

Date 26 July 2022, 10.30am

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

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Members	Councillor	C L Littlewood	Committee Chairperson
	Councillor	M J McDonald	
	Councillor	D H McIntyre	
	Councillor	E D Van Der Leden	
	Councillor	M P Joyce	<i>ex officio zoom</i>
	Councillor	D N MacLeod	<i>ex officio zoom</i>
Representative Members	Councillor	C Young	South Taranaki District Council
	Councillor	G Boyde	Stratford District Council
	Ms	B Bigham	Iwi Representative <i>zoom</i>
	Ms	L Tester	Iwi Representative
	Mr	P Moeahu	Iwi Representative <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	P Muir	Federated Farmers
Attending	Councillor	D L Lean	Taranaki Regional Council
	Mr	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
	Mr	A D McLay	Director - Resource Management
	Ms	A J Matthews	Director - Environment Quality
	Mr	D R Harrison	Director - Operations <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	M J Nield	Director - Corporate Services
	Mr	C Spurdle	Planning Manager
	Mr	R Phipps	Science and Technology Manager
	Ms	J Harvey	Scientist - Groundwater
	Ms	J Allen	Consents Manager
	Mr	B Pope	Compliance Manager
	Mr	P Davidson	Team Leader Compliance
	Mr	C Wadsworth	Strategy Lead
	Ms	J Harvey	Scientist - Groundwater
	Ms	K Holland	Team Leader Communications
	Mr	C Woollin	Communications Adviser
	Miss	A Campbell	Policy Analyst
	Miss	B Mestrom	Policy Analyst
	Mr	S Ellis	Environment Services Manager
	Miss	L Davidson	Executive Assistant <i>zoom</i>
	Two members of the media and two members of the public.		

Councillor C L Littlewood Acknowledged sudden passing of Peter de Rungs, WITT.

Apologies Apologies were received and sustained from Councillors M G Davey, N W Walker, C S Williamson & S Hitchcock.
Littlewood/McIntyre

Notification of Late Items RMA reform update.
Te Uru Kahika – 3 Waters programme and submission.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 7 June 2022

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 10.30am
- b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

McDonald/Young

Matters arising

- 1.1 It was requested that Officers explore a Climate Change page on the TRC website and upload the Climate Change report from NIWA on here.

2. Essential Freshwater Implementation Review

- 2.1 Mr C Wadsworth, Strategy Lead, spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with a Freshwater implementation programme update.
- 2.2 The national level tool for submitting nitrogen information is not ready yet and a sector developed electronic tool will be available in August. There will also be an option for, farmers to submit their nitrogen information to Council manually.
- 2.3 The focus points for the final quarter of the year are:
 - FW vision and the incorporation of Te Mana o Te Wai.
 - Water Quality Accounting.
 - Increased level of engagement with Iwi.
- 2.4 It was clarified that the Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) aerial mapping exercise was recently undertaken by MfE, using satellite imagery, and represents a snap shot in time. The information was then provided to regional councils who identified which farms have IWG. Land Management Officers then visit those properties and provide advice and information to those farmers to ensure they are complying with the national environmental standard.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the Memorandum on Freshwater implementation programme.
Van Der Leden/Boyde

3. Submission on the exposure draft of proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National environmental Standards for Freshwater

- 3.1 Mr C Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum to seek Members' endorsement on the submission on the exposure draft of proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater .

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum Submission on the exposure draft of proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater
- b) endorses the submission on the exposure drafts
- c) determines that this decision be recognised not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

McDonald/Van Der Leden

5. Groundwater Quantity – State of Environment 2017 - 2020

- 5.1 Ms J Harvey, Scientist – Groundwater, spoke to the memorandum and gave a presentation to provide the Committee with an overview of the findings and recommendations of the report Groundwater Quantity - State of the Environment Monitoring Triennial Report 2017-2020.
- 5.2 It was noted that Council would like to increase the number of monitoring bores, especially within the eastern parts of Taranaki, to improve understanding of areas where there is limited data and information.
- 5.3 Water allocation in the region is well within current allocation limits and monitoring shows that groundwater levels are generally stable, with fluctuations the result of seasonal rainfall and pumping effects. It was noted that we are already starting to see an increase in demand for ground water and this has the potential to grow in response to pressure on surface water. However, it is not expected that this will place groundwater under significant pressure in the near future. Also, groundwater

resources did not offer sufficient capacity to significantly offset surface water abstractions.

- 5.4 In response to questions raised around the state of groundwater quality, it was noted that the SOE 2022 report provided an indication of the current state of groundwater quality and this was generally positive. A more detailed report will be provided at the next meeting.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and technical report Groundwater Quantity - State of the Environment Monitoring Triennial Report 2017-2020 and notes the specific recommendations therein.

Young/McDonald

6. Taranaki Water Quality State Spatial Modelling

- 6.1 Mr R Phipps, Manager – Science and Technology, spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with an overview of the findings of a recent report commissioned by Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), Taranaki water quality state spatial modelling by Land Water People (LWP).
- 6.2 In response to questions raised around the effects of forestry activities, it was noted that there are currently no specific sites monitoring sediment in water ways in the areas where deforestation activity is occurring. Regular on-site compliance monitoring inspections are undertaken. A review of the SOE monitoring programme is now underway to assess the effectiveness and suitability of the existing network and identify any areas for improvement.
- 6.3 The national objectives framework was introduced and the options the Council had under that framework to establish limits was discussed.
- 6.4 The incorrect report was uploaded in the agenda in error. The correct report will be emailed out to Councillors.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the technical report, Taranaki water quality state spatial modelling and notes that the outputs from the modelling carried will provide useful context regarding the state of water quality and ecosystem health across the region as we continue work to implement the requirements of the NPS-FM.

Boyde/Van Der Leden

7. Submission on draft National Policy for Indigenous Biodiversity

- 7.1 Mr C Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum to seek Members' endorsement of the Councils draft submission on the Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity - Exposure Draft (the Exposure Draft).

The cause of the biodiversity decline and the important need for central government leadership and support for implementing the National policy statement were discussed.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and the attached submission on the exposure draft on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- b) endorses the submission on the Exposure Draft
- c) determines that this decision be recognised not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Littlewood/Joyce

8. Report on advocacy and response activities for 2020/21 and 2021/22

- 8.1 Mr C Wadsworth, Strategy Lead - Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum to report to the Committee on advocacy and response activities for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 years.
- 8.2 Members acknowledged the considerable staff effort involved in preparing submissions and their impact on decision makers.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum Report on Advocacy and Response activities for 2020/21 and 2021/22
- b) notes that in 2020/21 and 2021/22 the Council made a total of 31 submissions on the policy initiatives of other agencies
- c) notes that senior staff were also involved in various working parties or other fora on central and local government policy development and review.

Young/Van Der Leden

9. Review of Cat Management Options Report

- 9.1 Mr S Ellis, Environment Services Manager spoke to the memorandum to present for Members' information the report Review of Cat Management Options following a request for feral cats to be considered for inclusion in the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki 2018.
- 9.2 It was noted that this report is about feral cats not domestic cats. Feral cats are increasing and causing a lot of biodiversity damage throughout the region.

9.3 Iwi were included as part of the Wild for Taranaki workshop as so were well engaged.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum entitled *Review of Cat Management Options Report*
- b) receives the Review of Cat Management Options Place Group Report
- c) notes officers have begun preparations for a councillor workshop to review current pest management policies in early 2023.

Joyce/McIntyre

10. General Business

10.1 RMA reform announcements

- Mr S J Ruru gave an update on RMA Reform provided by Minister Parker at the LGNZ Conference last week.
- There will need to be a significant transition process and officials will be looking for three pilot regions to lead the spatial planning change and then extend it to other regions.
- Regional Planning Committees will be formed and will undertake development of plans. These committees will consist of a minimum of six members (one from each Council and two Iwi representatives). Can see this working well in the smaller regions but not so much in larger regions. The Committee can call for submissions.
- Each of the Councils will be able to produce a statement of community outcomes and regional councils will produce a regional environmental outcomes statement.
- David Parkers speech is now on the Beehive website for those who want to view.

10.2 Te Uru Kahika - 3 Waters programme and submission

- Programme is moving at speed to form entities and working through an inaugural board process.
- Te Uru Kahika made a submission on the need for the formation of regional representative groups and highlighting the need for the new water entities to link in to different regional views across the entities.
- Clear on the need to link in to planning process and spatial plans. Not just 3 waters focus with transport infrastructure, telecommunications, electricity and core infrastructure very important.
- Need to be clear on practical linkage between stormwater and flood management.

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, Councillor C L Littlewood, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed at 12.23pm. The meeting closed with a karakia.

Confirmed

Policy and Planning

Chairperson: _____

C L Littlewood

30 August 2022