

**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 20
November 2008 at 10.30 am.**

Present	Councillors	N W Walker M J Cloke M G Davey P D Horton M A Irving M P Joyce	(Chairperson)
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
Representatives	Councillor Councillor	J Rowe A Hickey	(Stratford District Council) (South Taranaki District Council)
In attendance	Messrs Mrs Mr	B G Chamberlain G K Bedford G C Severinsen P Ledingham D A Smith J Clough	(Chief Executive) (Director-Environment Quality) (Policy Manager) (Information Officer) (Acting Committee Administrator) (Wrightson Consulting)
Apologies	The apologies from Councillor D L Lean, Mr G Hight (Federated Farmers of New Zealand) and Councillor M Betts (New Plymouth District Council) were received and sustained.		
Notification of Late Item	There were no late items of business.		

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

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the confirmed minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2008 at 10.30 am.

08/270

Cloke/Rowe

Matters Arising

Review of the Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki

Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality noted that it was proposed to delay notification of the *Proposed Air Quality Plan for Taranaki* until early 2009.

2. Confirmed Minutes: Policy and Planning Hearing Committee Meeting - 16 October 2008

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the confirmed minutes of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2008 at 12.40 pm.

08/271

Walker/Joyce

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki: Report of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee following the Hearing of submissions

- 3.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing the report of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee following the Hearing of Submissions on the *Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*.
- 3.2 It was noted that one further matter had come to the Council's attention following the Hearing of Submissions. Winstone Aggregates Ltd had raised an issue of concern subsequent to the hearing concerning the new Minerals section and the use of the word 'any' in the Objective, Policy 1, Explanation and Method 1 and 5. Following discussion with other affected submitters it was agreed, at staff level, that the word 'any' be removed from Policy 1, the Explanation text and Methods 1 and 5 but remain in the Objective. The Council's agreement was sought to this change.
- 3.3 The Committee noted that a formal decisions document and a further amended version of the Regional Policy Statement will be prepared for adoption by the full Council. Following adoption, the decisions document will then be forwarded to all submitters who will then have 30 working days from the service of the Council's decisions to appeal to the Environment Court against those decisions.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki: Report of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee following the Hearing of submissions
2. adopts the report and recommendations of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee following the Hearing of Submissions to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki, subject to amendment under recommendation 3 below
3. agrees to amend the recommendation in the Report on Submissions following pre-hearing consultation, dated September 2008, concerning submission 10(b), Winstone Aggregates, submission 5(a) Crown Minerals, Ministry of Economic Development and submission 26(a) Aggregate and Quarry Association of NZ, by deleting the word "any" where it appears in Policy 1, Explanation of the policies, Method 1 and Method 5, of the Proposed new Section 12, Minerals
4. notes that a formal document recording the decisions of the Taranaki Regional Council on submissions to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki together with an amended version of the Statement will be submitted to the Council for adoption.

08/272

Horton/Joyce

4. Bridging the gap between environmental knowledge and research project

- 4.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director Environment Quality, introduced Mr Nick Giera of Nimmo-Bell Consultants who had been invited to attend the meeting and provide an overview of the findings of a recent three year research project partly carried out in Taranaki. The research had focused on three environmental issues – nitrate leaching, erosion and possum control.
- 4.2 It was noted that a positive outcome of the research project had indicated that the farmers surveyed within the Taranaki region appreciated the information received from and the positive and co-ordinated support provided by the Taranaki Regional Council.
- 4.3 During discussion, Councillor M G Davey, commented on work being done on nitrate inhibitors and measurements of their efficacy, noting their potential for mitigating losses of nitrogen to ground water and the atmosphere.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. reviews the memorandum
2. notes the research project partly involved Taranaki farmers; and
3. notes the research provides some information on farmers' perceptions for the Council's land management programmes.

08/273

Cloke/Irving

5. UK reports on managing diffuse source pollution from agriculture

- 5.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing two reports prepared for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in the United Kingdom, on methods to control diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum 'UK reports on managing diffuse source pollution from agriculture'.

08/274

Rowe/Joyce

6. Report on assimilation and dilution of discharges from dairy effluent treatment ponds

- 6.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director—Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the preparation of a report by Council officers on the results and significance of a study into the downstream effects of a discharge from a dairy effluent treatment pond system.

- 6.2 A positive result of the study found that riparian planting provided significant additional benefits for water quality, even when the pre-existing quality is already high.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on the preparation of a report presenting the results of a study into the in-stream assimilation and dilution of the discharge from a dairy effluent treatment pond system
2. notes that the study provides information on the rate of assimilation that assists in the consideration of the potential for cumulative effects, and their avoidance
3. notes that the Council has opportunity to consider this information further at the time of review of the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*.

08/275

Rowe/Joyce

7 Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2020

- 7.1 Mr C Spurdle, Policy Analyst, spoke to the memorandum introducing the discussion paper entitled *Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2020* prepared by Biosecurity New Zealand and sought endorsement of officer comment on the Strategy.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on the *Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2020*, including the Executive Summary of the Strategy
2. endorses the attached response to the Strategy.

08/276

Davey/MacLeod

8. State of the Environment Report for Taranaki

- 8.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum updating Members on progress with the preparation of the next *State of the Environment Report for Taranaki*.
- 8.2 It was noted that the report was in an advanced stage of preparation and was similar in structure to the 2003 report but with new chapters on Waste, Energy and Biodiversity. It was intended that the report should be eye-catching with coloured maps, photographs and graphs, and over 40 case studies on individuals and organisations.
- 8.3 The report is to be launched in March 2009.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes that progress is on track for the production of the next *State of the Environment Report for Taranaki* with an anticipated publication and launch date early in 2009.

08/277

Davey/Irving

9. Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

- 9.1 Mr G Severinsen, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a *Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management* and issues that could be raised in a submission on behalf of the Council. It was noted that the closing date for submissions was 23 January 2009 which provided no time for the presentation of a draft submission to the Council, and feedback was required to guide officers in drafting a submission.
- 9.2 It was noted that the introduction of this NPS presented serious consequences, both negative and positive as it was a statutory instrument under the RMA.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes that the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management has been notified for submissions

2. notes that a submission will be prepared and presented
3. notes that a copy of the submission will be presented to the next meeting.

08/278

Cloke/Joyce

10. Freshwater Science Society Conference in Taranaki

- 10.1 Members were advised of the upcoming Freshwater Science Society Conference to be held in New Plymouth on 24-27 November 2008.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. notes the upcoming Freshwater Science Conference and the opportunities this will provide to showcase freshwater issues in Taranaki, and their management, to scientists and freshwater managers from around the country.

08/279

Davey/Rowe

11. General Business

There were no items of general business.

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

Confirmed

Chairman: _____
D N MacLeod

Date: **9 December 2008**