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## Strategy and Policy Committee MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in the Chambers of Waikato Regional Council on Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 10.00am.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Present:</b> Cr T Mahuta
<b>Waikato Regional Council</b>	<b>Members</b> Cr J Hayman Cr K Hodge Cr S Husband Cr S Kneebone Cr F Lichtwark Cr A Livingston Cr D Minogue Cr R Rimmington Cr H Vercoe Cr K White Cr B Quayle
<b>Staff</b>	V Payne, Chief Executive T May, Director Science and Strategy G Dawson, Democracy Advisor

**SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

**Apologies**

Cr White moved/Cr Hodge moved.

SPC18/45 **THAT the apologies from Councillor Simcock and Councillor Hennebry for absence be accepted.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/45)**

**Confirmation of Agenda**

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Rimmington moved/Cr Quayle seconded.

SPC18/46 **THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 18 September 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/46)**

**Disclosures of Interest**

(Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Hayman disclosed that she had made a personal submission to the Proposed Waikato District Plan. It was noted that she would abstain from the vote on that matter when the vote would take place, but still take part in discussion.

**Communications Update**

(Agenda Item 4)

This verbal report was presented by the Manager, Communications and Engagement (N Crisp). The Committee was updated on the activities and programmes which had been undertaken from July to September 2018.

The following matters were discussed:

- It was noted that the demographics of Facebook followers had not changed since the last meeting, although there had been a 3.2% increase in engagement numbers.
- IT development of the MarineMate and MyWaikato applications was discussed. It was noted that the development of both applications had progressed well and it had achieved positive results to date. Funds were being sought from the Waikato River Authority to further develop the My Waikato application.
- It was noted that website traffic had peaked over 200,000 views from different IP addresses, the changes to online user tools and search tools were noted as a possible reason for increase in use.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in the performance and ranking of the Council in relation to customer service and customer engagement. The

changes were as a result of providing frontline staff with the knowledge and information that enabled them answer questions fully.

- It was noted that the Council was focused on using a customer centred approach and creating positive points of interaction.
- The Communications and Engagement Team were congratulated for the positive work to date.
- It was noted that there is a desire to extend the use of incident reporting through the My Waikato application. However, there was need to ensure that the parts of the Council that would impact had the capacity and resources for that to happen.

Cr White moved/Cr Rimmington seconded.

SPC18/47

**THAT the verbal report “Communications and Engagement Report July to September 2018’ be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/47)**

**Submission on the Proposed Improvements to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme**

(Agenda Item 5) Doc #12943584 & #12944785

This report was presented by Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation (A Cifuentes). The Committee was asked to approve the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council’s submission on the proposed improvements to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme consultation document.

The following matters were discussed:

- An alteration needed on page six of the submission, with a change from ‘Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act’, to the ‘Official Information Act’ as the act that would apply to the Environment Protection Agency.
- It was noted that riparian planting was not included at this point in time, although it may be included in the future through the ongoing consultation process.
- It was noted that the Environment Protection Agency would look at the agriculture sector and the off-setting of carbon emissions production through a future project. The Committee agreed that it would provide a submission on those topics when approached by that Agency.

Cr Rimmington moved/Cr Quayle seconded.

SPC18/48

**RESOLVED**

- 1. THAT the report ‘Submission to the Emissions Trading Scheme Review’ (Doc # 12943584 dated 18 September 2018) be received.**
- 2. THAT the committee approves the “Waikato Regional Council submission on the proposed improvements to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme” (Doc # 12944785) for lodgement with the Ministry for the Environment.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/48)**

**Submission on the Proposed Waikato District Plan**

(Agenda Item 6) Doc #12949634 & #12999863

This report was presented by Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation (A Tester). The Committee was asked to approve the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council's submission on the Proposed Waikato District Plan.

The following matters were discussed:

- It was noted that the minimum subdivision lot of 40 hectares presented some challenges around productive use of the land and soil, planning for lifestyle or smaller residential plots, and the present and future impact on infrastructure needs.
- It was noted there was concern around the possibility of duplication of regulatory responsibilities between territorial authorities and Council, particularly in regard to earthwork provisions of the proposed plan. It was explained that territorial and regional authorities have slightly different roles, however, staff were mindful of the need to be clear about these different roles in the submission, and were also aware of the need to not cause unnecessary duplication for consent applicants.
- It was noted that there was a need to ensure that developers and other resource consent applicants were not burdened with extra costs as a result of duplication of regulatory roles.
- It was noted that future investment in storm water infrastructure was an ongoing issue that needed to be taken seriously by all of local government. The constraints of investment in stormwater infrastructure and the role of the Council in encouraging greater investment in this area was highlighted.
- The Waikato Expressway Project was discussed. It was noted that there were a number of complex dynamics and challenges that are ongoing with the Project. Relationship management was noted as important, to ensure that the Council and other agencies that are involved in the Project, can work together to achieve positive outcomes for the region and the environment.

Cr Husband left the meeting at 11.03am.

- The matter of an unplanned approach to development in rural areas was discussed. It was noted that unplanned developments can create pressure on areas where it occurs, due to developers and purchasers that want the same or better infrastructure that larger planned towns have.
- It was noted that the cover letter should highlight the importance of transport nodes that will be created along the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor.
- The Committee thanked the staff for the work completed to date.

Cr Lichtwark moved/Cr Quayle seconded.

Cr Hayman abstained.

SPC18/49

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report "Submission to the Proposed Waikato District Plan" (Doc # 12949634 dated 04 September 2018) be received.**
2. **THAT the draft submission on the Proposed Waikato District Plan be approved for submission to Waikato District Council (Doc # 12999863 dated 18 September 2018).**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/49)**

**Submission on the Taupo 2050 District Growth Management Strategy Review**

(Agenda Item 7) Doc #13020537 & #13028322

This report was presented by Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation (A Tester). The Committee was asked to approve the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council's submission on the Taupo 2050 District Council Management Strategy Review.

The following matters were discussed:

- It was noted that there was need to ensure that there were adequate controls and regulation for development in areas susceptible to natural hazards and development close to more sensitive catchments.
- The ongoing challenge and importance of investment in stormwater infrastructure was discussed.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

SPC18/50

**RESOLVED**

- 1. THAT the report "Draft Submission to the Taupo District 2050: District Growth Management Strategy" (Doc # 13020537 dated 04 September 2018) be received.**
- 2. THAT the draft submission on Taupo District Council's updated Taupo 2050: District Growth Management Strategy be approved for submission to Taupo District Council (Doc # 13028322 dated 18 September 2018).**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/50)**

**Submission on the Kauri Dieback Pathogen Consultation Round Two**

(Agenda Item 8) Doc #13036839 & #13036329

This report was presented by the Biosecurity Officer, Pest Plants (K Parker) and the Manager, Integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley). The Committee was asked to approve the content, and subsequent lodgement, of the Waikato Regional Council's submission on the Kauri Dieback Pathogen Consultation, Round Two.

The following matters were discussed:

- Two public meetings have been held to date and have provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to share their experience and concerns on the pathogen.
- The measures and response to protect Tanemahuta from the pathogen was discussed. It was noted that the Te Roroa Iwi were leading the response in collaboration with a range of agencies through joint management agreements.
- It was emphasised that there was still a lot of unknown information about the pathogen and that requires further investigation and research. It was confirmed that the pathogen can live without a host and can be spread through plumes of waste materials of infected trees.
- It was noted that there were a number of constraints that all agencies faced such as access to funds, priorities already in progress, and the capability of agencies to resource any response.

- It was noted that there was a degree of concern on how pests, spreading the pathogen, would be managed and eradicated.

Cr Husband entered the meeting at 11.45pm.

- It was noted that there was a need for high levels of political will and engagement to ensure that a response was immediate and effective as possible.

Cr Kneebone moved/Cr Quayle seconded.

SPC18/51

**RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report 'Waikato Regional Council submission on the Accelerating Kauri Protection consultation' (Doc# 13036839 dated 5 September 2018) be received.**
2. **THAT the committee approves the 'Waikato Regional Council submission on the Accelerating Kauri Protection consultation' (Doc # 13036329) for lodgement to the National Kauri Dieback Programme.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/51)**  
Cr White voted against the motion.

**Responses to 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan Submissions from Local Authorities**

(Agenda Item 9) Doc #13000486 & #13042743

This report was presented by the Manager, Corporate Planning (N Hubbard). The Committee were updated on the responses that have been received on the submissions the Council made to other territorial authorities.

The following matters were discussed:

- The design of fish friendly pumps and the impacts that they had on natural breeding and migration patterns was discussed.
- It was noted there was need for greater clarity around how the fish friendly pumps fit into the wider flood protection and drainage system in the future.
- Existing funding arrangements and implications were discussed, along with other sources of funding that could be contacted, such as the Provincial Growth Fund was discussed.
- It was noted that other territorial authorities had come up with various approaches to fish friendly pumps. Some members of the Committee expressed an interest in what these approaches were at some point in the future.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

SPC18/52

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report "Responses to 2018-2028 Long Term Plan submissions from local authorities" (Doc #13000486 dated 29 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/52)**

**Regional Growth Update**

(Agenda Item 10) Doc #12969976

This report was presented by the Manager, Policy Implementation (M Tamura). The Committee were updated on key urban growth management activities and regional relationships.

The following matters were discussed:

- It was noted that each territorial authority selected the range of growth metrics based on different criteria and assumptions which has meant that a uniform measure could not be established.
- Development contributions were discussed, along with the impacts that the different approaches used by territorial authorities to generate them.
- The sources of population growth for the Hamilton area was discussed. It was noted that 70% of the increase in population was from national and international migration. The impacts that this will have on future spending and development was also discussed.
- The Futureproof strategy was discussed. It was noted that it was anchored in the Regional Policy Statement and there were some time constraints that this applied, mainly in regard to agility of the RPS to response to changes. .

Cr Kneebone moved/Cr Hodges seconded.

SPC18/53

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report 'Regional growth management and relationships update' (Doc # 12969976 dated 03 September 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/53)**

**Regional Policy Statement Effectiveness Report – Natural Hazards**

(Agenda Item 11) Doc #1265344

This report was presented by the Manager, Policy Implementation (M Tamura) and Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation (A Cifuentes). The Committee was provided with a report that was requested by Council in May 2018, and that was requested as part of LTP deliberation discussions. The report provided an overview of the implementation of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and natural hazard management with a specific focus on residential development in Ngatea.

The following matters were discussed:

- It was noted that there was an agreement between territorial authorities and Council that a cautious and measured approach to development around the Ngatea area was needed.
- Existing and future zones for development were discussed. It was noted that natural hazards were not automatically listed on Land Information Management reports and that further information could be gathered by contacting the relevant territorial authority or Council.
- It was noted that Council needed to be proactive in shaping the direction and method of natural hazard protection and the locations where development is being proposed.

- The structure and location of peat soil around the Ngatea area was discussed.

Cr Rimmington moved/Cr White seconded.

SPC18/54

1. **THAT the report 'Regional Policy Statement effectiveness in regard to natural hazards management, a focus on Ngatea' (Doc # 12653244 dated 04 September 2018) be received.**
2. **THAT a further report is brought back to Council that outlines Councils approach to natural hazards risk management, is cognisant of the hazard risk assessment framework, and that takes into account options at councils disposal to engage with territorial authorities in regard to managing and controlling future land use activities.**
3. **THAT the report noted in resolution 2. , references the natural hazard challenges of Ngatea as a potential case study.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/54)**

Cr Husband voted against the motion.

Meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Doc #13085024