

**Minutes of the Policy and Planning  
Committee Meeting of the Taranaki  
Regional Council, held in the Taranaki  
Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten  
Road, Stratford, on Thursday 1 May 2008  
at 10.30 am.**

<b>Present</b>	Councillors	N W Walker	
		M J Cloke	
		M G Davey	
		P D Horton	
		M A Irving	
		M P Joyce	
		D L Lean	(ex officio)
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
<b>Representatives</b>	Councillor	A Hickey	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Councillor	J Rowe	(Stratford District Council)
	Councillor	M Betts	(New Plymouth District Council)
	Mr	G Hight	(Federated Farmers of New Zealand)
<b>In attendance</b>	Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)
		A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)
		R A Phillips	(Director-Operations)
		G C Severinsen	(Policy Manager)
	Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
	Messrs	R Miller	(Policy Analyst)
		J Bielski	(Policy Analyst)
		L Mahony	(Policy Analyst)
	Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)

**Apologies**                      There were no apologies.

**Notification of  
Late Item**                      Item 4 – Biodiversity Strategy: Late submissions  
General Business – Update on severe weather event

**Welcome and  
Introduction**                      Committee Chairperson, Councillor N W Walker, welcomed the  
New Plymouth District Council representative to the Policy and  
Planning Committee meeting.

**1. Confirmed Minutes: Policy and Planning Committee Meeting  
- 13 March 2008**

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the confirmed minutes of the Policy & Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 14 February 2008 at 10.30 am.

08/0

Cloke/Horton

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**2. Review of Navigation and Safety Bylaws for Port Taranaki**

- 2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum seeking agreement to proceed with a review of the Navigation and Safety Bylaws for Port Taranaki and its Approaches 2003, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes that the Council is required by the Local Government Act 2002 to commence a review of the *Navigation and Safety Bylaws for Port Taranaki and its Approaches 2003* by 1 July 2008;
2. agrees that the following three options will be assessed throughout the Bylaw review process:
  - Status quo – retain bylaws for Port Taranaki Harbour Limits only;
  - Coastal waters – develop bylaws for all coastal waters but not inland waters;
  - All waters – develop bylaws for all coastal and inland waters; and
3. agrees that the Council proceed to commence a review of the existing *Navigation and Safety Bylaws for Port Taranaki and its Approaches 2003* in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

08/087

Cloke/MacLeod

**3. Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement**

- 3.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum introducing details associated with the new Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy

Statement and the Council's draft submission prepared in response to be endorsed by the Committee. Submissions are required by 7 May 2008.

- 3.2 Ms J Bielski, Policy Analyst, provided Members of the Committee with a powerpoint presentation on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes the development of the *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*;
2. notes that the Council's review of the *Regional Coastal Plan* will be delayed until the final NZCPS is determined;
3. endorses the attached draft submission, with any amendments agreed to by Members; and
4. agrees that this submission is sent to the Department of Conservation by the due date of 7 May 2008.

08/088

Lean/Horton

**4. Biodiversity Strategy: Feedback from submitters and final version**

- 4.1 The memorandum presenting for endorsement the non-statutory, *Strategy for biodiversity: an operational strategy to guide biodiversity actions of the Taranaki Regional Council*, was received and noted by the Committee.
- 4.2 Four late submissions were received (as tabled) that were supportive and resulted in only minor 'fine-tuning' of the Strategy.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes that the draft '*Strategy for Biodiversity: an operational strategy to direct the biodiversity actions of the Taranaki Regional Council (2008)*' setting out the priority areas for the Council to focus on, was generally supported by biodiversity stakeholders ;
2. notes that submissions received from stakeholders did not result in major changes in direction of the Strategy, but rather provided valuable fine tuning; and
3. approves the final Strategy, noting that as it is a non-statutory document it retains flexibility to be reviewed as required.

08/089

Joyce/MacLeod

## 5. Draft Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki

- 5.1 The memorandum introducing the Draft Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan (RAQP) for Taranaki was received and noted by the Committee. The RAQP assists the Council to carry out its functions under the Resource Management Act (the Act) to promote the sustainable management of the air resource of the Taranaki region. Section 79 of the Act requires the Council to commence a full review of the RAQP not later than 10 years after it becomes operative.
- 5.2 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, and Ms L Mahony, Policy Analyst, provided a powerpoint presentation to the Committee on the draft Proposed RAQP highlighting five new rules that have been introduced following changes to the Act and best practice since the adoption of the original RAQP.
- 5.3 Members noted and discussed the introduction of a prohibited rule for the burning of domestic waste products and green waste for the purpose of waste disposal on residential properties in areas serviced by a municipal refuse collection service. It was noted that public submissions to the draft Proposed RAQP would provide further clarification to the Council on the control methods in implementing the rules of the RAQP.

### Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and the *Draft Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki*;
2. notes that over the last 10 years the policy approach adopted in the Regional Air Quality Plan has been generally effective in achieving the desired environmental outcomes and promoting the sustainable management of air quality in Taranaki; and
3. agrees to forward the *Draft Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki* for technical and legal peer review and the views of the key stakeholders.

08/090

Cloke/Rowe

## 6. The state of and trends in soil quality in Taranaki

- 6.1 Mr G K Bedrord, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the completion of a study and preparation of a draft version of a report on the soil quality of the region entitled *Soil Quality in the Taranaki region: characteristics of new sites, and current status of previously sampled sites* prepared by Landcare Research.

### Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum noting the preparation of a draft report *Soil quality in the Taranaki region: characteristics of new sites, and current status of previously sampled sites* (Landcare March 2008);
2. notes the findings of the report, that the general patterns in Taranaki's soil quality are similar to those in other regions; that the primary concerns that emerge from this survey relate to compaction of soils in pasture, high nitrogen levels in dairy soils, and low nutrient levels in hill-country and forestry soils; and that generally, aspects of poor soil quality can be reversed by appropriate management; and
3. notes that the findings of the study will be integrated into the Council's next 'State of the Environment' report, scheduled for release later this year.

08/091

Irving/Horton

## **7. Presentation – Dairy Summit 2008**

- 7.1 The memorandum introducing, for information, an address entitled *Acting to promote a sustainable high quality water resource and dairy industry – a Taranaki perspective*, presented by the Council's Chief Executive Mr B G Chamberlain at a Dairy Summit 2008 held in New Plymouth on 2 April 2008, was received and noted by the Committee.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum.

08/092

Lean/Cloke

## **8. Climate change policies briefing and workshop**

- 8.1 The memorandum advising of a briefing/workshop to be held at the conclusion of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting exploring the implications of climate change policies and the Government's Emission Trading Scheme from the perspective of the Council and the regional community was received and noted.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum advising of a presentation/workshop on avenues for engagement in climate change initiatives and programmes by the Council and by activity sectors of the regional community; and
2. notes the intention to receive a position paper on the subject at a subsequent meeting.

08/093

Lean/Cloke

## 9. General Business

### Severe Weather Event

Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, provided a verbal update to Members of the Committee on the severe rainfall weather event in Taranaki on 29 and 30 April 2008 and the damage incurred in the Stony River and other western/northern Taranaki catchments. A need to work pragmatically with affected farmers was acknowledged.

There being no further business, the Committee Chairman Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.00pm.

**Confirmed**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**D N MacLeod**

**Date:** **20 May 2008**