

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
KARAMEA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KARAMEA FIRE STATION
ON 30 JULY 2019, COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM.

PRESENT

B. Jones, A. Bruning, B. Langford, P. McClintock, T. Herrick, D. Simkin

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
N. Clementson (Councillor)
R. Beal, P. Birchfield, J. Ellis

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

BUSINESS

Cr Clementson opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Karamea Stopbank Upgrade

Cr Clementson introduced J. Ellis to the meeting. J. Ellis advised that his background is in River Engineering. Discussion took place on the rata trees on the stopbank. It was noted that there has been no formal approach to WCRC regarding the rata trees. Access to the rata trees is through T. Herrick's property.

Discussion took place on the likelihood of one of the rata trees falling over. It was confirmed that the tree on this side is quite likely to fall over and this is a risk to the stopbank. B. Langford advised that in there was 10 trees but six of these have come down in recent years. It was noted that these trees have shallow roots and are at risk of blowing over. Discussion took place on likely contractors that could be used to fell the trees. P. Birchfield advised that gravel will need to be placed on the crest of the banks prior to work being done. R. Beal asked what percentage of the community would be against the work and was informed that it would be less than 50% against.

P. Birchfield spoke to her report which contains the design for the stopbank upgrade, along with advice on stopbanks in general. She stated that the trees themselves are not in the stopbank, they are in the foundation which is just as important as the bank itself. P. Birchfield advised that there has been a request to narrow the stopbank past the trees but this does not reduce the risk of the roots of the trees.

J. Ellis addressed the meeting and advised that he spent several years working for Ecan following the Christchurch earthquakes. He was worked on both the Waimakariri and Ashley Rivers. He gave a history of what happens to trees during and following earthquakes and the effect on root platforms. J. Ellis stated that he does not like to see native trees being cut down but trees and stopbanks do not go together as trees are a problem. P. Birchfield spoke of the Flood Protection bylaw which was adopted in 2015. Extensive discussion took

place on risk, historic floods, the Edgecombe flood event and recent opposition on social media regarding the removal of the rata trees.

R. Beal confirmed that the stopbank upgrade has been approved and is budgeted for as per Council's Annual Plan. The stopbank upgrade was agreed to at the annual meeting of the Karamea Rating District on 23 October 2018.

Discussion took place on the possibility of changing the alignment of the stopbank. It was agreed that this would not be changed, it is too expensive and would narrow the river.

Actions

R. Beal advised that the design will be finalised, a mail out to the community with frequently asked questions and advice about trees on stopbanks and, informing them of Council policy for trees on stopbanks, and then arrange for the work to be carried out.

R. Beal asked the meeting if they wished to fund tree planting work for the community as a form of replacement for the trees that are to be removed. Cr Clementson advised that this would need to be palatable to the committee group. He stated that Council's CEO has suggested that trees could be planted in the Flagstaff area. P. Birchfield advised that Lisa from a local nursery suggested that a few rata trees be planted. R. Beal suggested trees could be planted in an area for whitebait enhancement.

Moved: *"That \$5,000 from the Karamea Rating District account is spent on planting."*

D. Simkin / B. Jones – Carried

Moved: *"That a mail out to the Karamea Rating District is arranged."*

P. McClintock / B. Langford – Carried

T. Herrick asked for a timeline of when the work would be done as there is an impact on her farming activities. P. Birchfield stated she is hopeful that the work would be completed by _____.

Cr Clementson thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.49 p.m.