

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, S. Challenger, N. Clementson,

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Ewen / Robb) *that the apologies from J. Douglas and F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Clementson / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 14 October 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that it has been a quiet month. He attended the Regional Transport Committee meeting, along with the Chairman and Chief Executive. Cr Ewen stated there was good agreement that the remainder of R Funding will be used for more passing bays. He stated that around six passing bays have been approved for funding from Buller to South Westland.

Cr Ewen advised that he assisted with one tender opening for emergency works relating to the Waiho River where urgent survey work and repair work is required. Cr Ewen stated that he did not receive any council related phone calls during the reporting period.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a meeting of the Reefton Airshed Committee was held on the 3rd of November. He reported that discussion on where to from here took place and it was agreed that a public meeting will be held in early 2015 to discuss the recommendations made to Council. M. Meehan advised that the main purpose of this meeting will be to get a paper to the Minister for the Environment and others, and to look at getting a subsidy to assist Reefton people.

M. Meehan advised that the State of Environment Monitoring Report is being finalised with staff looking at the National Objectives Framework and how our sites stack up compared to this.

M. Meehan reported that the draft Coastal Plan is being finalised. A short workshop will be held after the December Council meeting and once Council is happy with this, pre consultation will then begin.

M. Meehan reported that changes are being finalised to the draft plan change for the Land and Water Plan. He advised that changes to wetland boundaries are being sought with around 80 wetlands identified. M. Meehan advised that the plan change and a way forward will be discussed at a workshop following the December Council meeting.

M. Meehan reported that staff are working through some of the pre consultation comments on the Regional Policy Statement Review.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *That Council receives this report.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that two site visits was carried out during the reporting period. He reported that 16 non-notified resource consents were granted and seven changes to resource consent conditions were granted during the reporting period.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that the November 2014 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.1 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 56 site visits were made during the reporting period. He stated that six of these visits were double categorised. J. Adams reported that 12 complaints were received during the reporting period. J. Adams stated that enforcement action has been taken on five of these and inquiries are continuing on two other complaints. J. Adams advised that nine infringement notices were issued during the reporting period and two formal warnings. J. Adams reported that five abatement notices were also issued. J. Adams reported that six work programmes were submitted during the reporting period and all six were processed within the required time period. J. Adams reported that one bond for \$30,000 has been received.

Cr Challenger asked if monitoring is still being done in the Hau Hau Creek area. J. Adams stated that he had staff in this area twice last week and they checked the mine sites in this area and none of them had discharges. J. Adams stated that in this instance the mine sites were checked first. The water was dirty above the mine sites.

J. Adams stated that an adjacent landowner had opened the mouth of Hau Hau Creek but this was done under the permitted activity rule. J. Adams stated that he has an agreement with this landowner that anytime he is doing work, then staff will be present to make sure he only does what he says he is going to do.

Cr Archer asked if in view of the increase in enforcement action over recent times, is Council getting the right messages out to the people undertaking these activities regarding the expectations of Council. He asked if there is anything that can be done to educate these errant people towards undertaking a more satisfactory state of activity so that they do comply with the rules rather than having to take enforcement action. Cr Archer wonders if there is adequate information that is easily available going out to people and / or if Council needs to advertise and be more upfront with the level of assistance that could be offered. Cr Ewen asked councillors for their opinions on this matter. Cr Clementson stated that in his experience the information packs provided make it fairly clear what can and can't be done and what is expected. Cr Robb stated that even though something may be a permitted activity there are still things that must be done. J. Adams stated that in the previous financial year 42 infringement notices were issued. The financial year before that 78 infringement notices were issued, which shows that there has been a drop off in the number of non-compliances. J. Adams stated that there are a lot more complaints received during the whitebait season as there are a lot more people out on the rivers. J. Adams advised that there are fewer non-compliant dairy sheds each year. J. Adams stated that his staff are promoting education rather than enforcement as it takes a lot less time and effort to get people to get the job right the first time around rather than having to send staff out to show people what they need to do. J. Adams advised that when a resource consent is sent out, an information pack is included and for resource consents that are being renewed an information pack is provided on what can and can't be done and advice on how best to go about things without having problems. Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that enforcement information would be included in the next quarterly council newsletter. Cr

Robb stated that it would be good to remind people that it does not cost anything to phone council and ask questions should they have any concerns about any work they wish to undertake.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *That the November 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was general business.

The meeting closed at 10.47 a.m.

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Chairman
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Date