

Date: 18 March 2025

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

Document: TRCID-1492626864-499

Present:

C S Williamson	Chairperson
S W Hughes	
B J Bigham	zoom
D M Cram	
C L Littlewood	zoom (joined meeting at 10.36am)
N W Walker	ex officio
D H McIntyre	
A L Jamieson	
C Filbee	South Taranaki District Council - zoom
M Ritai	Iwi Representative
E Bailey	Iwi Representative - zoom
P Moeahu	Iwi Representative
B Haque	New Plymouth District Council
G Boyde	Stratford District Council

Attending:

S J Ruru	Chief Executive
A D McLay	Director – Resource Management
M J Nield	Director – Corporate Services
A J Matthews	Director – Environment Quality
D Harrison	Director - Operations
F Kiddle	Strategy lead
L Hawkins	Policy Manager
V McKay	Manager – Environmental Assurance
M Jones	Governance Administrator
B Zieltjes	Team Leader – Freshwater and Coastal
A Northayati	Scientist - Freshwater
T Gordon	Programme Manager - Freshwater
J Harvey	Climate Change Coordinator (joined meeting at 11.53am)
C Woollin	Communications Advisor

One media representative present, joined the meeting at 10.44am.

The meeting opened at 10.30am.

1. Confirmation of Minutes Policy and Planning 4 February 2025

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) took as read and confirmed the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held on 4 February 2025 at Taranaki Regional Council 47 Cloten Road Stratford
- b) noted the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 18 February 2025.

Boyde/Walker

2. Mana Whenua Engagement Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 S Ruru gave an overview of Mana Whenua engagement for 2025 outlining the key strategic priorities for Taranaki Regional Council.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Mana whenua engagement strategic priorities*
- b) noted the extensive obligations on Council to provide for mana whenua participation in Council decision-making
- c) noted that the confluence of the Maunga Redress Act, Ngāti Maru JMA, Waitara River Committee, Maniapoto relationship agreement and RMA replacement presents a key strategic opportunity to deepen our partnership with mana whenua and deliver better services for the communities of Taranaki
- d) approved the following strategic priorities for mana whenua engagement over the 2025 calendar year:
 - advancing the Ngāti Maru joint management agreement
 - advancing the establishment of the Waitara River Committee
 - advancing the Maniapoto relationship agreement
 - engaging with Te Tōpuni Kōkōurangi and Te Tōpuni Ngārahu to operationalise provisions in the Maunga Redress Act and explore broader opportunities
 - engaging with iwi and the three district councils to explore governance arrangements for the RMA replacement and development of a potential combined plan that gives effect to existing Treaty settlements
 - continuing to work closely with iwi in the development of the Land and Freshwater Plan and the future of our freshwater science and policy work
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- f) determined 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, determined 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.

Hughes/Cram

3. Government Reform Strategic Priorities

3.1 S Ruru set out the landscape of Government reform over 2025, particularly the key strategic priorities for Taranaki Regional Council.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Government reform strategic priorities*
- b) noted that prioritisation of Council engagement with Government on reform proposals is needed to ensure our limited resources are focused on those proposals that will have the largest impact on Council operations and Taranaki communities
- c) approved the following strategic priorities for Government reform engagement over the 2025 calendar year:
 - national direction proposals under the Resource Management Act 1991, giving priority to freshwater related matters
 - the proposed replacement of the Resource Management Act 1991
 - local government reforms
 - climate change adaptation legislation.
 - directs Council officers to engage with Te Uru Kahika and the three Taranaki territorial authorities to coordinate engagement on the strategic priorities identified above
 - notes Council officers will maintain a watching brief on the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill and any legislation to give effect to the NZ First coalition agreement to review references to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in legislation
- d) noted Council will continue to engage on other reform proposals as resources allow and that other groups such as Te Uru Kahika, Taituara and Local Government NZ will likely develop and lodge submissions on behalf of their members
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- f) determined 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, determined 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.

Walker/McIntyre

4. Freshwater Implementation March Update

4.1 L Hawkins provided a freshwater Implementation update for February 2025.

4.2 Councillor Bigham noted a conflict of interest due to her role with Taumata Arawai.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the March 2025 update on the Freshwater Implementation Programme.

Boyde/Walker

5. Land And Freshwater Plan Programme Review

5.1 L Hawkins provided an overview of the programme for development of the Land and Freshwater Plan.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Land and Freshwater Plan Programme review*
- b) noted that the existing programme endorsed by the Committee in March 2024 is no longer able to be achieved due to the changes in legislation made in October 2024, which prevents councils notifying a freshwater planning instrument before either a new National Policy Statement Freshwater Management in place or 31 December 2025, whichever is sooner
- c) endorsed the approach to pause work on identified National Objectives Framework attributes identified in this memorandum, and to revisit upon further government direction becoming available
- d) endorsed option 1b – continue the development of the Land and Freshwater Plan and associated updates to the Regional Policy Statement so that the programme is ready for Clause 3 consultation in March 2026 in relation to the programme timeline
- e) directed staff to consider any updates provided by the government on the future National Policy Statement Freshwater Management and request appropriate reporting to the committee, including consideration of any necessary changes to the programme in accordance with resolution made above in c
- f) endorsed Option 2a – workshops will be held within Committee and Council meetings and in doing so endorses the Land and Freshwater Plan Governing Style Protocol in relation to engagement with the Policy and Planning Committee and Council on the development of the Land and Freshwater Plan
- g) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- h) determined 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, determined 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.

Bailey/Cram

6. Estimated Reference Condition of Taranaki Lakes

6.1 A Northayati provided an overview of Cawthron Institute's report Estimated reference condition and paleolimnological analysis of Taranaki lakes.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the report titled Estimated Reference Condition of Taranaki Lakes
- b) noted the findings therein.

Boyde/Jamieson

7. Te Ura Kahika Adaptation Programme

7.1 A Matthews provided an overview of the climate change adaptation work programme co-ordinated across the regional sector by Te Ura Kahika.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Te Uru Kahika climate adaptation programme*
- b) noted that Te Uru Kahika has established a Climate Adaptation Programme Action Plan to support the sector.

Williamson/Walker

8. Climate Change Strategy Review

8.1 A Matthews proposed an approach for a new climate change strategy seeking the endorsement of the committee.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled climate change strategy review
- b) noted that the current climate change strategy has been reviewed, and the new climate change strategy will be drafted following completion of the organisational climate change risk assessment
- c) endorsed the proposed approach for drafting the new climate change strategy
- d) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- e) determined 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, determined 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.

Cram/Jamieson

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, C S Williamson, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed at 12.10pm.

Policy and Planning

Committee Chairperson: _____

C S Williamson