the same way as

if they were collected as rates. He provided background information in support of his request and said the aim was to make the whole Scheme more sustainable and to get the channel management work completed. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mr Hepa Taturi spoke to the submission of **Aohanga Incorporation** on behalf of all the shareholders, and highlighted the request for Horizons to reconsider the proposed reduction in funding to the Animal Health Board (AHB) for vector control. He provided information about the location of the property and the pest control that had been undertaken over the past 20 years. The shareholders believed that if there was a reduction in funding, it would have a strong impact in the district on Tb control, and they were asking Horizons not to take away the opportunity to control possums in their district. The Chairman explained Horizons' work on possum control following the work carried out by the AHB. Mr Taturi thanked the Committee for listening and noted his appreciation for the work it did.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52am.

The meeting resumed at 11:17am.

Mr John Catley reiterated his opposition to the Lower Ohau river flood protection upgrade activity. He explained about the silt and gravel build up in the river alongside his land, and how the proposed activity would impact on his business. Mr Catley said that from time to time over the past 15 years, Horizons had permitted him to extract silt and gravel, however now it was proposing to rate him for this work. He had offered to do this work, and also spraying of drains. In response to questions, Mr Catley explained the process that he followed prior to obtaining a consent for gravel extraction, and clarified that he was willing to talk further with Horizons about his issues.

Mr Les Rowlands said he now understood Horizons' involvement in the transport activity and that the costs lay with those who received the benefit. He highlighted the support in his submission for retention of funding for possum control and for pest plant management, especially for Old Man's Beard in the Taihape area where good work had been undertaken by community groups. He also supported any reduction in flood management rating for indirect benefit and contributor categories, and asked that direct beneficiaries paid the majority of the rates. Mr Rowlands asked Horizons to be mindful of the effects of rates increases on ratepayers.

Mr Greg Carlyon spoke to the Horizons' Staff submission which would have a nil effect on rates unless Councillors made decisions to change the recommendations.

As this was the completion of the oral submissions, the Chairman and Members discussed the contents of the written submissions.

The meeting adjourned at 12.55pm.

*The meeting resumed in **Palmerston North** on Tuesday, 2 June 2009 at 1:09pm to consider the balance of the Written submissions.*

APOLOGIES

DCP 09-05 Moved

White/Chettleburgh

that apologies be received from Cr Guy (leave of absence), and Crs Rieger, Gordon and Walker (attending external meetings).

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

The meeting resumed at 1:28pm, and Crs Bailey and Meads joined the meeting.

DCP 09-06 Moved

Burnell/Plowman

*that the Committee **receives** the oral submissions in Report No. 09-78.*

CARRIED

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 09-79

The Members considered all written submissions on the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019.

Written submissions were received from:

Elaine Cradock
P B Nilson
Barbara Lilly
Margaret Saunders
Wendy McGuinness
Hayley Vujcich
Maureen Lee
Jim Weston
Christine Regan
Gavin Jensen
No name
Jim Wipiiti
Barbara Wright
Rod Smith
Paul Compton
G N Pring
M R Freeman
Cynthia Cass
Bernie Coveny
Julie Chadwick
Ben Read
Mark Rose
John & Gillian Thornley
David Inch
Maitland Manning
R H Goldstone
Donna Mummery
Grant Roberts

Jeremy Manks
A E Stratton
A Cairns
Maurice Tucker
Michael Sewell
Ross Linklater
Eric Constantine
Judith & Barry Edwards
Clive & Di Harper
Owen Bonnor
Jim Smith
Anthony Ryan
D J Bowers
Warren Davidson
G R Ross
Kirsten Bryant
Christine Mitchell
Bruce Mitchell
Anne Finnie
Jim & Audrey Walker
Sam Bishara
Jill Martin
Geoff Duncan
Bridget Percy (2 submissions)
Ann Jones
Steve Hirschberg
Margaret Jeune
Jeff Dickins
Noel Johnston
Russel Norman MP
Margaret Stedman
Ian Fountaine
No name
Trevor & Wendy Schroeder

DCP 09-07 Moved

White/Chettleburgh

*that the Committee **receives** and **considers** the written submissions in Report No. 09-79.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2:53pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN