

**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 12 June  
2008 at 10.30 am.**

<b>Present</b>	Councillors	N W Walker P D Horton M A Irving B Marsh R Maxwell	
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
<b>Representatives</b>	Councillor	A Hickey	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mr	G Hight	(Federated Farmers of New Zealand)
<b>In attendance</b>	Messrs	B G Chamberlain M J Nield R A Phillips G C Severinsen	(Chief Executive) (Director-Corporate Services) (Director-Operations) (Policy Manager)
	Mrs	D A Smith	(Acting Committee Administrator)
	Ms	R Miller	(Policy Analyst)
	Mrs	J Bielski	(Policy Analyst)
	Ms	J Bowden	(Technical Officer)
	Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)
		1 member of the media	

**Apologies** Apologies were received and sustained from Councillors M J Cloke, M G Davey, M P Joyce, D L Lean and Mr J Rowe (Stratford District Council).

**Notification of  
Late Item**

There were no late items.

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

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

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

08/115

Irving/Horton

### **Matters Arising**

#### Climate change policies briefing and workshop

It was noted that this workshop was well worthwhile.

## **2. Recreational Use of Coast, Rivers and Lakes in Taranaki**

- 2.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality introduced the memorandum introducing a report on the recreational use of the coast, rivers and lakes in Taranaki. It was noted that a previous survey was undertaken in 1984 as part of the Ring Plain Water Resources Survey.
- 2.2 Ms Jane Bowden, Technical Officer provided Members with a powerpoint presentation on the findings of the survey. It was noted that the current report represented the results of a postal questionnaire and observation surveys undertaken to obtain up to date information on where people choose to go for recreational purposes as well as gauge the degree and types of recreational activities in which they engage.
- 2.3 The findings of the current survey would now be incorporated into state of the environment reporting and used as a basis for general water management.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the Recreational Use of Coast, Rivers and Lakes in Taranaki 2007-2008
2. agrees the results of the report be incorporated into the State of the Environment report and used as a basis for general water management in the region.

08/116

Irving/MacLeod

## **3. Summary of interim comments received on the Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki**

- 3.1 Mrs Jo Bielski, Policy Analyst provided Members of the Committee with a powerpoint presentation on the responses received to a request for interim comments on the current *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki* to assist in the Plan's review process. In response to this request, a total of 17 comments were received from various individuals and organisations.

- 3.2 It was noted that the comments would be used in the preparation of the draft *Regional Coastal Plan* but that any timeline for progressing the Draft Plan was very much dependant on progress made with regard to the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*. The *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*, once approved, would have significant bearing on the content of the next *Regional Coastal Plan* and it was not considered desirable to progress the review into the formal statutory notification stage until the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* was finalised.
- 3.3 It was agreed that the submitters should be thanked, noting that their comments would be taken on-board in the preparation of a Draft *Regional Coastal Plan*.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes the interim comments received on the *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki*
2. notes officers' comments in response to the main submission points made
3. endorses the officers' responses made, subject to comments received by Committee Members
4. agrees to circulate officers' responses to those that made comments in response to the Council's request for initial feedback.

08/117

Horton/Irving

## **4. State of the environment: Sustainable land-use monitoring in the eastern Taranaki hill country and coastal sand country**

- 4.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager spoke to the memorandum presenting the main findings of a report entitled *Sustainable Land-use monitoring in the eastern Taranaki hill country and coastal sand country – 2007 re-survey* prepared by Landcare Research Ltd on sustainable land-use monitoring in the eastern Taranaki hill country and coastal sand country.
- 4.2 It was noted that the results of the 25 site re-survey were good news for the Council and for Taranaki and that in 2007, 87.4% of the hill country monitoring area was being used sustainably – an increase in sustainability of 2.4% ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ). There was no change on the four coastal sand country sites.
- 4.3 Members agreed this was a positive and encouraging sign, particularly given that there had been good years for the meat and wool sector during the monitoring period and that good progress had been made in managing the issue of accelerated erosion in the eastern Taranaki hill country. It was concluded that farmers were good stewards of their land.
- 4.4 The results of the survey would be included in the Council's 2008 State of the Environment report currently in preparation.

## Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on State of the Environment Sustainable land-use monitoring in the eastern Taranaki hill country and coastal sand country
2. notes that there has been an increase in sustainability on the 25 eastern Taranaki hill country monitoring sites of 2.4% ± 1.5% and no change on the four coastal sand country sites
3. notes that the results of the re-survey will be reported in the Council's 2008 State of the Environment report.

08/118

Irving/MacLeod

## 5. Release of MAF report: costs and benefits of climate change and adaptation to climate change in NZ agriculture

- 5.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality spoke to the memorandum advising Members of the recent release of a report entitled *Costs and benefits of climate change and adaptation to climate change in New Zealand agriculture: what do we know so far?* prepared by MAF examining the implications of climate change for agricultural productivity and economics in New Zealand on a national and regional scale.
- 5.2 It was noted that the study found that for the Taranaki region, the probability of a moderate drought occurring in successive years had not changed and the probability of a severe drought was non-existent. The study found that Taranaki, Southland and the West Coast are regions of New Zealand least likely to experience drought in successive years.
- 5.3 It was noted that the study was not a comprehensive and integrated study of all consequences of climate change for agriculture but focused only on productivity. It confirmed and in some cases, reinforced some of the predictions and modelling outputs that have emerged previously, that overall Taranaki farmers will benefit from changes to the climate.

## Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum noting the release by MAF of the report *Costs and benefits of climate change and adaptation to climate change in New Zealand agriculture: what do we know so far?* and discussing the implications of its findings for the Taranaki pastoral agricultural sector.

08/119

Horton/Irving

## **6. Waste Minimisation Bill as reported back to Parliament**

- 6.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality spoke to the memorandum updating Members on the progress of the Waste Minimisation Bill [formerly the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill which was in its final stages of consideration by Parliament and would take effect from 1 July 2009.
- 6.2 It was noted that despite strong submissions to the contrary, the Bill had no role for regional councils as of right. The Bill gave a wider range of functions to those involved in waste management, particularly territorial local authorities and any future involvement in waste management in the region by the Council would be provided for through the waste management plans of each district council.
- 6.3 It was noted that the Council had a long history of waste management involvement both independently and in conjunction with the district councils of the region. The Council currently had representation on the Regional Solid Wastes Working Party, convened a waste management forum of councillors and senior staff of all four councils and employed a Waste Minimisation Officer. It was noted that the role of the Waste Minimisation Officer could be continued if provided for in the waste management and minimisation plans of the territorial local authorities. Alternatively, the Council could apply for a grant towards this position, to be provided through the district councils, from the waste levy monies provided by the Government.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on the Waste Minimisation Bill as re-introduced back into the House of Representatives
2. notes that the Bill provides no role nor funding for a regional council to engage in waste management and waste minimisation activities
3. notes that under the provisions of the Bill, any such role involving partnership or coordination with the district councils would have to be provided for through a waste management and minimisation plan of each district council
4. discusses with the region's district councils through the Regional Solid Wastes Working Party and other avenues the future engagement of the Regional Council in waste management in the region.

08/120

MacLeod/Irving

## **7. National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission**

- 7.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager spoke to the memorandum introducing the final gazetted National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (NPS) which came into force on 10 April 2008.
- 7.2 It was noted that following an initial assessment, it did not appear there was any need to change the Council's plans to give effect to the NPS as the plans already provided

for many of the activities associated with the operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the electricity transmission network.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission
2. notes that an initial assessment has been carried out that does not identify an immediate need to change Council plans to give effect to the National Policy Statement but that changes are likely to be made to the Proposed National Policy Statement for Taranaki in response to submissions that will give effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission.

08/121

Horton/MacLeod

**8. National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water**

- 8.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality spoke to the memorandum updating Members on the implications for the Council and consent holders of the Ministry for the Environment 's National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water. This Standard has been legally gazetted and will come into force on 20 June 2008 although transitional provisions mean changes to permitted rules do not come into force until the *Regional Fresh Water Plan* is reviewed in 2011.
- 8.2 It was noted that the Council would be required to consider the effects of certain activities on drinking-water sources when granting water or discharge permits and when including or amending rules in a regional plan in relation to permitted activities. The regulations would also require the Council to impose a notification requirement on certain resource consents where a spillage event occurred that may have significant adverse effects on a drinking-water source.
- 8.3 It was noted that a programme of works has been identified for the Council to ensure compliance with the regulations, including identifying water supply catchments supplying over 25 people and those supplying over 500 people on the Council's GIS system so that advice can be provided to applicants on the water quality standards required.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum
2. notes that the regulations that come into force on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, although transitional provisions mean changes to permitted rules do not come into force until the *Fresh Water Plan* is reviewed in 2011

3. notes that the regulations have implications for consent applicants in respect of information provision, and for the Council in assessing and determining applications and when drafting conditions where consents are granted
4. notes that these immediate implications are relatively minor and are able to be managed through reviewing consent processing procedures and updating information and advice provided to consent holders and applicants
5. notes that a programme of actions has been identified to ensure that the Council complies with the regulations.

08/122

Hickey/Horton

## **9. Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Regional Fresh Water Plan**

- 9.1 Ms R Miller, Policy Analyst provided a powerpoint presentation to Members introducing a report entitled *Effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*.
- 9.2 The report concluded that the achievement of the objectives in the *Fresh Water Plan* are generally on track and that the Council's regulatory and non-regulatory programmes are an effective and efficient means of delivering on those objectives.
- 9.3 It was agreed to circulate the report to key stakeholders for comment.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and attached report entitled *Effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*
2. agrees to circulate to key stakeholders the *Effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki* for comment.

08/123

Horton/Irving

## **10. Trends in the ecological state of Taranaki's rivers and streams**

- 10.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality spoke to the memorandum introducing an annual report entitled *Fresh Water Macroinvertebrate Fauna Biological Monitoring Programme Annual State of the Environment Monitoring Report 2006-2007*. The report detailed the findings of the Council's freshwater macroinvertebrate biological monitoring programme
- 10.2 It was noted that the report which looked at life in rivers and streams provided 'good news' with continuing maintenance or significant improvements in the state of Taranaki's surface waters.
- 10.3 The results would now be incorporated into the Council's 2008 State of the

Environment report.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes the release of the report '*Fresh Water Macroinvertebrate Fauna Biological Monitoring Programme Annual State of the Environment Monitoring Report 2006-2007, Technical Report 2007-22*', Taranaki Regional Council December 2007
2. notes that the report finds continuing maintenance or significant improvement in the state of Taranaki's surface waters, as measured through biological indicators within a monitoring programme implemented as part of the Council's state of the environment monitoring
3. notes that this finding represents attainment of the objectives set out in the Council's Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki (2001), 'to maintain and enhance the quality of the surface water resources of Taranaki..' (objectives 6.2.1 and 6.3.1).

08/124

MacLeod/Horton

**11. General Business**

There was no general business.

There being no further business, the Committee Chairman Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.25pm.

**Confirmed**

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

**Date:** 1 July 2008