

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 AUGUST 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager) R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGY

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 July 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. There was no presentation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated it has been a quiet month aside from last week's special meeting which all councillors attended.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 RPS HEARING PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

H. Mills requested that this report be moved to the Council meeting for administrative purposes. Cr Birchfield asked for more information as to why this matter needs to go to the Council meeting. Cr Archer advised that the Panel who consider the RPS can only make a recommendation to the Council, and there is no ability for the Council to actually transfer, or delegate the authority to make changes to Plans, as only Council can do this.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

1. That the report is received.

- 2. That the Resource Management Committee accepts the Hearing Panel's Recommendations on submissions to the proposed Regional Policy Statement, and recommends that the Council adopts the recommendations.*
- 3. That the Resource Management Committee recommends publicly notifying the Decisions on Submissions to the proposed Regional Policy Statement by 17 August 2018.*

Carried

5.1.2 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to this report and stated that the key points of the Submission on Proposed National Planning Standards are questions around whether the standards will actually have a positive outcome of less time and costs for councils. He stated that there are also concerns about meeting the timeframes for implementing the Standards which are five years and is it supported where they make planning documents easier for plan readers and provide flexibility for districts and regions. H. Mills advised that Council opposed Standards where planning consequences are required to go through a Schedule 1 process.

H. Mills advised that staff have lodged a Request for extension of time to release Plan Change 1 Decisions because some landowners disputed the wetland boundaries on their farms. He stated that the Panel has now appointed an Assessor to undertake site visits to certain wetlands, the Assessor's report is due at the end of August. H. Mills advised that this means that the two year timeframe will be exceeded and therefore the extension of time has been requested.

H. Mills stated that staff are in the process of seeking an Envirolink grant to assist with work on the Submission on the Zero Carbon Bill. He stated that will help with understanding the real net carbon emissions on the West Coast, and will also assist with future submissions and work in this area.

Cr McDonnell asked H. Mills how many landowners and to what extent are they affected by the Land and Water Plan request for extension of time. H. Mills responded that there are around 12 landowners affected but the boundary changes are only minor. It was agreed that the whole issue is not going to be completely resolved. Cr Birchfield stated that 4,500 hectares of privately owned land has been locked up. He stated that he would like the whole process started over again as he feels Council has run the whole process wrong as he feels DoC should have proved that the land was a wetland before they put it into a wetland as landowners were not notified. Cr Archer warned against this as the matter has already gone through the Environment Court and the High Court and if the boundaries are pushed too far Council will be hit with huge costs and there will still be no change. Cr Ewen expressed concern with privately owned land being confiscated as the landowners are still paying rates on this land that they cannot utilise. He suggested that compensation from Minister Jones's \$1B fund might be investigated. Cr Robb agreed with the comments from his fellow councillors but stated that the process was carried out by the Environment Court, not Council, and the only political pressure Council could pursue would be compensation to the landowners who have had land taken away from them.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

- 1. That the report is received.*
- 2. That the Council approve the draft submission on the proposed National Planning Standards for lodging.*
- 3. That a 12 month extension until 22 August 2019 is granted to allow time to release Decisions on the proposed Plan Change 1 to the Land and Water Plan.*

Discussion took place on the representative for the Grey Freshwater Management Group representative. H. Mills provided additional background information on what is involved in being part of this Group. He advised that the end goal for this group is to bring recommendations to Council, both statutory and non-statutory, which will lead onto maintaining and improving freshwater quality in the catchments. Discussion took place and it was agreed that Cr Robb would be the representative.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

4. *That an elected representative from the West Coast Regional Council (from the Grey Constituency) be chosen to sit on the Grey Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) Group as per the Grey FMU Group Terms of Reference.*

Carried

5.1.3 PROPOSED LOCAL BILL: WEST COAST (IRREVERSIBLY DAMAGED TIMBER RECOVERY ON WEST COAST CONSERVATION LANDS) BILL

H. Mills spoke to this report. He explained that this Bill seeks to amend the Conservation Act for the West Coast region to allow for recovery of irreversibly damaged trees from Cyclones Fehi and Gita. He stated that in this case WCRC would be the promoter of the Bill and the member in charge would be Maureen Pugh. It was noted that the Bill has to comply with Standing Orders of the House. He outlined the steps to be taken to get this underway. M. Meehan advised that there have been discussions with Hon Damien O'Connor about whether he would introduce the Bill. Council is not recommending who the MP would be that does introduce the Bill as this is a mechanical matter. H. Mills advised that Maureen Pugh put the Bill in the ballot but it may not get drawn for five years therefore there is an opportunity via a local Bill to get this through Parliament. Cr Archer congratulated staff on the huge amount of work done on this Bill. Cr McDonnell stated that consideration needs to be given to which MP puts the Bill forward to ensure that it succeeds.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

1. *That a notice of intention is disseminated throughout the region to promote the proposed local bill: West Coast (Irreversibly Damaged Timber Recovery on West Coast Conservation Lands) Bill.*
2. *That notice be given to persons with direct interest including every member of a Māori or General electoral district whose constituents may be affected by the provisions of the Bill.*
3. *That following completion of the preliminary procedures a declaration to the Clerk of the House be made providing evidence of the completion of the preliminary procedures.*

Carried

5.1.4 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that there have been no exceedances of the air quality NES this winter. H. Mills advised that there has been a further gap in the data due to the machine having a fault and being sent to Auckland for repair. He stated that a loan machine is now in place and a new machine will be purchased this financial year.

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that three site visits were carried out, ten non-notified resources consents were granted and four changes to and review of consents conditions were granted during the reporting period.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *That the August 2018 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report. She advised that 41 site visits were carried out during the reporting period, 12 complaints / incidents reported with 11 resulting in site visits. H. McKay reported that there

were five identified non-compliances reported and nine complaints or incidents which are yet to be confirmed as to whether they were non-compliant or compliant.

H. McKay advised that WDC has met both of the milestone dates for the first two milestones under the enforcement order requiring Westland District Council (WDC) to put a new sewage system in place in Franz Josef by 30 April 2018. H. McKay stated that WDC did comply with the abatement notice issued in relation to the sewage discharge and enquires are ongoing but no further enforcement decision has been made as yet.

H. McKay answered questions from Councillors. She confirmed that there is a newly released NES on plantation forestry and part of Council's role is to monitor compliance in this area. Council staff are currently working through this alongside other councils as this is a huge piece of work.

H. McKay answered further questions from Councillors.

Moved (Robb / McDonnell) *That the August 2018 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Douglas thanked Cr Archer and Robb, and staff, on behalf of rūnanga, for the extensive work that has gone into the RPS. Cr Archer suggested that J. Douglas be invited to stay for the Council meeting as she may have further questions on the RPS. M. Meehan advised that it was agreed to move the RPS moved to the Council meeting in order to protect the decisions on this matter. It was agreed that J. Douglas would stay for the Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.12 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date