

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 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 (Archer / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 June 2018, be confirmed as correct, with the amendment to the gravel take report.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Ewen expressed concern that Elect Mining Ltd is going through the Alternative Justice process. He stated that Elect Mining Ltd would not come in to talk to Council when invited to do so. Cr Ewen stated that this policy may need reviewing as he feels it is not consistent for all prosecutions. M. Meehan responded that it is the Company's right to choose whether or not to proceed with a formal interview and in this case, the Company choose not to attend the interview but provided a written statement instead.

Cr Birchfield drew attention to a typographical error in the gravel take report.

3. There was no presentation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that he attended the Marris Beach Working Group meeting during the reporting period.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to this report. He stated that the RPS Hearing will reconvene on 15 June, then the Panel will adjourn for deliberations with the aim of having recommendations to the August RMC meeting. H. Mills advised that there is general support for the One District Plan, with the exception of Buller District Council and two other submitters from Buller District Council.

H. Mills stated that the Marrs Beach Working Group is very keen to improve the water quality in the Buller River. He advised that work is progressing well with the next meeting scheduled for 14 June. Cr Clementson stated this is a very good group of people to work with, and work is moving forward nicely.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that there have been no breaches of the NES so far this year. H. Mills advised that the gap in data during April was caused by a fault with the machine. Cr Birchfield asked for an update on the use of Oekotubes. H. Mills responded that MfE has advised the air quality NES is currently being revised, and a consultation package is expected early in 2019.

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

Carried

5.1.3 GNS GEOTHERMAL DEFINITION STUDY UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report. He stated that a number of Councillors along with M. Meehan and himself attended a recent meeting. H. Mills advised that Stage 1 is expected to be completed by November 2018, and will explore potential use and potential heat supply prospects in proximity to users. He stated that Stage 2 will include drilling and testing but will only go ahead if Stage 1 goes to plan. Stage 3 will involve developing the project.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised the resource consent application numbers have now picked up after a slow start to the year. She reported that six site visits were carried out, 12 non-notified resources consents were granted and four change to and review of consents conditions were granted along with one limited notified consent application. H. McKay answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That the June 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 48 site visits were carried out during the reporting period with nine of the visits resulting from complaints. H. McKay drew attention to an error in the report, there were eight non-compliances, not four, during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that compliance staff are working closely with Westland District Council staff to resolve the odour problems at the Hokitika Waste Water Treatment Plant. She stated that aerators are being installed. It was noted that no further complaints have been received, inquiries are ongoing as to whether or not there will be any enforcement action.

H. McKay advised that two abatement notices and two infringement notices were issued during the reporting period.

Cr Archer requested that resource consent numbers are included in the recommendations for bond releases.

H. McKay answered questions from Councillors and offered to supply additional information relating to non-compliances.

Cr Ewen spoke of the importance in following up on consent conditions. M. Meehan advised that work is in progress to carry out a comprehensive review of consents held by District Councils and Regional Council. He stated that there is potential for further work to be required from the different agencies

involved with these consents. H. McKay advised that compliance staff had asked the district council for the information regarding the reporting of consent conditions prior to the expiry of the 24 months period. Cr Archer stated that a robust reminder system is required to ensure that consent conditions are met with the required timeframe.

Moved (Archer / Ewen)

1. *That the June 2018 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the bonds for Elect Mining Ltd, RC-2015-0015 and RC-2015-0050, are released.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen raised the matter of Minister Sage's announcement that mining is going to be banned as well as the use of conservation land for mining. Cr Ewen expressed his concern about the impact this will have on the West Coast. He stated that this is similar to impact that the wetlands case has had on landowners. Cr Ewen stated that he feels that it is high time the West Coast made a stand on these matters. M. Meehan spoke of the discussion that was had at the recent Minerals Conference in Queenstown. He stated that Minister Woods was present and a lot of questions were asked about what the consultation is likely to be and what is likely to happen as a result of this mining ban. Minister Woods also asked about what existing mining is and what the different classifications of land are. M. Meehan advised that Mayors and Chairs have already sent a letter to the government regarding their concern about Minister Sage's comments and their concerns around the importance of the mining industry which is vital to the economy of the West Coast, and New Zealand. M. Meehan stated that he is still not clear whether the mining ban is to do with climate change, biodiversity values or if it is just an idea that the government has had. He stated that he is optimistic that when the Government comes to consult in September that they will be much clearer on what they are seeking to achieve. M. Meehan advised that the Mayors and Chairs have mobilised, and are getting information together. He stated that Mayor Smith has provided information about stewardship land and work has started on a submission. M. Meehan stated that there is an opportunity to outline the issues and he is hopeful that the government will be taking advice from officials. Cr Robb advised that the Mayors and Chairs are going to Wellington to meet with Minister Jones and Rt Hon Winston Peters next week. Cr Robb spoke of the risk this decision has to the West Coast and the country. Cr Robb stated that he met with Minister Woods at the Minerals Conference and asked her questions about what the intent is with green minerals on the West Coast and is there going to be access to these minerals if there is a move away from other minerals. Cr Robb spoke of the importance in getting good information out during the submission period to ensure that people are educated on this. Cr McDonnell stated that it is important to speak with politicians as NZ First have vetoed the three strikes law, and they may do the same with this matter. Cr Robb stated that our role up until September, is to get as much information as possible into a submission, to act in an engaging way in order to get our message across to as many Ministers as possible.

Cr Birchfield stated that he to heard Minister Woods speech and there is no good news. He stated that there is to be no mining on DoC land. Cr Birchfield stated that Minister Woods said that green minerals will not be mined off DoC land, they must come from private land. M. Meehan advised that Minister Woods is also the Minister of Science and Innovation. He stated that mining has changed a lot over the years and there is potential for a lot more innovation for mining methods. Cr McDonnell agreed, and stated that previous mining methods were a lot more damaging then methods used nowadays.

M. Meehan advised that if the wetland plan change was to be withdrawn then the status quo would remain. He stated that plan change was to try to remove parts of the Schedule 2 wetlands and remove some in their entirety. He advised that to withdraw now would impact on these affected landowners who have committed and invested in the current process.

The meeting closed at 11.14 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date