
Strategy and Policy Committee MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, Waikato Regional Council office, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East on Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 1.03pm.

Chair	Present: Cr B Simcock
Waikato Regional Council	Members Cr J Hayman Cr K Hodge Cr S Kneebone Cr F Lichtwark Cr A Livingston Cr D Minogue Cr R Rimmington (from 1.17pm) Cr K White Cr B Quayle
Staff	V Payne (Chief Executive) T May (Director Science and Strategy) N Williams (Director Community and Services) M Poole – Meeting Secretary

Apologies

Cr Minogue moved/Cr Livingston seconded

SPC18/55

RESOLVED

THAT the apologies from Councillor T Mahuta, Councillor J Hennebry, Councillor S Husband, Cr R Rimmington (for lateness) and Councillor H Vercoe be accepted.

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/55)

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Hodge seconded.

SPC18/56

RESOLVED

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee of 30 October 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting with a change to the order of Items to take No. 12 – Feedback to the Management Plan for Taupō Waters immediately after the procedural matters and No. 9 – Crown-lwi marine farm development, Colville to move to the end of the agenda.

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/56)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Feedback to the Management Plan for Taupo Waters

File: (Agenda Item #12) Doc #13255846

Presented by Director Community and Services (N Williams). The report sought approval from the Committee for the draft Waikato RC feedback to the Management Plan for Taupō Waters. N Williams highlighted the background and key points set out in the Executive Summary (paragraphs 2 to 5).

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- page 77 (paragraph 10) clarification requested with respect to the 'bed' of the Waikato River to read "Taupō Waters includes the bed of Lake Taupō, the bed of the Waikato River including *and only as far as* the Huka Falls and the beds of certain rivers and streams flowing into the Lake. It does not include the water over that land".
- support for the commentary with respect to the use of maps to assist to define 'margins' and how any rules influence the management of those margins.
- there are a range of factors and considerations relating to trout/the trout fishery including commercial versus non-commercial interests; indigenous freshwater fish species versus the trout introduced for sport fishing and the associated economic

and environmental issues; and the provisions of the Treaty Settlement with Ngati Tuwharetoa.

- the Resource Management Act S7 Other Matters “*shall have particular regard to... (h) the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon*”, and the Council’s Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan/s have appropriate references.
- the Department of Conservation and Fish & Game NZ have responsibilities with respect to the trout fishery and/or fishing licences.
- the Taupō-nui-a-Tia Management Board membership comprises four (4) people appointed by the Minister of Conservation and four (4) from the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board.

It was also noted that the Committee will be considering a submission to the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill (Item 10 on the agenda). The information circulated by Cr White and some of the comments/points made may be more relevant to that item/proposed submission.

Cr Quayle moved/Cr Minogue seconded.

SPC18/57

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report “Waikato Regional Council feedback to the Management Plan for Taupō Waters” (Doc #13255846 dated 23 October 2018) be received, and**
2. **THAT the draft feedback to the Management Plan for Taupō Waters (Doc #13256352) and as clarified/amended with respect to paragraph 10 (outlined above) to clarify the extent of the bed of the Waikato River including *and only as far as* the Huka Falls, be approved for lodgement with the Taupō-nui-a-Tia Management Board.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/57)

Update from Communications

(Agenda Item 4)

Staff provided a verbal update on communications activities and social media usage data over the previous six-week period.

Cr R Rimmington arrived at 1.17pm

It was noted that:

- the new ‘marine mate’ app was launched during the week 12-19 September, with a high level of public interest (56% extra ‘hits’).
- five new videos have been launched, including EnviroSchools and water safety (lifejackets and waterproof communications).
- the most popular website topics continue to be rivers and rainfall, with rates in second place with increased ‘hits’ on the direct debit/on-line payment sites.
- the topics of waste and healthy rivers are third and fourth respectively, with the Busit routes and holiday activities sites also popular.
- the next Waikato ‘unwrapped’ stories from staff and people in the community will be launched at a stakeholder event on 30 November.

Arising out of questions and responses, it was noted that:

- further data analysis will be done to identify the level of interest in the new marine app from the Coromandel area.
- it is not possible to do any data analysis by age demographic for the Busit 'hits'.

Giving Effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2017

(Agenda Item 5) Doc #12943697

Presented by Director Science and Strategy (T May). The report provided an update on implementation of the programme to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2017 (NPS-FM) and to recommend that Council adopt, for public notification, a revised programme of defined time limited stages to implement the NPS-FM. T May highlighted the key points in Executive Summary (paragraphs 3 to 7), noting that Council is making good progress to achieve NPS-FM implementation via a combination of existing work programmes and policy and plan development, with the date to have achieved full implementation now being 31 December 2030.

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- clarification sought on the timing to 'embed' protections for the significant values of wetlands. View expressed that this needs to happen sooner rather than later.
- advised that wetland values do have status/some protections within District Plans and some existing Regional Plan rules support this.
- there have been changes and extensions to dates/completion timetables at the national level and in council's work programme. Clarification requested on the timeframes/dates that are now applicable/in place.
- the notification date/timing for the Hauraki/Coromandel Plan change is now 2020/2021. However, if the Hauraki Settlement process has not been completed in sufficient time, questions were asked as to whether it would not be appropriate to continue without having/knowing the Settlement outcomes.
- if the Hauraki/Coromandel Plan timing had to be extended, then consideration would be given to progressing another priority area of the region, such as the West Coast. However, there would need to be a full review and evaluation before any decisions were made.
- Waikato RC has made a significant investment in collaborative processes (for example Healthy Rivers) and continues to look at ways to improve how to engage and collaborate with stakeholders and the community.
- the 'goal posts' do keep moving. There is the ongoing challenge of continuing to make meaningful progress/achieve outcomes, without wasting effort and just ending up in a 'holding pattern' with no tangible results.
- view expressed that some of the terms used, for example 'healthy environments' is meaningless to the public; whereas saying 'review of the Coastal Plan' is better understood. Requested that decisions made on terms used take this into account.
- Council has three main tools to 'give effect to' provisions and requirements, being carrots (incentives and positive environment outcomes), sticks (enforcement) and 'sermons' (communication and engagement). The process to make plans and rules is very cumbersome and takes years to complete. Having to continue using 'sticks' is frustrating, time consuming and has negative connotations. Need to take the

- community with us and to 'speed up' the process – one scenario being to combine the Hearing Committee and Court processes into one.
- with respect to the 'carrots', the LTP has increased the budget for catchment works, fencing and planting.

Cr White moved/Cr Quayle seconded

SPC18/58

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report 'Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2017' (Doc #12943697 dated 11 October 2018) be received.**
2. **THAT the summary table in Attachment 1 (Doc #12943697) that overviews the implementation programme be publicly notified by 31 December 2018.**
3. **THAT a programme of defined time-limited stages as set out in Attachment 2 (Doc #12943697) to implement the policies of the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management be adopted.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/58)

Inter-regional Marine Pest Pathway Management – Development of Discussion Document

(Agenda Item 6) Doc #13140220

Presented by Manager Integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley). The report sought endorsement of Waikato RC's participation in developing a discussion document for an inter-regional marine pest pathway management plan (IRPP). P Whaley highlighted the key points set out in Executive Summary (paragraphs 2 to 6), noting that:

- the invasion of marine pests in the upper North Island is spread mainly via boat hulls; and
- one mechanism for managing the risk of pest spread is via Pathway Management Plans, a new tool under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Pathway Management Plans aim to prevent harmful organisms being spread, and in the marine situation via the movement of boats.
- the first step is to develop a Discussion Document, by February 2019 for engagement with stakeholders and the wider community.

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- do we need to seek feedback from stakeholders/the wider community first to get their views on whether there is a problem; or is there already sufficient evidence of a problem?
- there is already a collective view between the Councils who have formed the 'Top of the North' Marine Biosecurity Partnership (TON) that there are risks that need to be managed.
- there is a national framework in place and the boating community and marine industries provided feedback into that process. MPI is the agency responsible and the Councils are looking to work with MPI; however currently there are no national rules in place.

- while the TON Partnership has been formed, there are other Councils with a strong view this matter is an MPI function and MPI should be leading the response.
- the Coromandel Peninsula is an area already experiencing/affected by the spread of marine pests and a response/action is required to address this growing problem.
- view expressed that this issue is equally relevant to West Coast harbours, for example the Taharoa ironsand ships, with both potential hull 'passengers' and contaminants in discharged ballast water. Advised that the Taharoa ballast water management is part of MPI's responsibilities. However, a domestic ballast water plan/response is still required.
- general consensus that there is an issue that needs to be addressed and support to draft a Discussion document as a first step towards the development of an Inter-Regional Marine Pest Pathway Management Plan.

Cr Kneebone moved/Cr Livingston seconded.

SPC18/59

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report 'Inter-regional marine pest pathway management plan – development of discussion document' (Doc #13140220 dated 30 October 2018) be received.**
2. **THAT the development of a joint discussion document, with supporting information and engagement programme, on inter-regional marine pest pathway management be endorsed; and**
3. **THAT the draft discussion document be presented to the Strategy & Policy Committee for their information and discussion; and be approved by the Director Integrated Catchment Management prior to its release.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/59)

Submission on the Bay of Plenty proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

(Agenda Item 7) Doc #13240155

Presented by Manager Integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley). The report sought approval from the Committee on the content of Waikato RC's submission to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and its lodgement to BOPRC. P Whaley highlighted the key points set out in Executive Summary (paragraphs 2 to 5), noting staff's view that:

- the BOPRC document is strongly aligned to what Waikato RC is currently doing.
- the submission is generally supportive in terms of the approach and intent of BOPRC's Proposed RPMP and identifies areas for clarification and suggestions for edits/changes.

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- general view expressed that the way some of the feedback has been worded may be perceived as being too directive and expressed through a Waikato pest management 'lens' and this region's pest management priorities and approach.
- we seek to have and maintain good working relationships and open two-way communication with our adjoining Regional Councils. It may be more helpful for

some of the feedback to be covered in discussions between relevant staff from both Councils.

- good neighbour rules and consistent approaches for cross-boundary pest issues such as the spread and control of wallabies, are important. The Kaimai Forum is one multi-party cross boundary group in place.
- BOPRC's position on and approach to various pests may be the result of engagement outcomes with their communities. There are also significant areas of Department of Conservation managed land in the BOP region.

To support the overall 'supportive' nature of the submission, it was requested that the appropriate ICM staff work with the CEO/communications to identify appropriate edits and messaging of the feedback in the submission. With the understanding that these changes would be made, the Committee agreed that the submission, as rewritten could be lodged with BOPRC.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

SPC18/60

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report 'Waikato Regional Council submission to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan' (Doc #13240155 dated 30 October 2018) be received; and**
2. **THAT the subject to the requested edits and messaging changes being made to the draft 'Waikato Regional Council submission to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan' (Doc #13237090), the submission be approved for lodgement with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/60)
Councillor K White recorded her vote against the motion**

Submission to Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill

(Agenda Item 10) Doc #13114752

Presented by Policy Advisory (A Cifuentes). The report sought approval on the content of the Waikato RC's submission on the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill and lodgement with the Environment Committee of the NZ Parliament. A Cifuentes highlighted the key points in the Executive Summary (paragraphs 2-6) and noted that:

- the Bill is intended to improve the relationship between the management of fish under the Conservation Act, the Fisheries Act and Treaty Settlement legislation.
- Council's submission expresses the view that the changes introduced by the proposed Amendment Bill will not significantly improve the management of freshwater fisheries, freshwater biodiversity values or the efficiency of government administration.

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- that information about the legal opinion provided by G Palmer to Fish & Game NZ on the impacts of this Amendment Bill on the sports fishery had been circulated by Cr White.

- Lake Taupō is under the management of the Department of Conservation, and the trout sport fishery issues are not part of Waikato RC's statutory roles and responsibilities.
- the Resource Management Act S7 Other Matters "*shall have particular regard to... (h) the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon*", and the Council's Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan/s have appropriate references.
- the Amendment Bill is very specific, and submission points must be within the scope of the purpose statement.
- the status and management of the whitebait fishery, commercial harvesting/economic issues, the licensing/occupation of stands, the decline of whitebait species, the need to undertake/require monitoring, understanding the lifecycle of whitebait species and loss of habitat were raised. Advised that the Amendment Bill does not include/cover any matters raised with respect to the whitebait fishery and associated issues, including biodiversity.
- the Environment & Service Performance Committee has recently received reports on significant koura deaths. The issues around the use of contaminants on land that adversely affect native aquatic species are outside the scope of the Amendment Bill but may be an issue to raise with the Government separately.
- clarification of the definition of an in-stream structure was requested. It would include culverts of a specified size, monitoring would identify that culverts meet the permitted activity rule or have been granted a resource consent and/or meet fish passage requirements.

Cr Quayle moved/Cr Livingston seconded.

SPC18/61

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the report 'Submission to Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill' (Doc #13114467 dated 30 October 2018) be received; and**
2. **THAT the 'Waikato Regional Council submission on the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill' (Doc #13114752) be approved for lodgement with the Environment Committee of the New Zealand Parliament.**

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/61)

Submission on Proposed Alcohol Control Bylaw

(Agenda Item 11) Doc #13222721 & 13222525

Presented by Manager Taupō/Upper Waikato (A McLeod) and Senior Policy Advisor Policy Implementation (H Beaven). The report sought approval from the Committee on the content of the draft submission to the Taupō District Council Proposed Alcohol Control Bylaw and its lodgement with Taupō District Council.

A McLeod highlighted the key points set out in Executive Summary (paragraphs 2 to 6), noting that council is interested in the Bylaw as it applies to the Otumuheke Stream (Spa Park area) because the Stream is a significant natural area (SNA) and a significant geothermal feature. There has been considerable investment in restoration of the

Stream environs to protect natural features and flora and repair erosion and other damage.

During questions, answers and related discussion the Committee the following points were noted:

- Spa Park/the Stream has become increasingly popular with locals and tourists for recreational activities in recent years resulting in an increase in behavioural issues/problems often due to alcohol consumption. There are also problems associated with habitat damage/destruction and increased littering.
- Waikato RC has not typically taken an active interest in territorial authority alcohol bylaw processes to date. In this case there is an environmental restoration and protection aspect/basis.
- concern expressed that this could set a precedent for input to Alcohol Bylaw processes in other parts of the Region, for example in high use coastal areas.
- while acknowledging the issues involved, queried whether making a submission was the 'best tool' to respond to the situation.
- Waikato RC has responsibilities for Navigation Safety and the issue of alcohol consumption and therefore safe behaviours around fresh and marine waterways is very relevant.
- there has and continues to be a multi-stakeholder partnership approach to the management, protection and enhancement of the Otumuheke Stream in this location, which is very close to the confluence with the Waikato River.

Cr White moved/Cr Minogue seconded.

SPC18/62

RESOLVED

- 1. THAT the report 'Submission on Taupō District Council Proposed Alcohol Control Bylaw' (Doc #13222721 dated 17 October 2018) be received; and**
- 2. THAT the 'Waikato Regional Council submission to the Taupō District Council Proposed Alcohol Control Bylaw' (Doc # 13222525) be approved for lodgement with Taupō District Council.**

**The motion was put and carried (SPC18/62)
Councillors B Simcock and B Quayle recorded their votes against the motion**

2018-2028 Long Term Plan Debrief

(Agenda Item 13) Doc #13149368

Presented by Manager Corporate Planning (N Hubbard). The report provided Councillors with feedback on the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) process. The report was taken as read, noting that the results of feedback received have been grouped into three themes being direction setting, information and timelines and consultation.

Arising out of questions, responses and related discussion the following points were noted:

- from a staff perspective there was good communication from the Corporate Planning team and good collaboration between the Corporate Planning and Finance teams
- the LTP process, including the audit has a focus on amendments to the LTP, rather than the 'business as usual' aspects. If there are only a few, or minor amendments then the public may feel they do not have much opportunity to make submissions and influence what Council is doing. There needs to be good communication out to the community not only about any amendments, but also what isn't changing (business as usual) and how to make having their say count.
- the importance of having good business analytics and 'intelligence' to assist the process and to communicate this data/information in a way that is easily understood.
- that there were some timing issues around Integrated Catchment Asset Plans, hopefully this was a one-off situation.

Cr Livingston moved/Cr Quayle seconded.

SPC18/63

THAT the report 2018-2028 LTP debrief (Doc #13149368 dated 10 October 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (SPC18/63)

Resolution to Exclude the Public

(Agenda Item 8)

Cr Litchwark moved/Cr White seconded.

*	<p>THAT the public be excluded from the following part/s of the meeting:</p> <p>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 are as follows:</p>	
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	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
9	Crown-Iwi marine farm development, Colville	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48(1)(a)

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

Item No	Interest
9	Protect information where the making available of the information (i) would disclose a trade secret; or (ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (Section 7(2)(b))
9	In the case only of an application for a resource consent, or water conservation order, or a requirement for a designation or heritage order under the Resource Management Act 1991, to avoid serious offence to Tikanga Maori, or to avoid the disclosure of the location of waahi tapu (Section 7(2)(ba))
9	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information (i) would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or (ii) would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (Section 7(2)(c))
9	Maintain legal professional privilege (Section 7(2)(g))
9	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (Section 7(2)(h))
9	Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage (Section 7(2)(j))
9	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (Section 7(2)(i))

The motion was put and carried (TACG18/*)

Return to Open meeting at 3.20pm

With respect to the Item “Crown-Iwi marine farm development, Colville (considered in Public Excluded), it was resolved that the following decisions be reported in open meeting:

2. The Committee approve the Director Science and Strategy to respond to the Ministry of Primary Industries in accordance with the following:
 - b. Informing that the identification of future marine farm and aquaculture zones within the Waikato region is a topic to be addressed through the regional coastal plan review, and that

this review will first include an engagement programme to determine zones and areas that will be included in the plan to be notified in accordance with Schedule 1 of the RMA.

3. In regard to future marine farming and aquaculture zone and areas in and around the Coromandel Peninsula, community engagement will be specific to the east and west coast communities and will include the following options:
 - a. maintaining the status quo specific to each of those areas,
 - b. indicative areas for future aquaculture development identified in the Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm

Doc #