

Minutes of the twelfth meeting of the ninth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee held at 10.00am on Tuesday 10 March 2015, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell QSM, DB Cotton, MC Guy, RJ Keedwell, PJ Kelly JP, GM McKellar, DR Pearce, PW Rieger QSO JP, BE Rollinson, CI Sheldon.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney  
Group Manager  
Corporate and Governance Mr C Grant  
Committee Secretary Ms K Booth

**ALSO PRESENT** At various times during the meeting:  
Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr T Bowen (Manager Strategy & Regulation), Mrs K Ritani (Media & Communications Manager), Mayor A Watson, Mr R McNeill (Chief Executive) (Rangitikei District Council), and Mr B Judd (member of the public).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

The Chairman advised that Mr Bert Judd had requested, and been granted, public speaking rights in regard to Report No. 15-41 'Proposed 2015 RMA Amendments'. The Chairman invited Mr Judd to speak to Members.

**MR BERT JUDD** spoke about his concern that the Resource Management Act (RMA) had not been applied as it was intended in 1991. He questioned whether the proposed changes to the Resource Management Act would address cleaning up the waterways. He commented on continued pollution of waterways and questioned how this could continue to happen. He also referred to his conversations with several Ministers over the years about this issue. The Chairman thanked Mr Judd for attending and speaking to Members.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

There were no supplementary items to be considered, however a Memorandum from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) about the 2015 Annual General Meeting Remit Process was distributed to Members for their information. The Chairman commented on the LGNZ Zone 3 meeting which he, the Chief Executive, and Crs Keedwell, Kelly and Sheldon attended the previous week, where several remits had been put forward for consideration.

#### **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**SP 15-99**

**Moved**

**Keedwell/Sheldon**

*That the Committee:*

**confirms** the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 9 December 2014 as a correct record as amended below, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 16 December 2014:

- Pg 3, Presentation on Reducing Nitrogen Emissions from Cattle, amend first line to say that Mr Burr and Dr Lester were from **Quantum Laboratories**, not Vita Power Ltd;
- Pg 4, Resolution SP 14-91, Against the Motion – record the name of Cr Keedwell;
- Pg 4, Update on Climate Change, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph 2<sup>nd</sup> line, change carbon 'saving' to '**storage**'.

**CARRIED**

The Chairman welcomed Mayor Andy Watson and the Chief Executive, Ross McNeill from Rangitikei District Council, to the meeting

## RANGITIKEI STRATEGIC WATER ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATE

*Report No 15-43*

A presentation was made by Mr Ross McNeil, Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council and Rangitikei Mayor Andy Watson on the findings from the Rangitikei Strategic Water Assessment project. They thanked Members for the opportunity to present on the project.

Mr McNeil explained the background to the project and its purpose and scope. He mentioned that although the population of the Rangitikei district was 0.3% of the New Zealand population, it provided 0.7% NZ export value. They talked about water use and water availability in regard to the Rangitikei River and Rangitikei groundwater, about barriers to irrigation, opportunities for irrigation and stockwater schemes, the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Scheme, irrigation efficiency and they mentioned several case studies. Mr McNeil and Mayor Watson provided responses around sustainability of schemes, availability of new technologies, costs, and funding opportunities. There was discussion around assistance that Horizons could provide by way of knowledge and information.

The Chairman thanked them for the presentation and Mayor Watson expressed appreciation for the assistance already provided by Horizons.

**SP 15-100**

**Moved**

**Guy/McKellar**

*That the Committee:*

- a. *receives the presentation from Ross McNeil, Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council; and Rangitikei Mayor Andy Watson.*

**CARRIED**



## PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

**SP 15-103**

**Moved**

**Gordon/Sheldon**

*THAT the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.*

*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 and section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:*

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Meeting held on 9 December 2014	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX2 Selection of Provider for Chief Executive Performance Review Process	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.  This report is confidential due to the potential for discussion of confidential employment terms and conditions of an identifiable individual; AND the commercially sensitive nature of commercial proposals included in this report.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX3 Council / Committee to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain and define the extent of the release.		
PX4 Members' Questions		

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 11.55am and resumed at 1.35pm.

The Chairman advised that due to the length of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, and Members' other commitments, a workshop would not be held that day. He clarified that in response to previous requests from Members he had undertaken to provide Members with a workshop or presentation or similar, should a meeting close before 2.00pm or 3.00pm.

The Chief Executive provided Members with a verbal update on the Economic Growth Study. He said an update had been given to the Regional Chief's meeting on 6 March (prior to the Zone 3 meeting). There would be ministerial involvement in the Study's implementation after a presentation was made on the results of the Study. He suggested that Members could think about the role of Horizons Regional Council, and about opportunities. He also noted that Members would receive a presentation on economic growth on their tour of the Bay of Plenty region. Members commented on the Study.

### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

**Cr McKellar** asked for information on the number of rural roadside fires in the region over the summer period, and whether there was any common cause.

**Cr McKellar** referred to the follow up on One Plan nutrient management. He commented on farmers' concerns about compliance monitoring when they were using OVERSEER. Dr Peet (Group Manager Strategy and Regulation) advised that a paper would be brought to a future meeting about how the compliance framework should work and he outlined the general principle.

The meeting closed at 2.04pm.

Confirmed

---

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

---

CHAIRMAN