

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning, Science & Innovation Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies. It was noted that Cr Clementson was granted a leave of absence at last month's meeting.

#### **2. MINUTES**

Cr Robb asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Ewen) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 August 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising. Cr Robb welcomed J. Douglas back following her recent bereavement.

#### **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Cr Robb welcomed Frida Inta to the meeting via telephone. Ms Inta stated that she has further points to add to her submission on the Mokihinui estuary. She asked the meeting if they had any questions, there were no questions. Ms Inta stated that Council's reply did not address the issues she is concerned about. Ms Inta spoke of the NPS for Biodiversity and stated that estuaries and sand dunes have now been classed as significant natural areas. Ms Inta spoke of the importance of preserving and enhancing the Mokihinui estuary. She offered to answer questions from Councillors. Cr Robb thanked Ms Inta and advised that Council would respond to her in writing.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

There was no Chairman's report.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT & HYDROLOGY REPORT**

H. Mills spoke to his report and advised that the hearing for Plan Change 1 has been reconvened and is scheduled for next Monday with recommendations coming to this committee in the coming months.

H. Mills reported that the fourth mediation session for the RPS will be held on 1 & 2 October and is likely to be the last mediation that the Court will allow. He stated that if agreement is not reached, a date will be set for the Environment Court.

H. Mills advised that the members of the Grey Mawhera FMU now have a good understanding of the issues within the Grey catchment and the challenges that are faced. He stated that the focus is now on targets and limits.

H. Mills reported that the implementation team for the Kawatiri FMU have now met. He stated that the Fresh Water Package that was recently released will have implications for this group and changes will need to be made to this process. H. Mills advised that these changes will be brought to the next RMC meeting.

H. Mills advised that MfE will be visiting each region with a Roadshow about the recently released Fresh Water Package. H. Mills advised that a report will be brought back to this meeting outlining the implications for the West Coast. M. Meehan advised that submissions close on 17 October. He stated that the Government is very aware of the issue this creates with regard to the Local Body Elections. M. Meehan stated that Council's submission will be brought to the October meeting for this reason. Cr Robb advised that the Government was asked to extend the submission period, but they refused.

H. Mills reported that the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Document is an aspirational document presenting a vision for biodiversity up 2017. H. Mills advised that staff are preparing a draft submission which will be circulated to Councillors over the next month.

H. Mills advised that the NPS for Highly Productive Land (NPSHPL) seeks to protect highly productive agricultural land from development, in particular cropping land. He stated that the NPS will not have a big impact on the West Coast as there is only 1400 hectares that have been identified as potentially being in Category 3, which is the lowest category. H. Mills reported that these areas are mainly in the Grey Valley and Karamea. He stated that staff are preparing a submission which will be circulated to Councillors prior to be submitted.

H. Mills reported that submissions on the Minerals and Petroleum Resource Strategy close on 20 September, a draft submission on this will be circulated to Councillors.

H. Mills reported that two Envirolink grants have been successful.

M. Meehan advised that this is just the start of what is going from central government as they are looking to make a lot of changes to the RMA, National Policy Statements, and National Environmental Standards in the next six months. M. Meehan advised that he attended a meeting with representatives from DoC who are putting the NZ Biodiversity Strategy together, planners present at this meeting from our region spoke of the issues that the wetlands case created around private land being locked up. M. Meehan advised that staff asked what was being considered as compensation and how to make this work for affected landowners. M. Meehan stated that a lot of this work is going to overlap with local body elections, and there is a lot to deal with going forward.

Extensive discussion took place relating to the upcoming changes. Cr Birchfield noted that matters relating to Plan Change 1 will be passed onto the new council. M. Meehan acknowledged that there are a lot of complex issues for Council to submit on. It was agreed that there is a lot of work to be done over the next month. M. Meehan spoke of the implications to farmers as a result of the Fresh Water Package announced by Minister Parker last week. He stated that the introduction of mandatory farm plans, fencing, and planting will have large effects on farmers with a lot more bureaucracy coming out of this. Cr Archer expressed his concern with the changes expected and asked if it is even worthwhile progressing with the freshwater management units. M. Meehan advised that at the moment there is nothing in concrete to stop this work but within the next few months there might need to be a review on how these operate going forward. It was noted that the timeframes will have an impact on RMA changes. It was noted that this will put a lot of pressure on the new Council. Extensive discussion took place on matters relating to central government, local government and the imminent changes to the RMA. Cr McDonnell asked H. Mills if he sees any issues for the West Coast with the new nutrient levels for land use. H. Mills advised that staff have done a quick assessment of this and advised that there are a couple of extra sites but nothing major for the West Coast. Cr McDonnell spoke of the impact to farmers with regard to the new changes requiring fencing and farm plans. M. Meehan noted that there is a shortage of skills that are able to produce farm plans around the country which has made it difficult for Councils to find these people. M. Meehan advised that he will be meeting with Westland Milk Products staff tomorrow to discuss this further. H. McKay commented that a lot of work is required to ascertain how the changes are going to be rolled out on the West Coast. Cr Ewen stated that there needs to be a collective push back by Councils similar to WCRC as he feels this is grandiose, aspirational and is ridiculous. H. Mills and M. Meehan answered further questions and provided additional information.

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

*Carried*

### 5.1.3 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that there have been no exceedances of the NES for air quality in Reefton so far this season.

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

*Carried*

### 52.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that six site visits were carried out, 12 non-notified resources consents were granted, and six changes to and reviews of consent conditions were granted, and one limited notified resource consent was granted during the reporting period.

H. McKay agreed with Cr Archer's comments regarding the community interest with regard to RC-2018-0057 to disturb the coastal marine area for the purpose of black sand gold mining between Hector and Mokihinui. She stated that there were a high number of affected parties, which were residents along the affected area, and they were all party to the process with submissions received from there. H. McKay advised that there was to be a hearing but the applicant was able to work through their concerns, with changes made to the application with regard to setbacks from dunes, coastal protection structures and exclusion areas added. It was agreed that this was a good outcome as a result of good community consultation and everyone concerned working well together.

It was agreed that H. McKay would follow up on the removal of bridge piles at the site of the old Arahura Bridge.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *That the September 2019 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### 5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that 152 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. She reported that there were 17 complaints or incidents received with four non-compliances occurring during the reporting period.

H. McKay reported that four formal warnings were issued during the reporting period, five infringement notices were issued, along with four abatement notices.

H. McKay reported that five mining work programmes were received during the reporting period, with all five being approved. Three bonds were received and four bonds are recommended for release.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the September 2019 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

2. *That the bonds for RC13056 Kaniere Mining Limited of \$6,000, RC-2016-0113 D. Lucas of \$2,000, RC12240 Kowai Groundhaul Company Limited for \$6,000 and RC09053 Westco Lagan Limited of \$13,000 are released.*

*Carried*

### LATE ITEM – HOSPITAL DIESEL SPILL UPDATE

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *That the late item be accepted.*

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that the spill had only just happened as of the time of writing the compliance report. H. McKay confirmed that the spill had entered the Greymouth sewage system and was contained at the Cowper Street sewer pump station, there was no discharge to the environment. H. McKay advised that a full investigation is being carried out by the contractor. She stated that Council's investigation remains open, there has been no enforcement decision made as yet, as further information is awaited. H. McKay answered questions from Councillors.

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

*Carried*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.22 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date