

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.35 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), C. Doake (Biosecurity Officer), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 August 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

*Against Cr Birchfield
Carried*

Cr Birchfield requested that his vote be recorded against the adoption of the minutes as he feels that they are incomplete, as some of the comments he made in relation to wetlands were not recorded in the minutes.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he assisted with the opening of a tender following last month's Council meeting. Cr Ewen stated that he took some inquiries in relation to whitebaiting, but directed the inquiries to DoC.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

S. Jones spoke to this report and stated that pre hearing meetings for the RPS are being held with key groups over the next few weeks.

S. Jones reported that submissions on the Land and Water Plan are open until this Friday. She advised that to date approximately six submissions have been received and more are expected.

S. Jones reported that a representative from Buller District Council spoke to our submission at the hearing for the Paparoa National Park Plan Review.

S. Jones reported that Council made a joint submission with the district councils on the Local Government Amendment Act. She stated that Council's submission supported the submissions made by Local Government NZ and the Society of Local Government Managers. S. Jones advised that Council did not ask to be heard at the hearing, as the key points would have been raised by the other participating organisations.

S. Jones reported that the Productivity Commission has released a draft report on Better Urban Planning; she stated this is a huge report and staff are now in the process of going through this and putting together comments, which will be circulated to Councillors shortly for comment.

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

Carried

5.1.2 UPDATE ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE WORDING

S. Jones spoke to this report and advised that this is an update on what was presented to last month's meeting as Councillors had questioned a few points that were raised as a result of the Land and Water Plan Change. S. Jones highlighted parts of the report to the meeting and explained the reasoning behind some of these changes.

Moved (Challenger / Robb) *that the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.3 PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

C Doake spoke to this report and advised that the current strategy has been in place since 2010 and was due to expire on 14 December 2015. He stated that prior to this date, it was agreed to extend it by 12 months to give full effect to the national policy direction which was released by the Ministry for Primary Industries at the end of 2015. C. Doake advised that the review of the plan has now been completed and is now ready for notification. C. Doake advised that the main changes are to give effect to the National Policy direction and some new additions in the proposed strategy, including Yellow Bristle Grass. C. Doake advised that pre consultation was undertaken with various agencies that have a stake in weed control, this was done via a large forum, with the draft plan circulated prior to bringing it to Council. C. Doake advised that the feedback on the draft plan was largely supportive with some suggestion on species that weren't included, such as Canada Geese, rabbits and wilding conifers, which were the standouts. C. Doake advised that he is expecting DoC to submit on mainly tree species such as rowans, sycamores and willows, and possibly also on the Good Neighbour Rules. C. Doake advised that there has been a query on naming the plan the "Pest Plant Management Plan" versus the Pest Management Plan; he stated that although there are no vertebrate or animal pests addressed in the plan at the moment, it is still possible to include them at a later date, even if the plan is in place. C. Doake gave the example that if wallabies or rooks were to be found in the region, they would possibly warrant regional intervention, and could be included under the Regional Pest Management Plan. C. Doake answered various questions from Councillors. Cr Archer stated that he supports the content of the document, but he feels that the document is a Pest Plant Management Plan. Cr Archer stated that in 2005 and 2010 the document was called the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy, he agreed that if any animal pests were to emerge that warranted intervention, they could be added. Cr Archer stated that there have not been any animals added since 2005. Cr Archer stated that his preference would be for the document to be called "Proposed West Coast Regional Pest Plant Management Plan" or add after 2016 plants at the end. M. Meehan suggested that the name could be changed to the "Proposed West Coast Regional Pest Plant Management Plan 2016". He advised that if vertebrate animals are added in the future, then the title can then be changed. Cr Archer agreed with M. Meehan and stated that there are different agencies dealing with animals, and it is 10 years on and there has not been any suggestion to include animals. Cr Archer stated that he doubts that this will change in the future and he would feel it would make sense to insert 'plants' into the title of the document. Cr Ewen stated that he has no issue with this change. It was agreed that the change would be made to the title.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That Council receives this report.*
2. *That the Proposed Regional Pest Plant Management Plan 2016 and accompanying Cost Benefit Analysis Report are approved for public notification.*

Carried

5.1.4 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that there have only been four exceedances of the NES for air quality in Reefton this winter. M. Meehan advised that there has been no intervention in Reefton this winter but there has been quite a bit of education and information circulated on better ways to operate fires. He feels that the lower amount of exceedances is likely to be due to climatic conditions. M. Meehan advised that the results to date are close to meeting the NES for air quality as the requirement is to get down to three exceedances per year by 2016. He noted that MfE are still looking at the NES for air quality and it is likely that draft changes will be received by the end of the year. M. Meehan stated that the draft changes will be put out for consultation, and it is safe to assume that there will be changes to the NES. M. Meehan stated that it is likely that MfE will go with the recommendations in the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report which is looking at an average across the year and looking at PM_{2.5} as well as PM₁₀. M. Meehan stated that although it has been a good year in Reefton, compliance with the NES was not achieved. Cr Challenger drew attention to the second sentence in the report that states "*this has been the lowest number of exceedances since 2006*". Cr Challenger feels this is a comparison and he would prefer that it read "since records began". M. Meehan advised that there was some testing done by MfE prior to 2006 but it is not the same as the testing that is now being done. M. Meehan clarified that three exceedances of the NES are permissible for this year and it will stay at three until 2020, when it becomes one exceedance per year.

Moved (Archer / Tumahai) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to his report and advised that 23 resource consent applications were received during the reporting period, including four variations to conditions. He reported that 47 public enquires were responded to. G. McCormack advised that during September there has been quite an upturn in the number of consents received. He stated that this is very good to see.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *That the September 2016 reports of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report. He advised that 45 site visits were carried out during the reporting period with 14 of these non-compliant. G. McCormack reported that 18 incidents / complaints were dealt with. G. McCormack reported that two infringement notices and one abatement notice were issued during the reporting period. He reported that three mining work programmes and three bonds were received.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that the report be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.02 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date