

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2011 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,  
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.**

**PRESENT:**

B. Chinn (Chairman), R. Scarlett, T. Archer, D. Davidson, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, I. Cummings,

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

*Carried*

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

**3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Birchfield / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 7 November 2011, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Chinn reported that it has been a very quiet month and he has nothing significant to report this month.

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

*Carried*

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

**5.1.1 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report in M. Meehan's absence. He advised that the Review of Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA that the government has launched has been triggered mainly by the Christchurch earthquakes and the fact that hazards like liquefaction hadn't been as thoroughly assessed through the planning process as they might have been. C. Ingle reported that Section 6 is the principles of the Act, matters of national importance. C. Ingle reported that some councils are concerned about the old river control provisions being brought into the RMA and there may be some technical complications with this.

C. Ingle reported that South Westland has benefited from the Waste Minimisation Fund and received a funding grant.

C. Ingle reported that the Implementation Guidelines for Renewable Electricity Generation National Policy Statement and the Freshwater National Policy Statement are new documents being released by the Ministry for the Environment. C. Ingle advised that the Regional Sector Group is getting some work done on a legal opinion regarding the implications of the Freshwater NPS and what impact this will have for regional freshwater plans. C. Ingle advised that council is awaiting the advice on the legal opinion but in the interim the implementation guidelines emphasise that both NPS's take effect immediately in terms of consenting processes.

C. Ingle reported that State of Environment Monitoring is up to date. He advised that contact recreation bathing beach sampling has commenced for the summer season with the November results now up on council's website. C. Ingle advised that most results are good but there was one failure at Iveagh Bay, Lake Brunner which is unusual.

Cr Archer asked C. Ingle if there would be an opportunity to make submissions on the proposed changes to sections 5, 6 and 7 of the RMA. C. Ingle responded that he assumes it will go through the normal process of a select committee process with submissions and hearings before decisions are made.

Cr Birchfield asked C. Ingle if he felt the government is nudging councils towards making renewable electricity generation a permitted activity. C. Ingle responded that the National Policy Statement that was noted at an earlier meeting suggests that the smaller scale hydro schemes like single household or a very small community could be made a permitted activity with conditions. Cr Birchfield stated that this is good to see, as there is a lot of opportunity for people on the Coast to generate their own household's electricity.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that this report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that the hydrology and flood warning report will now be done separately from the manager's report in line with the new structure in the LTP for next year separating out the resource management functions from hazard and river management functions.

C. Ingle reported that the second highest recorded flow at the Dobson site and Waipuna site and the highest flow ever recorded in the Ahaura River occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. C. Ingle advised the Ahaura River recording site was wiped out during this event but there was enough data to estimate the return period of between a 1 in 125 and a 1 in 300 year return period flow. C. Ingle reported that the Grey River Flood Committee met three times on the day to discuss protection of Greymouth. He stated that it was pleasing to see this system work well. C. Ingle advised that even though the Grey River came up very high the flood banks performed well. A short report detailing the event is being prepared and will be available early in the New Year. C. Ingle reported that the Karamea River came up very fast during this event and peaked at 5.1 metres and it peaked again two days later in a second event which affected Karamea more so than the Buller and Grey Rivers.

C. Ingle reported that the alarm level on the Waiho River has been adjusted upwards. C. Ingle advised that Westland District Council is happy with the new alarm level of 8 metres and local civil defence felt there is still time for evacuation should that be necessary.

Cr Scarlett asked if the new weather radar is free or is it a paid service. C. Ingle responded that he was under the impression that it was free but he is not certain.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Birchfield) *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 CIVIL DEFENCE REPORT & REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that it has been a busy time for civil defence with Exercise Pacific Wave being held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. C. Ingle reported that the scenario was a theoretical tsunami being generated from Vanuatu which would have hit the West Coast quite hard. He stated this was a good exercise for the West Coast councils to get involved in. C. Ingle advised that it was a good practice for district councils on how councils would go about evacuating towns. C. Ingle advised that he feels there is a need for more information on tsunami inundation and he will follow up on this with the Envirolink scheme to try and get a grant. to

C. Ingle reported that Mr Mel Sutherland from Grey District Council has been appointed as the new Chair of the West Coast Engineering Lifelines Group. C. Ingle reported that he updated the Group on the fuel report and the concerns from this council on making sure that the action points from the fuel study are being addressed. C. Ingle reported that there was a presentation from a Christchurch electricity supply person who showed everyone the importance of investing in resilient infrastructure and how it paid off for them during the Christchurch earthquakes. He advised they were able to get power up and running very quickly because they had put money into making sure their key transformers were earthquake proof.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the West Coast Coordination Executive Group meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. He advised that the tsunami exercise was reviewed at this meeting. C. Ingle reported that the new Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) was also discussed at this meeting.

C. Ingle advised that the new Weather Radar is now operational and he is use. He stated that this is a good step forward for the region in terms of forecasting. C. Ingle advised that hydrology staff are finding the weather radar helpful as it provides more information.

C. Ingle reported the information on transport programmes for next year has been put into the NZTA software and they will be reviewed in the New Year. C. Ingle reported that funding has been received for a taxi hoist for Greymouth Taxis. He advised that this is the first taxi hoist to be installed on the West Coast and is a new and improved service for Greymouth people.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Archer) *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

## **5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to his report and stated that a typical range of resource consents were granted during the reporting period. C. Dall advised that since writing the report a mediation meeting has been confirmed for the resource consents for the Escarpment Mine on the Denniston Plateau. He advised that he will be attending this meeting and it will take place in Westport next Monday.

**Moved** (Archer / Cummings) *that the December 2011 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to this report. He reported that a new dairy season has now begun and 52 dairy inspections have been undertaken. He advised that 13 of these inspections have graded as significantly non-compliant. C. Dall reported that the main aspects of the non-compliance were attributed to a lack of backup effluent storage and poorly maintained effluent ponds.

C. Dall reported that inaugural community meeting for the new Cypress Mine was chaired by Cr Archer. C. Dall advised that this was a very informative meeting and well participated by the local community.

C. Dall reported that the 2011 whitebait season has now finished and inspections were carried out on most rivers. He advised that inspections to ensure stands have been taken down are currently being done and some stands are still in place.

C. Dall reported that a reasonable amount of complaints were received during the reporting period with a mixture of outcomes. C. Dall reported one abatement notice was issued which related to a slink skin operation in Karamea for an unauthorised discharge of contaminants to land where it may enter water.

C. Dall reported that a steady number of mining work programmes have been received, four mining bonds were received and five bonds were recommended for release during the reporting period. He advised two of the bond releases have been replaced by new bonds.

C. Dall reported that Council is continuing to provide support to the Rena operation in Tauranga. He has advised Maritime NZ that staff are available for further assistance over the holiday period.

Cr Archer asked if the two works programmes that are not consented, does this mean that the bonds have expired or the bonds are not being put in place. C. Dall explained this could mean that the miner has not got around to balancing the bond or a resource consent could have been reactivated.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the December 2011 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held for Resource Consents RC99018, RCN99167, RC05232, RC06242 and RC07186.*

*Carried*

C. Ingle advised that the CEO of Maritime NZ has written to him to thank council for the assistance that staff have provided with the Rena response. C. Ingle stated that the dedication of our staff was outstanding and council has continued to offer staff's assistance for the New Year. C. Ingle advised that this has also been a valuable experience for council staff should there ever be a similar incident on the West Coast as staff now have first hand experience on how to deal with these issues.

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date