

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD ON 27 MAY 2014, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. ANNUAL 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 Annual Plan 2014 / 15. The Chairman explained that 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 10 June.

Submissions on the Annual Plan 2014 /15

Ten submissions were received, four submitters spoke to their submissions.

Tb Free West Coast

Katie Milne spoke to this submission. She was accompanied by Danny Templeman and Dr Mark Neill from Ospri New Zealand. K. Milne thanked Council for its continued support towards the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and to the national Tb control programme. K. Milne stated that Tb Free West Coast covered farms from Karamea to Haast. K. Milne stated that it is crucial to West Coast farming that Tb is gotten fully under control. She stated that currently there are about 40 Tb infected herds on the West Coast which puts it at well over 50% of all infected herds in New Zealand. K. Milne stated that having infected herds makes it very difficult to sell stock or to trade or graze stock in other areas could be threatened if Tb isn't brought under control. K. Milne stated that the eradication programme is underway on the West Coast; she advised that a couple of years ago it was looking as though this would not happen. K. Milne stated that this is another reason why it is very important that the regional funding share continues to be supported.

Cr Archer asked K. Milne if the target date for Tb eradication by 2026 is a realistic target. M. Neill responded that this target is not complete eradication by 2026 but on the West Coast there is a plan to have 200,000 hectares to be eradicated by this time. Ospri still believe this is achievable within the timeframe.

Cr Birchfield asked if pigs are a problem vector. M. Neill stated that pigs are considered to be a dead end host as they become infected with bovine Tb though scavenging. He advised that if pigs are hunted and their carcasses are opened up and left lying around for possums to scavenge then possums can be infected this way.

Cr Robb thanked K. Milne for her submission.

OsPRI New Zealand (Danny Templeman)

Danny Templeman presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of OsPRI NZ. He thanked council for the contribution its gives to the Tb Free programme. D. Templeman stated that last time he spoke to Council OsPRI NZ was in its infancy he advised OsPRI is now fully operational. D. Templeman advised that OsPRI has two core programmes at the moment with Tb Free NZ looking after the Tb programme and the NAIT programme looking after national animal ID and tracing. He stated that the funding for both of these programmes is very separate. D. Templeman stated that the funding review is now underway with the stakeholder steering group going through the funding and reverting back to the first principles of beneficiaries and exacerbators of the Tb programme and working out whether the current funding model is the correct one. The stakeholder steering group will report back to the Minister by August this year. This process is in line with Council Long Term Plans going forward for next year. D. Templeman stated that OsPRI NZ and Tb Free NZ appreciates the continued funding and support it gets from this council. D. Templeman offered to answer questions from Councillors. Cr Archer asked what is the trend for those regions that have 100% eradication and the continuation of these councils for funding. D. Templeman advised that Southland is one of the few that has almost total eradication planned within the next 15 years but they still have some work required. Cr McDonnell asked D. Templeman if this council's funding contribution is sufficient in view of the pending funding review. D. Templeman confirmed the contribution is sufficient at the moment. Cr Robb asked how often the funding review is done. D. Templeman responded that this is done every five years for a five year period. He explained the funding review process to the meeting.

Cr Robb thanked D. Templeman for his submission.

Federated Farmers (Katie Milne)

K. Milne presented this submission to the Council, on behalf of Federated Farmers of New Zealand. K. Milne stated that the submission is in general support but Federated Farmers would like to see changes to the Civil Defence Emergency Management rate withdrawn and replaced with a fixed charge targeted rate for Civil Defence Emergency Management. K. Milne stated that in a civil defence emergency most farmers look after themselves and have to deal with their own issues on their own properties. She stated that most resources would be needed around towns and it is felt that farmers would be paying a higher share than is reasonable. K. Milne offered to answer questions from councillors. Cr Archer asked K. Milne if she has done a cost analysis on this. She stated that she did not have this information. Cr Ewen stated that he finds it hard to reconcile the submission with farmers wanting a user pays approach to council services with regard to the civil defence targeted rate, yet the general ratepayer is contributing to the Tb programme that farmers benefit from.

Cr Robb thanked K. Milne for her submission.

Enviroschools Foundation

Zoe Watson spoke to this submission and advised that she is the Regional Coordinator and Facilitator for the Enviroschools programme. Z. Watson provided councillors with an update on what Enviroschools is about and stated that this is a framework that early childhood, primary and secondary schools can sign up to that supports children and young people to take real action for changing their school, community and environment. It is about encouraging active citizenship by empowering youth with a sense of ownership who are engaged in their futures. Z. Watson gave an overview of the programme and answered various questions from councillors. She advised that currently Granity, Reefton Area School, Runanga, Kids First Karoro, Kaniere, Whataroa and Haast schools are Enviroschools. Cr Archer advised Z. Watson that education is not a council function. Cr McDonnell noted that Buller District Council is funding Enviroschools; he asked Z. Watson if the other district councils are contributing. He stated that if the other district councils are contributing then ratepayers are already contributing through their district council rates and this could almost be seen as double dipping. Z. Watson responded that she is meeting with Westland and Grey District councils tomorrow to ascertain whether or not they will be providing funding. Cr Robb asked Z. Watson if council did fund the programme how many more schools would then be able to become an Enviroschool. Z. Watson responded that this would depend on what each district contributes. Z. Watson stated that Enviroschools does want to grow but is mindful of taking on too much. Cr Robb

advised that consideration would need to be given on whether or not all schools in the region would benefit from joining this programme.

Cr Robb thanked Z. Watson for her submission.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *That the ten submissions on the 2014 / 15 Annual Plan are received.*
Carried

Cr Robb thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 11.15 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date