

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2020, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chairman), P. Ewen, B. Cummings, D. Magner, S. Challenger, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

Due to an administrative oversight, this meeting was not advertised in the local papers, but as per Section 46, parts 5 &6, the meeting will still be valid even though it was not publicly notified. A retrospective advert will be placed in the local newspapers, stating the general nature of the business.

M. Meehan advised that there are two agenda items to be discussed with a Councillor Workshop to follow.

2. SUBMISSION – TRANSFORMING THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE, ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

L. Sadler spoke to this report and advised that feedback on this submission is due on 3 February. She advised that there are 14 issues have been identified and a number of options for each issue. L. Sadler advised that Council has not had time to go through this in detail but staff have picked out the key issues affecting this Council. L. Sadler spoke to all 14 issues and stated that Council has requested that whatever changes are made to the Resource Management System, they need to keep in mind that not all regions are the same, and they need to provide for the variations. L. Sadler spoke to her draft submission and answered questions from Councillors. She asked Councillors to provide their feedback to M. Meehan or H. Mills prior to 3 February. M. Meehan agreed to circulate the link for this report to Councillors.

Discussion took place on prosecution processes, centralising of functions and compliance issues that could undergo change, and agencies that could be involved in potential changes, along with cost recovery options.

3. SUBMISSION ON THE REVIEW OF CROWN MINERALS ACT

N. Costley spoke to this report and advised there are two small changes to this version of the submission. N. Costley displayed the latest version of the submission to the meeting. She spoke of the changes to Chapter four with the first three paragraphs being slightly different to the hard copy given to Councillors. N. Costley read sections of the submission to the meeting. M. Meehan advised that this relates to work done for the previous Growth Study which looked at simplifying the system. He stated that it has been very difficult to make progress with NZP&M and DoC as there is a lot of duplication in the system. Cr Ewen drew attention to several minor typographical errors. M. Meehan advised that the most concerning areas are introducing the four well-beings into the process and the duplication through this, and then through to the RMA. M. Meehan stated that NZPMN is a regulatory body that is issuing minerals permits based on the ability for the applicant to actually extract the mineral. He stated that there are technical matters that are looked at based on maximising the return to the Crown, including the environmental, the RMA issues which are dealt with through consenting, and the RMA plans, introducing the duplication which will create a more complex system than it already is.

Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that she has viewed Bathurst Mining Ltd's draft submission and suggested that it is circulated to Councillors as they might better understand how the Crown Minerals Act sits in relation to the RMA. It was agreed that the Bathurst Mining Ltd and Minerals West Coast's submissions would be circulated to Councillors. Discussion took place on the underlying philosophy behind the reform. M.

Meehan stated that he is concerned about bringing in more duplication to an industry that is already highly regulated. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that the Bathurst submission lays out quite clearly how efficient it is to view the Crown Minerals Act as an economic allocation piece of legislation that fits in with others. Discussion took place, all present agreed with the changes to the submission.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen)

That Council supports the changes to the key points for the Review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.52 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date