

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, T. Archer, T. Scott

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), S. Moran (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Scarlett) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 August 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he assisted with the finalising of the Greymouth Floodwall design tender. He advised that Good Earth Matters won the tender.

Cr Ewen stated that he followed up various consenting matters with staff over the past few weeks.

Cr Ewen attended the Open Day at Stockton Mine recently; he stated he was impressed with the set up at the mine site. Cr Chinn and Cr Archer also visited Stockton the day prior to Cr Ewen's visit.

Moved (Ewen / Davidson) *that the Council receive this report.*

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

S. Moran spoke to his report advising that he attended mediation for Wetlands Variation 1, this was directed by the Court. S. Moran advised that a hearing date has been set for the week of the 14th of December. S. Moran reported that original submission period for Variation 2 closed with 10 submissions received and further submissions close on the 23rd of September. Cr Chinn asked what is the reason for the second submission process. S. Moran responded that it is a two stage process and the second stage is for others to support or oppose the 10 submissions that have already been put forward. Cr Chinn asked S. Moran if it is advisable to put in another submission. S. Moran responded that the information is all there to see and that if there is disagreement with what others have put in then they should put in a further submission. Cr Birchfield sought confirmation that Variation 1 is for the 20 or so wetlands that went into schedule 1 of the Land and Riverbed Plan. Cr Birchfield stated that these are the wetlands that are to be "locked up". He feels that Council should have sought compensation for affected landowners before their land is "locked up". He stated that

he would be standing aside from the hearing process for Variation 2 because he felt compensation should have been provided.

Cr Ewen reminded Council of the unanimous vote made by this Council to pursue with Government the matter of compensation for landowners of the identified wetlands. Cr Archer stated that compensation can not be applied for until you know what you are being compensated for therefore the matter needs to run through the statutory process in order for recommendations to be made, then compensation can be considered. C. Ingle advised that the plan itself already has a method in it that talks about this Council encouraging DoC to purchase or exchange land so that the conservation value is recognised and the landowner is then compensated or exchanged land that they can use for other purposes. C. Ingle advised that there is no guarantee of compensation.

S. Moran reported that DoC has approved the concession for the weather radar and they are working towards the timeframe of 2011.

S. Moran reported that the Civil Defence Group Controllers Forum was held in early August. C. Ingle attended this forum and noted that there was good attendance from controllers of all four Councils. He stated this was pleasing in view of the upcoming Ru Whenua exercise next Friday.

S. Moran reported that 5,500 people have signed up for "West Coast Shake Out" to participate in the earthquake drill that is scheduled for the same day as Exercise Ru Whenua.

S. Moran reported that there is a national tsunami exercise scheduled for October 2010, this will be a monitoring exercise for this council.

S. Moran reported that there was a small fresh that triggered the alarm on the Grey River during the reporting period.

S. Moran reported that the number of exceedences of air quality recorded this year is similar to those reported in previous years. Cr Davidson stated that the figures are not alarming. Cr Ewen stated that the recent thesis received revealed that there isn't a health issue relating to air quality.

T. Scott asked for further information regarding warning systems for tsunamis. S. Moran advised that if a tsunami is coming from a long distance then there is time for the local Civil Defence to put out a warning. Cr Archer advised that for significant off shore tsunamis the first alarm would be activated by Civil Defence in Wellington but the dilemma is that there is no national warning system at a local level. S. Moran responded that the best advice is that if people feel a strong shake, and they are concerned, they should head for high ground. Cr Archer stated that in terms of risks, tsunamis are ranked 13 on the list of risks that are likely to face the people on the West Coast.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 SUMMARY OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SIMPLIFYING AND STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL 2009

S. Moran spoke to this report stating that the main changes to the Bill are that proposed rules would not take force until after decisions are released on submissions. He advised that this probably won't affect our plans which will continue to have effect straight away. S. Moran stated it will be interesting to see what will happen with the discount policy for late consents, where applications are avoidably processed late. Cr Ewen stated that it is pleasing to see that an effort was made by staff to ensure that our concerns were made known.

Cr Archer stated that the outcome of the Bill is very disappointing and that despite all the political posturing that was going to refine and improve the outcomes of the Act, this does not achieve even window dressing level. Cr Archer feels that advantages for consent applicants in streamlining is a waste of time and effort as it will not achieve what the government has set out to do.

Cr Birchfield asked that when a National Standard is in place, how does that affect our plan? S. Moran responded that we would have to amend our plan at some point to come into line with the policy statement or National Environmental Standard, which is why we lodged this submission.

Moved (Archer / Scott) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.1.3 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

S. Moran spoke to this report advising that this is a summary on what other agencies have been doing to achieve the objectives and policies. T. Scott expressed concern at the statistics for crashes. Cr Robb drew attention to regional and national statistics, he explained that we are in line with the

rest of the country. Cr Ewen thanked staff for the very good report and commended the way it had been collated. Cr Chinn stated that the report shows imports of 1% to the West Coast and exports of 4% from the West Coast. Cr Chinn feels that the West Coast sometimes does not get recognised for this in government circles.

Moved (Archer / Scarlett)

That the Council approve the 2008 / 2009 Annual Report on the West Coast Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to his report stating that it has been another quiet month in the consents department. He reported that the hearing for Hydro Developments Limited proposed Stockton Plateau Hydro Scheme took place in Westport during the reporting period and the committee is currently deliberating on its decision. C. Dall advised that he attended a further mediation meeting for TrustPower's Arnold Valley Hydro Power Scheme appeals last week, which appears to have been successful. This means that the appeal can be resolved through a consent order, this appeal was from Mr Gordon Graham.

Cr Archer asked if there are any outstanding appeals that are likely to go to the Environment Court. C. Dall responded that John Groome's appeal is still subject to a strikeout application from TrustPower and if the strikeout doesn't succeed then a formal Environment Court hearing may be required. C. Dall advised that a decision on the strikeout application is imminent.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the September 2009 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall reported that a further complaint was received regarding the Greymouth Aquatic Centre Boiler but upon inspection the boiler was found to be working effectively and within compliance limits. Cr Scarlett asked if the boiler is supposed to run so that no discharge to the atmosphere is seen. C. Dall responded that you are supposed to see very little smoke but on occasions such as when firing up or opening the kiln door there could be puffs of smoke. Cr Robb stated he has spent time around this area and the hockey turf area. He stated that a couple of times he has seen puffs of smoke but only for approximately 20 seconds and on very few occasions. C. Dall stated that early on there was evidence of soot on the hockey turf but this is no longer happening. He stated that this is an operational issue and that ongoing monitoring of the boiler is in place.

C. Dall reported that staff are currently investigating a discharge from McLeans Pit, the findings will be brought to the next Council meeting.

C. Dall reported that staff are inspecting sewage treatment systems in the region and have recently visited the Westport area for this purpose.

C. Dall reported that Pike River Coal Limited have carried out further mitigation work and have installed an extra sump in the Coal Slurry Processing Area and in the Pit Bottom in Stone area.

C. Dall reported that a trigger limit was exceeded at the Stockton Open Cast Mine during the reporting period, this was only for a very short duration and could not be attributed to any works at the time.

C. Dall advised that there were a typical number of complaints / incidents recorded during the reporting period and no formal enforcement action was taken during this time.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer)

- 1. That the September 2009 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. That Council release the bond held for RC 02260.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.11 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date