

Waikato Regional Council

Strategy and Policy Committee

Date: Tuesday, 30 July, 2019, 10:00 am

Location: Council Chamber
Waikato Regional Council
401 Grey Street, Hamilton East

Members Present: Cr B Simcock - Chair
Cr T Mahuta - Deputy Chair
Cr J Hennebry
Cr K Hodge
Cr S Husband
Cr F Lichtwark
Cr D Minogue
Cr B Quayle
Cr K White

Others Present: T May - Director Science and Strategy
S McLeay – Democracy Advisor

1. Call to Order and Apologies

The meeting commenced at 10.04am. Apologies were received from Crs H Vercoe, S Kneebone, A Livingston, R Rimmington and J Hayman, and T Mahuta (for lateness).

SPC19/23

Moved by: Cr J Hennebry

Seconded by: Cr F Lichtwark

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the apologies of Crs H Vercoe, S Kneebone, A Livingston, R Rimmington, J Hayman; and T Mahuta (for lateness), be accepted.

The motion was put and carried

2. Confirmation of Agenda

SPC19/24

Moved by: Cr S Husband

Seconded by: Cr J Hennebry

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the agenda of the meeting as circulated, be confirmed as the business of the meeting subject to any changes of item order to reflect the order in these minutes.

The motion was put and carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

Cr T Mahuta joined the meeting at 10:17 am.

4. Digital Communications Report

The verbal report was presented by the Director Community and Services (N Williams). The following was noted:

- In respect to the upcoming elections, a digital campaign was underway that would run until the end of August 2019. Nationally there was a voter participation gap in people 18-35 years of age. There would be specific targeting of this age group in communications collateral.
- There was concern that an emphasis on digital media may be ageist or amount to unfair campaign targeting of one cohort.
- There was a general approach across local government to use media strategies in an attempt to address information receipt inequities.

- A member made the comment that as many young people were not ratepayers, they may not have the same interest in local government relative to the older age group. It was important to local government that young people were as engaged as possible. It was hoped that young people would have the confidence that they could use local government to make positive change.
- One member noted that campaigns were mainly in English and that there would be benefit in equal use of Te Reo which was an official language along with English.
- Staff undertook to provide further information on the election related media campaigns later in the meeting. This item would be readdressed at that time.

The meeting moved back to this item at 12.20pm following item 8. The following was noted:

- Broad channels of communication had been used to inform the public about elections, not just youth. This would continue.
- Other means of engagement included candidate drop in sessions throughout the region in person (including in co-operation with territorial authorities). These were promoted in print media via local newspapers and digitally via Facebook.
- During July there had been half page advertisements published in local newspapers including the Waikato Times.
- Other websites were also being utilized including TVNZ and Stuff, alongside social media. There was an election promotion on the Waikato Regional Council website.
- The pre-election report from the Chief Executive was due to be released to the public in August 2019. This would be made available in both digital and print formats.
- Concern was expressed that there was no duplication of the national campaign to promote the upcoming local government election.
- It was important to maintain a neutral approach to publicity.
- Staff were asked to present the communications report in a written format in future.

SPC19/25

Moved by: Cr D Minogue

Seconded by: Cr B Simcock

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the verbal "Digital Communications report" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

5. Beyond 2020 – Information Services Strategic Direction 2019-2021

The report was presented by the Chief Information Officer (J Crane). The following was noted:

- Change in this area was exponential. It was important that Waikato Regional Council was proactive and remained current.
- Adjustment to changing technologies was required in all areas of the organization to ensure effective utilization at least cost.
- Efficiency in technological delivery across local government was also considered. Opportunities were available through Waikato Local Authority Shared Services.
- 5G was a type of enhanced mobile connectivity. There were no current plans to utilize 5G, although it may be considered in the future. One member made a request for a future presentation about 5G and its effect on human health.
- Risk was carefully managed in the digital space. A balance was sought between taking, controlling and mitigating risk.

SPC19/26

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr S Husband

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the report "Beyond 2020 – Information Services Strategic Direction 2019-2021" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

6. Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan Review – Consultation approach

The report was presented by the Manager Integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley) and Consultant (A McKenzie). The following was noted:

- The Pest Management Plan was a rule book that sat alongside the Pathway Management Plan and the Biosecurity Strategy.
- The Pest Management Plan review process was flexible and currently at the stage of stakeholder consultation.
- Members would be involved in workshops as part of the process in early 2020.
- Consultation with a broad group of stakeholders was required including Iwi. The wider public had been consulted via the last Long Term Plan. There was the option to have public drop in sessions.
- Concern was voiced that consultation didn't become protracted to the point that the pest population was left unchecked, and to be cognisant that Catchment committees provided an invaluable landowner perspective.
- The territorial authorities in the region were included in the list of stakeholders to be consulted. Elected members and chief executives would be involved.

- This wasn't a full review but a process to create consistency with national documents.
- This stage was about process, content would be debated later.
- Unless Council decided otherwise, it was anticipated that there would be full consultation and public notification.

SPC19/27

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr D Minogue

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

1. **That the report "Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan Review – Consultation approach" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.**
2. **That the proposed approach to engagement and consultation set out in the report be endorsed.**

The motion was put and carried

Cr K White voted against.

7. Feedback from discussion document 'Better ways to stop marine pests?' and next steps

The report was presented by the Manager Integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley) and Principal Strategic Advisor (H Bevan). The following was noted:

- Significant consultation had been undertaken, with a general indication that change was desired.
- Concern was raised that not all key stakeholders had been consulted. There had been a low number of submitters relative to numbers of those participating in the marine environment.
- Central government was the lead agency in this area and was the main fund holder.
- A request was made for a legal opinion on the extent of regional council responsibility in this area. It would be beneficial if there was consistency across the region. Members noted that the approach needed to be practical and supported by a cost benefit analysis.
- The Marine Mate application could be used to support better behaviour by the public.

Cr T Mahuta left the meeting at 11:20 am.

Cr T Mahuta joined the meeting at 11:36 am.

SPC19/28

Moved by: Cr F Lichtwark

Seconded by: Cr B Quayle

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the report "Feedback from discussion document 'Better ways to stop marine pests?' and next steps" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

SPC19/29

Moved by: Cr D Minogue

Seconded by: Cr F Lichtwark

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That an options analysis is undertaken in collaboration with the Top of the North Biosecurity Group to identify a preferred option (where the supporting evidence would include cost benefit analyses) for marine pest management.

The motion was put and carried

SPC19/30

Moved by: Cr T Mahuta

Seconded by: Cr K White

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That a preferred option for the management of marine pests across the four partner regions, Biosecurity New Zealand and Department of Conservation be presented to Strategy and Policy Committee in early 2020.

The motion was put and carried

8. National kauri dieback programme update, National Pest Management Plan

The report was presented by the Manager integrated Catchment Services (P Whaley) and Biosecurity Officer (K Parker). The following was noted:

- Members believed Waikato Regional Council needed to be more public in the non-funding of this programme from central government.
- A number of well attended public meetings had been held in the region. Inferences of funding by government were given at those meetings. Those messages provided by government had created an expectation that funding would be available and it was likely that there would be a number of dissatisfied community members.
- Members believed Waikato Regional Council needed to be stronger in its public messaging, and that there was an opportunity to be proactive including Iwi, other councils, and strategic stakeholders in sending a letter to Ministers voicing concern about lack of funding.

SPC19/31

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr T Mahuta

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

1. That the report "National kauri dieback programme update, National Pest Management Plan" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.
2. That a watching brief is maintained of central government funding of the National Kauri Dieback Programme and National Pest Management Plan and Management Agency.

The motion was put and carried

SPC19/32

Moved by: Cr D Minogue

Seconded by: Cr F Lichtwark

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That Council, in response to the news of an absence of previously indicated funding from government in regard to an integrated Kauri dieback response, supports an active public advocacy campaign that focusses on securing government funding to recognize kauri as a regional and national taonga. That this campaign include engaging and inviting support from Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council, relevant Territorial Authorities, Iwi, the Hauraki Gulf Forum; and other strategic stakeholders.

The motion was put and carried

SPC19/33

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr J Hennebry

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That Council is kept updated on the development and implementation of the public advocacy programme.

The motion was put and carried

The meeting returned to item 4 "Digital Communications Report" at 12.20pm following this item following which the meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.39pm and reconvened at 1.05pm.

9. **Submission to Hauraki District Council on the proposed Drainage Bylaw**

The report was presented by the Acting Team Leader Environmental Compliance in person (K Healy), and the Manager Hauraki Coromandel Integrated Catchment Management (A Munro) by Skype telephone link.

SPC19/34

Moved by: Cr S Husband

Seconded by: Cr B Quayle

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

1. That the report "Submission to Hauraki District Council on the proposed Drainage Bylaw" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.
2. That the Waikato Regional Council Submission to Hauraki District Council's proposed Drainage Bylaw is approved for lodgement with Hauraki District Council.

The motion was put and carried

10. 2019 'Your Environment – What matters?' Survey Results

The report was presented by the Manager Social and Economic Science (R Buckingham). The following was noted:

- Concern was raised that this survey may not be sufficiently focused on the impact of the economy on the environment. A request was made that future surveys seek the public's perception of what was as economic priority.
- The results indicated a desire for individual and community driven action, enabling public funding to be allocated elsewhere. One member requested to be informed of the number of responders who mentioned pesticides in their response. Staff undertook to look into the data more deeply and provide a response.
- The media had a significant influence on public concerns and this may have influenced the completion of the survey.
- The question was raised, did the survey represent value for money? How would the information be used? Staff undertook to respond to these questions more fully in the next few months.

SPC19/35

Moved by: Cr S Husband

Seconded by: Cr D Minogue

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

1. That the report "2019 'Your Environment – What matters?' Survey Results" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.
2. That a communications strategy is developed for the release of the report that incorporates release to key stakeholders.
3. That the report is released in accordance with the communications strategy.

The motion was put and carried

11. Update on the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan

The report was presented by the Manager Integration and Infrastructure (M Tamura). The following was noted:

- Concern about connections to other areas such as Raglan was raised.
- The direct players were the three territorial authorities. Waikato Regional Council took a whole of region view ensuring that there was integration between land use and infrastructure.
- Inadequate planning and cross boundary drift was to be avoided.
- There was concern that all development would affect the River. There were multiple private plan changes in progress and the question was how to respond from a regional perspective. Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa River must be considered in the process.

SPC19/36

Moved by: Cr S Husband

Seconded by: Cr T Mahuta

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the report "Update on the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

12. Submission to Consultation on Protecting Hector's and Maui Dolphin

The report was presented by Senior Policy Advisor (V Carruthers). The following was noted:

- A co-ordinated approach to protection was proposed.
- Net setting would need to be further regulated. A total ban on recreational net setting was required but not on commercial net setting in upper harbour reaches where these dolphins weren't found. No trawling was currently undertaken in the region's harbours.
- A total net setting ban was required in rivers.
- There were problems created by motor boat racing in Raglan's dolphin nursery. That could be managed through the coastal plan as it managed noise, amongst other things.
- There was a need to signal that Crown and existing permit holder exceptions were unacceptable.

SPC19/37

Moved by: Cr D Minogue

Seconded by: Cr K White

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

1. **That the report "Submission to Consultation on Protecting Hector's and Maui Dolphin" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.**

2. That the "Waikato Regional Council submission on the Consultation on proposals for an updated Threat Management Plan for protecting Hector's and Maui Dolphin" be approved for lodgement with the Department of Conservation with the addition of points raised, and the word 'significantly' to paragraph 3 of the Introduction on page 2 before the word 'extend' in the first line.

The motion was put and carried

13. Submissions summary and WRC role responsibilities with district council

The report was presented by the Team Leader Policy Implementation (L Balsom) and Senior Policy Advisor (G Read). The following was noted:

- The Waikato Regional Council Natural Hazards Portal was a key tool for the public to identify the risk they take in developing certain land.
- Members reiterated their previous concern in respect of non-aligned planning, and extensive processes with long time frames for plan changes leading to increased risk from inappropriately zoned land use.
- A greater level of proactivity in this area was requested recognizing that changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 were necessary.

SPC19/38

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr D Minogue

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the report "Council's role in resource management at district level and submissions summary" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

14. Te Waka Annual Report 2018/2019 and Te Waka Partnership Agreement Schedule of Function and Services for 2019/2020

SPC19/39

Moved by: Cr S Husband

Seconded by: Cr B Quayle

RESOLVED (SECTION A)

That the report "Te Waka Annual Report 2018/2019 and Te Waka Partnership Agreement Schedule of Function and Services for 2019/2020" (Strategy and Policy Committee 30 July 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

The meeting was closed at 2.46pm.