

**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 14
February 2008 at 10.30 am.**

Present	Councillors	M J Cloke	(Deputy Chairperson)
		M G Davey	
		M A Irving	
		D L Lean	(ex officio)
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
Representatives	Councillor	A Hickey	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Councillor	J Rowe	(Stratford District Council)
	Mr	G Hight	(Federated Farmers of New Zealand)
In attendance	Councillor	R F H Maxwell	
	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)
		R A Phillips	(Director-Operations)
		G C Severinsen	(Policy Manager)
		P Ledingham	(Information Officer)
		Mrs	K van Gameren
	Ms	F Moore	(Scientific Officer Hydrology)
	Ms	R Miller	(Policy Analyst)
	Mr	G Gallop	(Animal Pest Manager)
Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)	

One member of the media.

Apologies The apologies from Councillor P D Horton, Councillor M P Joyce and Councillor N W Walker were received and sustained.

Notification of Late Item General Business – purple ragwort and pest animal (rabbits).

Welcome and Introduction Committee Deputy Chairperson, Councillor M J Cloke, welcomed the district council and Federated Farmers representatives to the Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**1. Confirmed Minutes: Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
- 22 November 2007**

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the confirmed minutes of the Policy & Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 22 November 2007 at 10.30am.

08/013

Irving/MacLeod

Matters Arising

Annual Report on the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord 2006/2007

Members discussed the impacts of the current dry-spell/drought in Taranaki on the riparian plantings implemented under the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord programme. It was noted that the condition of the plantings was being maintained and that stream temperatures were lower in catchments with riparian planting significantly reducing the impact of the current drought conditions.

2. Update on policy and planning work

- 2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum advising Members of the release by the Ministry for the Environment of a report on Groundwater quality in New Zealand: state and trends 1995-2006 prepared for the Ministry by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on the release of the report groundwater quality in New Zealand state and trends 1995-2006 by the Ministry for the Environment; and
2. notes the findings of the report that indicate the Taranaki region is not shown to have significant issues with groundwater quality.

08/014

MacLeod/Irving

3. Development of a National Policy Statement on Fresh Water Management

- 3.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum advising Members of central Government's intention to develop a National Policy Statement on Fresh Water and the process and opportunities for the council to provide input.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum updating progress with the Sustainable Water Programme of Action and on the proposed National Policy Statement on Fresh Water Management;
2. notes that Council views have been consistently conveyed to the Ministry for the Environment through the involvement of senior Council officers on several high level committees and working groups; and
3. notes that the Council will have a formal opportunity to submit on a draft National Policy Statement when it is formally notified, possibly in May or June of this year.

08/015

Rowe/Davey

4. Hydrological Update and Council response to low river levels

- 4.1 Ms F Moore, Scientific Officer Hydrology, provided a presentation to the Committee on the Council's response to the drought and low river flow conditions in Taranaki together with an overview of the Council's Water Shortage Event standard operating procedure.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receive the memorandum; and
2. notes the Council will use its Water Shortage Event standard operating procedure to manage the current and predicted low river flow conditions.

08/016

Lean/Davey

5. Submissions on Biosecurity policy and discussion document

- 5.1 Mr R A Phillips, Director-Operations, spoke to the memorandum presenting two submissions that were submitted to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand at the end of 2007 on Policy for Responding to Pests and Diseases (risk organisms) and the Joint Decision Making and Resourcing for Readiness and Incursion Response. Submissions were sent on 18 December 2007 having obtained an extension of time beyond the closing date of 14 December 2007.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on submissions made to the '*Policy for Responding to Pests and Diseases (risk organisms)*' and on the '*Joint Decision Making and Resourcing for Readiness and Incursion Responses*' discussion document; and
2. endorses the submissions made on the above policy and discussion document.

08/017

MacLeod/Irving

6. Submission to the South Taranaki District Council on Plan Change 10: Scheduled Rivers and Streams

- 6.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the South Taranaki District Council on the Proposed District Plan Change 10: Scheduled Rivers and Streams and to recommend its endorsement. The submission was sent by the due date of 3 December 2007.
- 6.2 The reduction of 21 to 11 rivers and streams that are considered significant within the Proposed District Plan whereby esplanade reserves or strips are required to be set aside when adjacent land subdivision occurs was noted and discussed. The Committee noted and agreed that the South Taranaki District Council needed to clearly justify the selection process carried out to determine the 11 rivers and streams. In requesting that the list of rivers and streams be increased, the Council's submission focuses on the Council's riparian management programme, access issues and the issue of compensation to land owners. It was agreed that the Council therefore now be heard in support of their submission to enable it to enter into dialogue with the South Taranaki District Council to work collaboratively in retaining the original 21 river and streams catchments supported by both riparian management and esplanade/reserve strips for public access.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the submission to the South Taranaki District Council on Plan Change 10: Scheduled Rivers and Streams;
2. endorses the submission; and
3. notes that the Council wishes to be heard by the South Taranaki District Council in support of the submission.

08/018

Lean/MacLeod

7. Council water recreation survey

- 7.1 The memorandum advising Members of a survey currently being undertaken by Council staff of recreational water use in Taranaki was received and discussed by the Committee.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the Water recreation survey for Taranaki; and
2. notes that the results of the survey will be included in the Council's next state of the environment report due to be released in October 2008.

08/019

Davey/Lean

8. Submission on Port and Harbour and Navigation Safety Management

- 8.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum on a submission made on the Ministry of Transport's Port and Harbour and Navigation Safety Management Discussion Paper (2007) and to recommend its endorsement. The submission was sent by the due date of 19 December 2008. In conjunction with the agenda item, and as part of the Council's Councillor Induction Programme, a presentation was provided to the Committee on the Council's regional navigation and safety responsibilities.
- 8.2 Members also discussed the issues associated with jet ski use in the regions estuaries and coastal areas and it was noted Maritime New Zealand is responsible.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum;
2. notes the Ministry of Transport's request for submissions on the *Port and Harbour Navigation Safety Management Discussion Paper(2007)* by 19 December 2007; and
3. endorses the submission prepared by officers of the Taranaki Regional Council.

08/020

Lean/MacLeod

9. Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Taranaki

- 9.1 Mr R A Phillips, Director-Operations, spoke to the memorandum presenting for Members' consideration the Draft Biodiversity Strategy: An operational strategy to guide biodiversity actions of the Taranaki Regional Council. The Draft Strategy is non-statutory and has been prepared in order to pull together all the Council's biodiversity programmes under one operational strategy and also integrate these with others work to obtain maximum biodiversity benefit. This will allow the biodiversity objective, policies and methods of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki to be implemented.
- 9.2 Ms R Miller, Policy Analyst, provided a presentation to the Committee on the purpose, structure and content of the Draft Strategy.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and *Draft Biodiversity Strategy: An operational strategy to guide biodiversity actions of the Taranaki Regional Council*; and
2. agrees to circulate to stakeholders the *Draft Biodiversity Strategy: An operational strategy to guide biodiversity actions of the Taranaki Regional Council* for comment on the 20th February 2008.

08/021

Davey Rowe

Councillor M A Irving left the Policy and Planning Committee meeting at 12.00 noon.

10. Submission to Maritime New Zealand on their proposal to remove Urenui River permanent speed uplifting

- 10.1 The memorandum providing an outline of a submission that has been prepared and submitted to Maritime New Zealand on its proposal to remove the gazetted speed uplifting on the lower Urenui River, was received and discussed by the Committee. Following a two year consultation process, Maritime New Zealand publically announced in December 2007 that the ski land and the associated speed limits on the lower Urenui River would be removed. Formal gazettement is to occur and the new signage was put in place on 20 December 2007.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the submission to Maritime New Zealand on their proposal to remove permanent speed uplifting;
2. endorses the memorandum on the submission to Maritime New Zealand on their proposal to remove permanent speed uplifting; and
3. notes the submission was successful.

08/022

MacLeod/Lean

11. Government's contaminated land management position paper

- 11.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the release of a position paper by the Ministry for the Environment providing direction to contaminated land management, which set out the Ministry's work programme of actions intended to provide leadership and direction for the management of the issues surrounding contaminated land in New Zealand.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the release by the Ministry for the Environment of the position paper '*Working towards a comprehensive policy framework for managing contaminated land in New Zealand*' (MfE 2007);
2. notes that its submission on an earlier discussion paper have been implemented in part but that there still remain matters of concern to the Council; and
3. notes that there will be further opportunities for engagement in the process of development of a national policy and management framework.

08/023

Lean/Davey

12. General Business

Councillor A Hickey, South Taranaki District Council representative, spoke to the Committee on the identification of pest plant purple ragwort on the Council's southern boundary and discussed the potential for the Council to advocate the inclusion of Purple Ragwort into Horizon's Pest Plant Strategy. Councillor Hickey also sought discussion on the increase in rabbit numbers in South Taranaki due to the drought conditions. Council officers addressed the queries and agreed to again advocate strongly to Horizons of the need to address purple ragwort. Council officers also noted educational material about rabbit control would be made available to farmers.

There being no further business, the Deputy Chairman Councillor M J Cloke, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Confirmed

Chairman: _____
D N MacLeod

Date: **26 February 2008**