

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29 MAY 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES:

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that the apology from R. Scarlett be accepted.*

Carried

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Cr Chinn asked councillors if any of them have any conflicts of interest with regard to the submissions. Cr Davidson advised that his daughter had made a submission regarding the Proposed Saltwater Creek New River rating district.

2. LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that this meeting is a hearing to listen to submitters. Council takes note of what submitters have to say and may also ask questions of clarification. The Chairman explained that this meeting was to hear submissions on the Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2012/22 after which, at the conclusion of today's meeting a workshop will be held to discuss submissions. Decisions will be made at the next Council meeting on 12 June.

Submissions on the Draft Long Term Plan

Nine submitters appeared to present their submissions.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (Ben Dunbar- Smith)

Ben Dunbar-Smith presented this submission to Council, on behalf of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that EECA is a government agency that is promoting the Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart Scheme. Mr Dunbar-Smith displayed a PowerPoint presentation and explained this is about a voluntary targeted rate mechanism for heating and insulation, which would assist West Coast ratepayers to take advantage of the Government's grants to warm homes. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that Government established this \$347M scheme, which is for four years, and Government began it in 2009. He advised that to date more than 160,000 homes have been provided with funding grants for insulation and clean heating. He stated that the scheme would be running until June 2013. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised the scheme pays for up to one third of the costs of ceiling and underfloor insulation (up to \$1300) in homes built before 2000. Funding of up to \$500 is available for approved clean air heating devices such as wood burners, pellet burners, heat pumps and flued gas heaters. He advised that everyone in New Zealand is eligible for the funding but there is a cap on what is available. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that landlords and homeowners are eligible for funding. He stated that the scheme is aimed at improving air quality in places like Reefton and the primary goal of gaining warmer and drier homes which will help the elderly remain in their own homes for longer, because their homes are warmer, this also benefits the community and also reduces the number of hospital admissions for respiratory type illnesses. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that Government has just announced in the budget that because more homes have been done for the same amount of money, Government is now intending to look at offering the scheme to 220,000 more homes. Mr Dunbar-Smith suggests that the West Coast undertakes a 12 month pilot scheme to get the programme started on the West Coast. He

advised that third party funding is now available on the West Coast with the DHB working with a local service provider to provide fully funded insulation for up to 500 homes over the next two years. This is for low income people who have health needs. Mr Dunbar-Smith stated that the scheme he is talking about today is for the rest of the population who might want a financial top up to help them gain a warmer, drier home. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that staff from this council have been talking with staff from Greater Wellington Regional Council on how to get the programme started here. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that the scheme is a voluntary targeted rate that is individual to the property, it stays with the property and if the property is sold the incoming owner must be advised that rate is in place. Generally lawyers would clear this rate upon sale and therefore this is a low risk. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that people must live in the district to qualify for the funding and they cannot be in rate arrears. Mr Dunbar-Smith stated that home insulation improves people's quality of life. He demonstrated a flow chart on how the public get started on the scheme and stated that the first time council gets engaged is once the homeowner has completed that application form which is completed by the service provider and the homeowner accepts the quote. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that council does not pay until EECA have paid the service provider. Mr Dunbar-Smith offered to answer questions. Cr Archer asked Mr Dunbar-Smith what happens after 2013 and if the scheme will carry on. Mr Dunbar-Smith advised that there is no guarantee that the scheme will continue after this time. Cr Archer asked if people who live in and own a Bed & Breakfast business are eligible for the loan. Mr Dunbar-Smith stated that there is a grey area around this but it is designed for residential pre 2000 properties. He advised that motels would not qualify.

Cr Chinn thanked Mr Dunbar-Smith for his submission.

Federated Farmers (Katie Milne)

Katie Milne presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of Federated Farmers of New Zealand. She thanked Council for the opportunity to submit on the LTP and congratulated Council on its fiscal prudence and avoiding additional costs to ratepayers. K. Milne stated that the costs involved with matters such as "Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes can be considerable. She stated that it is important that good communication is maintained by all agencies involved and she hopes that when these natural features are discovered that they happen to be in the DoC estate and then expensive legal costs might be avoided. K. Milne noted that dairy effluent inspection charges have increased and she is keen for ways of spreading these costs further or reduced and if the farmer has a robust effluent system in place then perhaps that farmer could be inspected every second year. K. Milne stated that the zero rate increase is very well received by the farming community.

Cr Archer thanked K. Milne for her positive submission. Cr Archer asked K. Milne if she felt that dairy effluent inspections should be based on performance. K. Milne responded that she feels that if a farmer is inspected every year and he always performs well then biennial inspections could be considered, if the farmer meets his consent conditions consistently. K. Milne stated that it would be beneficial if a rating system were put in place for compliant and proactive farmers. K. Milne stated that Westland Milk Products is now very proactive in assisting farmers to comply with their resource consent conditions.

Cr Chinn thanked K. Milne for her submission.

Tb Free West Coast Committee

Katie Milne spoke to this submission and advised the meeting that she is the Chair of the Tb Free West Coast Committee. She thanked Council for its continued support towards the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and to the national Tb control programme. K. Milne stated that the programme has been very successful on the West Coast partly because Council has been supportive in providing the regional share funding to keep the Tb Control Programme running through targeted rates. K. Milne spoke of the impact on farmers both emotionally and financially when Tb reactors are discovered in their herds. K. Milne stated that the West Coast Tb Free Committee has just been advised that the West Coast will be included in the new National Pest Management Strategy (NPMS) with 200,000 hectares being included in the Tb risk area. K. Milne stated that this means that if an area becomes free of Tb then there is no need for further vector control. K. Milne stated that the Tb Free Committee is grateful for Cr Robb's contribution as a member of its committee. K. Milne stated that the value of agriculture to the West Coast is now close to \$1B and it is imperative that this industry is protected. K. Milne offered to answer questions. Cr Archer asked K. Milne what happens

on farm following a positive Tb test. K. Milne explained that a positive tests is picked up via a test or a cull at the works and once all animals have been tested it takes between three weeks to three months to ascertain whether or not it is positive to the disease as a positive reaction to the test does not necessarily mean that Tb is present. K. Milne stated this is a very emotional and stressful time for the farmer and business structure needs to be investigated as to what animals to sell and what to keep and a positive result will impact on the price the farmer gets for his animals. She advised this could cost a farmer tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars. Discussion took place on the viability of funding the Tb Free Programme and the economic impacts of agricultural activities for the West Coast. K. Milne stated that most vectors are living on the DoC estate, which is Crown land, and they are not necessarily on farms, she advised that Tb infection is not of the farmers making as these vectors are coming out of the bush on Crown land and farmers do not own the bush. M. Hall from the Animal Health Board explained how council funding came about. He advised that the principle under the Biosecurity Act and advised that because most of the land involved is in the DoC, the Crown funds 50% and the farming industry funds pays 40% and the other 10% paid for by councils.

Cr Chinn thanked K. Milne for her submission.

Animal Health Board (Matthew Hall)

Matthew Hall presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of the Animal Health Board (AHB). He introduced Mr Danny Templeman who is the South Island Regional Coordinator for the AHB. M. Hall thanked Council for its ongoing financial support of the Animal Health Board's Tb Free programme now and into the future. He stated that the AHB does not propose any changes to Council's Long Term Plan. M. Hall advised that a national funding review is currently underway so that all councils and members including Dairy NZ and the Crown can look at how the AHB is funded. He advised that LGNZ members are also involved in the funding review. M. Hall advised that in the meantime all regional councils have agreed to continue to fund the programme this year and there is now commitment from all councils around the country.

M. Hall advised that the AHB is changing the way its does a lot of its work around the country by introducing new technology with contractors now using handheld PDA devices. He stated that every trap or bait station that is laid has a barcode attached so that the contractors can now scan every trap and possum and every possum can now be traced back to its source. M. Hall advised that the PDA's would be used in the eradication areas on the West Coast shortly. He stated that is will be a lot more accurate and give very good information. M. Hall provided each councillor with a booklet, which outlines the next three years work for the AHB. He advised that maps are also included and he drew attention to the areas aimed at the West Coast. M. Hall stated that most of the work coming up is ground control work which is very labour intensive. M. Hall offered to answer questions. Cr Robb asked D. Templeman to explain the difference between a herd that is clear of Tb in a non-movement control area and a herd that goes to infected status and the difference in compliance that is required. D. Templeman explained that a clear herd is tested yearly to three yearly if there is no Tb present but all herds on the West Coast are tested annually and all animals over three months of age. He advised that if a herd detected they are tested at least twice a year and they will often have extra blood tests. Beef farmers are not allowed to sell any young stock so they will need to keep animals and fatten them. D. Templeman stated that the time involved is huge and it is psychologically tough for farmers and it is a very nerve racking time for farmers and their families and a huge financial impact.

Community and Public Health

Amelia Haskell and Steffan Cavill-Fowler presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of Community and Public Health (CPH). A. Haskell stated that the purpose of their submission is to promote healthy lifestyles and promote the reduction of adverse environmental effects on the health of people in the community. A. Haskell stated that CPH strongly supports the Clean Air and Warmer Homes initiatives, flood warning and civil defence. A. Haskell stated that many of the issues raised in this submission are already being done by the council and they request that the final LTP reflects a little bit more fully the issues that CPH raise. A. Haskell stated that CPH are very interested in working closely with the Regional Council on the issues outlined in her submission and have met with the Chief Executive to discuss the issues they raised. A. Haskell offered to answer questions. Cr Archer asked if what made CPH come to the conclusion that there might be air quality issues in other West Coast towns apart from Reefton. A. Haskell stated that CPH do get feedback from the

public, in certain conditions where coal burners in built up areas can cause problems with air quality. A. Haskell answered various other questions from councillors. Cr Chinn thanked CPH for their submission.

Residents in Class A of proposed Saltwater Creek rating district (Galvin Creagh)

Galvin Creagh presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of the residents in Class A of the proposed Saltwater Creek rating district. Mr Bernie Monk and Mr Murray Glen accompanied him. Mr Creagh advised that Doug Griffen was unable to make today's meeting so he is presenting the submission on his behalf. Mr Creagh stated that he and the property owners on the west side of the State Highway are objecting to the proposed rating district and would like everyone that is in the proposed rating district to pay an equal share of the costs to improvement of drainage in this area. Mr Creagh's submission contained the signatures of 26 property owners on the west side of the State Highway. Mr Creagh disagrees with the interpretation of the rule 79 of the RMA relating to discharge of stormwater of runoff into or onto land. Mr Creagh spoke of the development of Paroa Estate and other developments that have contributed to the run off on hard surfaces into the receiving environments. He feels the costs must be borne by the whole community. Mr Creagh stated that council has the ability under the RMA to go back to the original 2005 resource consent and make sure the developers cater for the excess run off of stormwater. Mr Creagh stated that the water from Panthers Creek used to be able to come out into Saltwater Creek but this is all sediment from run off and is overgrown now. Mr Creagh is objecting to the residents west of the State Highway having to pay a great fee for the establishment and upkeep for a new drainage system in this area.

Mr Monk addressed the meeting and advised that on the 15th of May 2000 he wrote to Mr Rick Lowe (former Council Engineer) expressing his concern with what could happen in this area. Mr Monk stated that he was told at the time that unless infrastructure was going to be affected then a rating district would need to be set up. Mr Monk stated that in December 2010 a blockage of the state highway did occur. Mr Monk stated that he is represented some of the families on the west side of the state highway who are pensioners or low-income earners. He feels these people are going to get penalised for a situation that is going to continue to occur due to gold mining and the clearance of timber and subdivision developments. Mr Monk feels that those on the west side should not be penalised. Mr Creagh stated that all ratepayers contribute to the Greymouth Floodwall and he feels that the same should apply at Paroa. Cr Robb asked Mr Creagh if he meant all ratepayers of the regional council or just the ones in the proposed rating district. Mr Creagh confirmed that he means the ratepayers in the proposed rating district. Cr Chinn asked Mr Creagh and Mr Monk if they had any preference to on what to do such as keeping the mouth open regularly by using a digger. Mr Monk stated if infrastructure is going to be affected then everyone will be affected. Cr Chinn thanked Mr Creagh for his submission.

Nicky Calcott (Kumara Environment Action)

Nicky Calcott spoke to this submission. She stated that she is speaking on behalf of Kumara Environment Action (KEA). N. Calcott is opposed to the use of 1080. She feels that 1080 poison is detrimental to the tourism industry and she feels that tourist do not understand the affect of 1080 on the environment. N. Calcott feels that tourists do not understand the signage that is put in place in areas that are being treated with 1080. N. Calcott spoke extensively to her submission and voiced her concerns regarding buffer zones for aerial application of 1080.

Mr Laurie Collins spoke and stated that council is a significant user of 1080. He spoke of community concerns regarding the use of 1080. Cr Archer asked N. Calcott how many members are in the KEA group. N. Calcott responded that there are around 50 members. Cr Archer asked N. Calcott if KEA had read the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report on the use of 1080. She stated that they have read this and disagree with this report. Cr Chinn thanked N. Calcott for her submission.

Philip Paterson

Philip Paterson spoke to his submission. He advised that he has formed an Incorporated Society, Te Whare O Te Kaitiaki, and he is here on behalf. Mr Paterson stated that he feels that the LTP was not correctly notified and he asked why wasn't a submission form included in ratepayers rate bill. Mr Paterson stated that 1080 has been dropped into water supplies and he is taking this to the Environment Court. Mr Paterson spoke of his concerns about dose sizes and dose rates and buffer

zones. He stated that 1080 is an eco toxic poison. Mr Paterson spoke of his previous experience as a possum trapper / hunter. Cr Archer said to Mr Paterson that he had queried the public notification process of the LTP and asked if it is correct that Mr Paterson felt that every individual should have been served with a copy of the LTP. Mr Paterson stated that people did not know about the LTP and he feels that the LTP process should be open to appeal according to the RMA, as all affected parties should have been notified. Cr Archer reminded Mr Paterson that this is not a RMA hearing. Mr Paterson stated that he feels council should put the LTP in with the rates demand as council has obligations according to the RMA. Cr Chinn thanked Mr Paterson for his submission.

MATES Men’s Network (Kerry Babbage)

C. Ingle advised that he had spoken to Mr Babbage on the telephone regarding his submission and advised Mr Babbage wants to gain “in principle” support of councils for the work of his organisation. C. Ingle apologised that the video clip he was going to show Council had been misplaced.

Hubert Miranda- Suarez

Hubert Miranda-Suarez spoke to his submission. He stated that he would like to see the West Coast Regional Council incorporate all possible precautionary measures under the RMA to thoroughly manage the risks of using genetically modified organisms (GMO’s) on the West Coast. Mr Miranda-Suarez spoke of his concerns and risks of using GMO’s on the West Coast. Mr Miranda-Suarez gave a verbal example of an American farmer’s experience with Canola seeds on his property and the patent issues he experienced in the American court. Cr Archer thanked Mr Miranda-Suarez for his comprehensive submission. Cr Archer asked Mr Miranda-Suarez if he is aware that the Buller District Council actually has a GMO policy. Mr Miranda-Suarez responded that he was aware of a statement but not a policy. Cr Archer asked Mr Miranda-Suarez if it would be fair to say that he does not have a lot of confidence in the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to actually monitor and prescribe appropriate regulations and controls on genetic modification. Mr Miranda-Suarez agreed that this is correct and stated that unfortunately he does not have any trust in them and he is very concerned about GMO’s. Mr Miranda-Suarez stated that he does not feel that there is any clear neutrality in the EPA organisation. Cr Archer stated that the regional council will never be able to engage scientists to consider applications for genetically modified organisms therefore the government has set up the EPA to deal with this at a national level. Cr Archer asked Mr Miranda-Suarez if he feels someone else should be doing this. Mr Miranda-Suarez suggests that working parties should be set up as he feels that risks have not been fully evaluated and this creates liabilities for local and regional authorities in case there is damage or cases that will need to be dealt with. Cr Chinn thanked Mr Miranda-Suarez for his submission.

Cr Chinn thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.37 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date