

Summary of Ordinary meeting, May 2020

This document covers significant matters considered and decisions made at the Taranaki Regional Council's Ordinary Council meeting held on 19 May 2020 via A/V digital links. It also includes in full the minutes recorded by the meeting administrator, apart from those relating to confidential items.

You should read this document in conjunction with the [meeting agenda](#), which incorporates or includes links to all the detailed reports and other explanatory material relating to the items considered by Councillors.

Significant matters

No rates change: The Council is budgeting for no change in general rates for the 2020/2021 financial year, rather than 3.8% as originally considered). "With the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic uppermost in mind, we've carefully tuned and trimmed our spending and programmes while keeping any impacts to an absolute minimum," says the Chairman, David MacLeod.

Media statement: [TRC keeps eye on future but rates on hold](#)

Essential Freshwater: Improvements to freshwater quality remain a common goal of Councils and Government but the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath make it even more essential that any new regulations are both effective and fair, Councillors were told. While it's believed the Government is close to final decisions on the Essential Freshwater proposals it released last year, the Council and others remain concerned about significant flaws seen in Wellington's approach. Regional Councils last month wrote jointly to the Government arguing that in light of COVID-19, it should ensure that any new measures are implemented in phases, that they recognise that a 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate, that a flexible approach is taken on nitrogen and phosphate levels, that more work is done on monitoring requirements, and that non-regulatory measures are given greater emphasis.

Our freshwater 2020: The latest national report on the state of freshwater promotes a negative view and ignores progress such as Taranaki's success in significantly improving the ecological health of rivers and streams, the Council was told. The 'Our freshwater 2020' report, published by the Environment Ministry and Stats NZ in April, limits its scope the pressures on, and state of, freshwater resources, and does not discuss or analyse responses such as the massive effort to fence and plant Taranaki waterways. Its findings also rely heavily on modelling, which is no substitute for actual measurements in the field. The Council has made heavy investments in the latter through its state of the environment monitoring programmes.

Appended: Document #2500502 (minutes of meeting)



Date: 19 May 2020, 10.30am
 Venue: Meeting held via audio-visual conferencing (Zoom)
 Document: 2466927

Present	Councillors	D N MacLeod	(Chairperson)	
		M P Joyce	(Deputy Chairperson)	
		M J Cloke		
		M G Davey		
		D L Lean		
		C L Littlewood		
		M J McDonald		
		D H McIntyre		
		E D Van Der Leden		
		N W Walker		
C S Williamson				
Attending	Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)	
		S R Hall	(Director - Operations)	
		M J Nield	(Director - Corporate Services)	
		G K Bedford	(Director - Environment Quality) <i>part meeting</i>	
		A D McLay	(Director - Resource Management)	
		B Pope	(Compliance Manager) <i>part meeting</i>	
		C McLellan	(Consents Manager) <i>part meeting</i>	
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)	
		P Ledingham	(Communications Advisor)	
		T K Davey	(Communications Advisor)	
		Ms	V McKay	(Science Manager)
			H Gerrard	(Science Manager) <i>part meeting</i>
Miss	L Davidson	(Committee Administrator)		

One member of the public, Mr M Watson, Taranaki Daily News – Reporter.

Apologies There were no apologies received.

Notification of Late Items There were no late items.
 It was noted that there was a minor amendment made to item two the Consent Monitoring Annual Report memorandum, specifically the Mangati section of the report.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 7 April 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council via audio-visual link (Zoom) on Tuesday 7 April 2020.

Lean/McIntyre

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Consent Monitoring Annual Reports

- 2.1 Ms H Gerrard, Science Manager Business Support, spoke to the item advising of five tailored compliance monitoring reports that have been prepared since the last meeting.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the 19-10 Mangati Catchment Integrated Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2018-2019 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
- b) receives the 19-72 South Taranaki Water Supplies Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2018-2019 and adopts the recommendations therein
- c) receives the 19-94 Port Area Catchments (Hongihongi+Herekawe) Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2018-2019 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
- d) receives the 19-95 Waitaha Catchment Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2019 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
- e) receives the 19-96 Oanui Water Supply Ltd Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2018-2019 and adopts the specific recommendations therein.

Lean/Davey

3. Resource Consents Issued Under Delegated Authority and Applications in Progress

- 3.1 Mr C McLellan, Consents Manager, spoke to the report advising of consents granted, consents under application and of consent processing actions since the last meeting.
- 3.2 Councillors N W Walker and M P Joyce declared an interest in Taumaha Trust.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the schedule of resource consents granted and other consent processing actions, made under delegated authority.

Lean/Williamson

4. Incidents, Compliance Monitoring, Non-compliances and Enforcement Summary 27 February 2020 to 29 April 2020

- 4.1 Mr B Pope, Compliance Manager, spoke to the memorandum considering and receiving the summary of incidents, compliance monitoring non-compliances and enforcement for the period 27 February 2020 to 29 April 2020.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum Incidents, Compliance Monitoring Non-compliances and Enforcement for the period 27 February to 29 April 2020
- b) receives the summary of incidents, compliance monitoring non-compliances and enforcement for the period from 27 February 2020 to 29 April 2020, notes the action taken by staff acting under delegated authority and adopts the recommendations therein.

Lean/Williamson

5. *Our Freshwater 2020: MfE and Stats NZ report*

- 5.1 Mr A D McLay, Director - Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum introducing *Our Freshwater 2020* the latest report in New Zealand's environmental reporting series prepared by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum '*Our Freshwater 2020: MfE and Stats NZ report*'.

Cloke/Van Der Leden

6. Report on the Environment Committee on the Resource Management Amendment Bill 2019

- 6.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum updating members on the Environment Select Committee's Report to Parliament on the Resource Management Amendment Bill 2019 subsequent to the Committee having heard submissions on the Bill.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Report for the Environment Committee on Resource Management Amendment Bill 2019*
- b) notes the Bill includes some useful proposed changes to the Resource Management Act
- c) notes the climate change provisions of the Bill are very challenging for a region with some high producing greenhouse gas emission facilities associated with industries based around oil and gas production and use

- d) notes the Bill will be brought before the House for a second reading and potentially subsequent readings, before being passed into law, but is a strong indication of the coalition government's policy position.

MacLeod/Williamson

7. Regional Sector Update on the Government's Freshwater Proposals

- 7.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum updating members on the Government's freshwater proposals and discussions.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum on the Government's freshwater proposals update
b) notes the Chair and Chief Executive have been in separate discussions with Government Ministers on the freshwater reforms.

Joyce/Davey

8. Electoral Officer's Report on the 2019 Triennial Elections

- 8.1 Mr M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum receiving the Council's Electoral Officer's Report on the 2019 Triennial Election.
8.2 Councillor Littlewood moved a motion to request that Officers bring an agenda memorandum to Council detailing the voting options for the Triennial elections prior to September 2020.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) requests a report on voting options for the 2022 Triennial Elections.

Littlewood/Joyce

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the Electoral Officer's Report on the 2019 Triennial Elections.

Williamson/Van Der Leden

9. Local Government Funding Agency Amendments

- 9.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum considering amendments to certain LGFA documents and to authorise the execution of those documents.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) Amendments report
- b) authorises entry into the documentation noted
- c) authorises any two of the elected members to execute the following deeds for the purposes of recommendation b) above:
 - Amendment and Restatement Deed (Multi-issuer Deed)
 - Amendment and Restatement Deed (Notes Subscription Agreement)
 - Amendment and Restatement Deed (Guarantee and Indemnity)
- d) authorises the Chief Executive to execute the Chief Executive Certificate and such other documents and take such other steps on behalf of Council as the Chief Executive considers it necessary or desirable to execute or take to give effect to recommendation b) above.

Davey/McIntyre

10. Public Transport Operational Update for the Quarter Ending 31 March 2020

- 10.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum providing members with an operational report on public transport services for the quarter ending 31 March 2020, noting that the Covid-19 Pandemic affected the transport services dramatically.
- 10.2 Council and service operators are following national advice and protocols in respect of all services.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives and notes the operational report of the public transport services for the quarter ending 31 March 2020.

Cloke/McDonald

11. Financial and Operational Report

- 11.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum receiving information on the operational financial performance of the Council and to confirm the use of the Council's Common Seal.

- 11.2 Staff were acknowledged for the way they reacted to the situation and working from different environments. Specific mention was given to the Communications team for the work they put in to keeping the community engaged with the Facebook posts.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and the March 2020 Financial Report
- b) approves the three common seal transactions
 - 2020/01 – Renewal of Lease – Bulk Storage Terminals Ltd – 35-39 Centennial Drive, New Plymouth
 - 2020/02 – Renewal of Lease – Bidfood Ltd – 27 Centennial Drive, New Plymouth
 - 2020/03 – Renewal of Lease – Bidfood Ltd – 31 Centennial Drive, New Plymouth
- c) notes the Regional Ticketing Integrating System Update
- d) notes the digital media update
- e) notes the health and safety update
Walker/Littlewood

12. Audit Proposal and 2019/2020 Audit Engagement Letter

- 12.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider the audit proposal letter for the audit of the Council and group for the years ended 30 June 2020, 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 and the audit engagement letter for the audit of the *2019/2020 Annual Report*.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives and approves the audit proposal letter for the audit of the Council and Group for the years ended 30 June 2020, 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 and the audit engagement letter for the audit of the *2019/2020 Annual Report*.
McDonald/Van Der Leden

13 2020/2021 Annual Plan, Estimates and Administrative Charges Pursuant to Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991

- 13.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider an update on the 2020/2021 estimates and Annual Plan and then to commence the special consultative procedure (section 83 of the *Local Government Act 2002 – LGA*) to enable the Council to fix its 2020/20201 administrative charges pursuant to section 36 of the *Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)*.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives and notes this memorandum on the update to the 2020/2021 estimates and Annual Plan and to commence the special consultative procedure (section 83 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) to enable the Council to fix its 2020/2021 administrative charges pursuant to section 36 of the *Resource Management Act 1991*
- b) approves the update of the 2020/2021 estimates and Annual Plan in relation to amending the estimates to hold general rates at 2019/2020 levels
- c) notes the update changes the earlier proposal for a 3.8% general rates increase to a 0% change for the 2021/2022 financial year
- d) notes the impact of reducing estimates and revenue streams on the starting point for 2021/2022 and the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan*
- e) adopts the statement of proposal to fix administrative charges pursuant to section 36 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* for 2020/2021
- f) notes and approves that a summary of the statement of proposal will not be prepared
- g) notes and approves the timetable for the completion of the special consultative procedure and the fixing of the schedule of administrative charges pursuant to section 36 of the *Resource Management Act 1991*
- h) delegates to the Chief Executive the ability to address the payment terms of section 36 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* administrative charges, where the consent holder is facing financial difficulties, by application on a case by case basis.

Davey/Williamson

14. Governance and decision-making arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic

- 14.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum for Council to review its decision put in place at the Emergency Ordinary Meeting on 25 March 2020 regarding appropriate governance and decision making arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 14.2 On 15 May 2020 it was advised by LGNZ that Council meetings are classified as work so there is no restrictions on the number of people who can attend, however physical distancing is still required.

Resolved

- a) receives the memorandum Governance and decision making arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic
- b) agrees to return to the regular committee and ordinary meeting cycle with all meetings being in-person
- c) monitor the alert level updates and rules as Government changes the protocols.

McDonald/Davey

15. Meeting Dates Notification

- 15.1 The meeting dates for the next round of meetings throughout May and June 2020 were attached for members.

16. Public Excluded

- 16.1 In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987*, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 19 May 2020 for the following reasons:

17. Public Excluded Ordinary Minutes - 7 April 2020

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

18. Prosecution

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where such disclosure would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

19. Yarrow Stadium Repair and Refurbishment Project: Project Steering Group Report

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Lean/Walker

There being no further business, Chairman D N MacLeod, declared the Public Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council closed at 12.30pm.

Confirmed

Chairperson:

D N MacLeod

30 June 2020