

Ordinary Meeting

Monday 8 May 2017

11.00am

Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford



Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council to be held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 8 May 2017 commencing at 11.00am.

Councillors	D N MacLeod	(Chairman)
	M J Cloke	
	M G Davey	
	M P Joyce	
	D L Lean	(Deputy Chairman)
	C L Littlewood	
	M J McDonald	
	D H McIntyre	
	B K Raine	
	N W Walker	
	C S Williamson	

Apologies

Notification of Late Items

Item	Page	Subject
Item 1	3	Hearing of Submissions and Adoption of the 2017/2018 Annual Plan
Item 2	30	Confirmation of Minutes
Item 3	36	Consents and Regulatory Committee Minutes
Item 4	41	Policy and Planning Committee Minutes
Item 5	48	Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Minutes
Item 6	49	Joint Committee Minutes
Item 7	52	Electoral Officer's Report on the 2016 Triennial Elections
Item 8	68	Remuneration Authority Review of Local Government Elected Members Remuneration
Item 9	100	Meeting Dates

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Hearing of Submissions and Adoption of
the 2017/2018 Annual Plan**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1855727

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the submissions on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*, hear those submitters who wish to speak to their written submission and to adopt the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives and acknowledges, with thanks, the submissions forwarded in response to the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Statement of Proposal*
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the attached officer's report and, as a result of submissions, amends the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Statement of Proposal* appropriately
3. notes that the formatting of the *2017/2018 Annual Plan* is still to be completed and that there are a number of minor editorial changes to be made
4. adopts the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*.

Background

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2002*, the Council has prepared a Consultation Document to enable the preparation and adoption of its *2017/2018 Annual Plan*. The Consultation Document is part of the public consultation process pursuant to section 83 of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

Discussion

The Consultation Document and supporting documentation for the *2017/2018 Annual Plan* were adopted on 20 February 2017 and publicly notified as being available for submissions on 11 March 2017. The submissions closed on 13 April 2017.

A total of 7 submissions have been received. A schedule of those submitters who wish to present their submissions is attached to this memorandum.

A summary of each of the issues raised in the submissions is separately attached. The summary includes officer's comments and any amendment recommendations. A copy of each of the submissions is also separately attached.

The process at this meeting is to hear all those submitters who wish to present their submission, to consider and make recommendations on all of the submissions. As a result of the decisions made, the updated *2017/2018 Annual Plan* will then be adopted. It is proposed to set the rates for 2017/2018 at the 27 June 2017 Ordinary Meeting.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted *Long-Term Plan* and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Biosecurity Act 1993*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments – two separate reports

Document 1836237: Officer's Report on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Statement of Proposal* submissions

Document 1856535: Submissions received on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Statement of Proposal*

The following submitters will present their submission in person:

- Submission #4 Federated Farmers Taranaki
- Submission #5 Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

Subject: Submissions on the 2017/2018 Annual Plan

Doc No: 1856535

Sub. No.	Organisation/Individual	Page No.
1	Renewable Power Ltd	2-3
2	Murray Duke	4-5
3	Roland Swift	6-7
4	Federated Farmers Taranaki	8-9
5	Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust	10-14
6	Venture Taranaki Trust	15-16
7	Taranaki Regional Council	17

Joe Mack

From: noreply@mailgun.trc.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 11 March 2017 12:03 PM
To: Mike Nield
Subject: Online submission on Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018

Submission form

Submitter

Your name

Tim Johnson

Organisation/group (if applicable)

Renewable Power Ltd

Postal address

22 Campbell St,
Hawera 4610

Daytime phone number

0210343284

Cellphone number

0210343284

Email address

karaponga.power@yahoo.com

EditableTextField_1356f

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May.

No

Your submission

EditableTextField_7e7f7

Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds?

Comment

Opunake flood diversion

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Comment

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

Comment

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Additional comments

The TRC need to be more proactive about climate change. There hasn't been a renewable energy project in Taranaki since 1984. 2016 was the warmest year since records began. I feel the TRC should take this into consideration in the consenting process and add more weight to renewable

projects. Also, I propose a regional tax on fossil fuel power stations used to look at ways the region can reduce carbon emissions such as switching the council over to electric cars.

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Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

Joe Mack

From: noreply@mailgun.trc.govt.nz
Sent: Sunday, 2 April 2017 5:22 PM
To: Mike Nield
Subject: Online submission on Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018

Submission form

Submitter

Your name

Murray Duke

Organisation/group (if applicable)

Postal address

28 Hurford Road
RD 4
New Plymouth 4374

Daytime phone number

06 968 4064 work number

Cellphone number

027 247 6158

Email address

murrayduke@xtra.co.nz

EditableTextField_1356f

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May.

No

Your submission

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Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds?

Yes

Comment

If there is serious intent to make NZ pest free then proactive work must be undertaken to research the best methods. Well done to the TRC for proposing to take a lead in this

Opunake flood diversion

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Comment

As this does not effect my rates I have not submitted on this issue

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

Yes

Comment

As the old lodge is now gone it needs to be replaced.

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Additional comments

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Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

Joe Mack

From: noreply@mailgun.trc.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 6 April 2017 7:42 AM
To: Mike Nield
Subject: Online submission on Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018

Submission form

Submitter

Your name

Roland Swift

Organisation/group (if applicable)

Postal address

55 Atkinson Road RD1
New Plymouth

Daytime phone number

Cellphone number

Email address

rswift5@mac.com

EditableTextField_1356f

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May.

No

Your submission

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Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds?

Yes

Comment

Opunake flood diversion

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Comment

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

No

Comment

I am opposed to spending of \$1.2 million on a new lodge. In fact I would go further and ask that the council consider not replacing the lodge at all, or perhaps replacing it with an open shelter where people can sit in poor weather. The gardens already has an education centre so there is no public need for a replacement lodge.

In 10 years of visiting the gardens I have never been able to access the old lodge so I would question why the rate payers of New Plymouth should pay for a new lodge. The spend on the gardens in the

last few years has been massive and is completely disproportionate to the number of rate payers who visit the gardens. I would ask that future spend at the gardens is considered carefully, especially in few of the economic slowdown in the region. While the incremental increase in rates would be small, overall rates rises are still higher than they should be and this is an example of an expensive 'luxury' project that has little benefit to most of the rate payers.

Roland Swift

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Additional comments

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Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

SUBMISSION



To: TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

From: FEDERATED FARMERS TARANAKI

Submission on: 2017/2018 Annual Plan

Date: 4 April 2017

Contacts:

Bronwyn Muir
Provincial President
Taranaki Federated Farmers
P: 06 7657710
M: 027 6645212
E: bronwyn@onfarmsafety.co.nz

Lisa Harper
Regional Policy Advisor
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
PO Box 422
NEW PLYMOUTH 4340
P: 06 757 3425
E: lharper@fedfarm.org.nz

Federated Farmers Taranaki appreciates this opportunity to submit on the Annual Plan. We also appreciate the yearly effort undertaken by Council's Corporate Services Director, Mike Nield to discuss the draft Plan with us. This brief submission reflects that Federated Farmers is well consulted regarding the development of Council plans and strategies. We know that this will continue over the coming year.

We commend the Council's continued focus on core activities and history of low rate increases. We are happy to see this continue with a proposed general rate increase of 1% in 2017/18.

We support the Council's preferred options in all three proposals, namely:

- Funding a trial programme to test large-scale predator control in the Waiwhakaiho catchment
- Opunake flood diversion works
- Rebuilding the lodge at Pukeiti.

Pest control project in the Waiwhakaiho

Improved pest control could bring significant benefits for the environment and perhaps also some side benefits for primary production (possums and feral cats for example may pose animal health risks in some circumstances). We support Council's intention to proceed with this project only if partnership funding can be secured, as we think this should keep costs down for Council / ratepayers, while maximising the potential impact of the programme.

Federated Farmers Taranaki is (as you will know) a signatory to the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust. We have already talked to its coordinating body 'Wild for Taranaki' about how best to engage with and support farmers to participate in pest control initiatives, particularly around communication options and making traps easily available to landowners. We look forward to our farmers playing a part in this project, if partnership funding can be secured as planned.

Opunake flood control works

The only concern we might have had (other than cost) would have been the potential impact on farmers of any works or diversion of water away from the town onto / through farmland. We have made enquiries locally and understand that farmers and Council are currently working through the issues.

As costs appear minimal and are in line with other flood protection schemes in Taranaki, we support funding of this proposal. We would however ask Council to do what they can to ensure that individual farmers are not disadvantaged by these works.

Replacing the lodge at Pukeiti

We understand that replacement was considered preferable to refurbishing the original building, for reasons of cost and risk. Given the impact on rating is small, we can support this project also. This is on the understanding that the additional capital cost of \$700,000 to the Council is covered by money previously set aside (presumably from depreciation).

About Federated Farmers

We are a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers. The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

***Federated Farmers wishes to be heard in support of this submission
Thank you***

Joe Mack

From: noreply@mailgun.trc.govt.nz
Sent: Monday, 10 April 2017 8:10 AM
To: Mike Nield
Subject: Online submission on Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018
Attachments: Annual-plan-submission-2017.docx

Submission form

Submitter

Your name

Gordon Bailey

Organisation/group (if applicable)

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust

Postal address

The Secretary,
P O Box 1066, New Plymouth 4340

Daytime phone number

Cellphone number

02180315444

Email address

EditableTextField_1356f

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May.

Yes

Your submission

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Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds?

Comment

Opunake flood diversion

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Comment

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

Yes

Comment

See attached submission

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Additional comments

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Document 1

Annual-plan-submission-2017.docx - [Download File](#)

Document 2

Document 3

PUKEITI RHODODENDRON TRUST

2290 Carrington Rd., New Plymouth, New Zealand.

All Correspondence to:

The Secretary,

P O Box 1066, New Plymouth 4340

email: pukeiti@pukeiti.com

7 April 2017

2017/18 Annual Plan Submission

The Chief Executive

Taranaki Regional Council,

Private Bag 713

STRATFORD 4352

Dear Sir,

Re 2017/18 Annual Plan

On behalf of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc. (PRT) I am writing in support of the TRC proposals for the redevelopment of the Lodge at Pukeiti.

To take a step back after several years of negotiation a decision by both TRC and the PRT to enter into a long term partnership agreement was signed in 2010. This Partnership agreement is working extremely well and has seen a number of projects at Pukeiti completed or partly completed with support from PRT.

These include -

- Annual grant of a minimum of \$70k p/a from the Pukeiti Trust Fund to the TRC
- \$100k grant towards the development of the Keller Home Garden
- Members volunteer work days
- Horticultural advice through the Gardens Forum Group

The Trust is particularly pleased to see the amount of work undertaken since the commencement of our joint partnership agreement in 2010 to improve the visitor experience at Pukeiti. This supports the capital and operational improvement initiatives highlighted in the LTP.

Trust is well aware that visitors and members also need good quality facilities and other recreational opportunities as “added value” experiences when they visit Pukeiti and indeed to keep them coming back. It’s heartening to see in excess of 30,000 visitors enjoying Pukeiti last year.

It is the Trust's strong belief that it is the plant collection that makes Pukeiti unique over and above anything else. To this end the Trust made comment on the TRC's draft Plant Collection Strategy via the last LTP. To update the Council on supporting this initiative PTR has entered into a 3 year contract with Massey University to develop a New Zealand Ex-Situ Rhododendron Conservation Strategy.

Essentially this project is aimed at determining what species Rhododendrons are currently grown in NZ collections both public and private and to assess these plants against the Red list of endangered Rhododendrons worldwide with a view of developing a way of conserving them both in NZ and long term back in their natural habitat.

PRT looks forward to joining in partnership with TRC to develop this Strategy. This strategy has the potential to become an international benchmark for such collections, it will also ensure Pukeiti remains an internationally recognised Rhododendron collection and conservation hub.

The Lodge at Pukeiti is essentially the heart of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and members have a very strong affinity and attachment to it. It was a difficult decision to make to agree to its demolition but the Board and members completely understand that the condition it was in made it very uneconomic to refurbish.

The Board and members are hearted and fully support the proposed new concept for the lodge replacement. We have valued being part of the planning team for the new Lodge.

At its most recent meeting the PRT Board voted to approve a sum of up to \$200k to go towards the fit out of the Lodge and to show our commitment and support for this new facility.

The Trust is in regular dialogue with Council Managers on how we can assist the TRC with continued improvements to Pukeiti.

In summary,

The Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust supports the Council's revised plans for the Pukeiti Lodge and will contribute \$200k towards the Lodge fit out.

The Trust notes that the capital projects including the Lodge, garden and track upgrades, along with the new children's activities and interpretation experiences will complete the remaining significant upgrade work started in 2013.

The Trust appreciates that this will result in positioning Pukeiti as a world class rhododendron garden and rainforest experience and ensure Pukeiti remains a Rhododendron collection and conservation hub that continues to attract visitors from throughout the world.

The Trust is delighted with the progress made with the garden rejuvenation and the database work associated with the international rhododendron collection this has been very helpful for the NZ Rhododendron Ex Situ Rhododendron Conservation project.

On behalf of the Trust I wish to thank the TRC for its continued support and commitment to the founding principles towards the Pukeiti garden.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Bailey

Chairman

Joe Mack

From: noreply@mailgun.trc.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 13 April 2017 2:10 PM
To: Mike Nield
Subject: Online submission on Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018

Submission form

Submitter

Your name

Stuart Trundle

Organisation/group (if applicable)

Venture Taranaki Trust

Postal address

PO Box 670
New Plymouth 4340

Daytime phone number

06 759 5160

Cellphone number

Email address

ceo@venture.org.nz

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I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May.

No

Your submission

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Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$ 700,000 from accumulated funds?

Comment

Opunake flood diversion

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Comment

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$ 700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

Yes

Comment

Venture Taranaki supports Option 1 for the Lodge at Pukeiti, and encourages the Council to ensure that the Lodge is of a standard to meet the expectations of the visitor market for the next 25 years and beyond.

Taranaki's visitor industry is currently growing at a faster rate than the New Zealand average – in

the year to December 2016 our region's guest nights rose 10.2 percent, against national growth of 6.2 percent. The Lonely Planet Best in Travel award has had an immediate impact and focused on two recently developed assets – the Pouakai Crossing, and the Len Lye Centre.

Destination architecture offers a point of difference that can help drive visitors to diverse destinations. The Len Lye Centre has proven the value of destination architecture to achieve significant positive change in regional tourism. Similarly, replacing the Lodge at Pukeiti with powerful architecture, with the ability to further position Pukeiti as an unmissable component of Taranaki's visitor portfolio, can help to grow visitor numbers to this important regional asset.

Venture Taranaki supports investment in a new Lodge, and seeks the Council's assurance that the chosen design will reflect both the iconic nature of Pukeiti, the cultural significance of the site, and the region's emerging status as a confident, progressive and design-driven destination.

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Additional comments

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Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

13 April 2017
Document: 1855701

Mr BG Chamberlain
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
STRATFORD

Dear Mr Chamberlain

2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document: Submission

This document is the Taranaki Regional Council's submission on its *2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document*. This submission allows the Council to make amendments to the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*.

Background

Pursuant to section 83 of the *Local Government Act 2002*, the Council is undertaking a special consultative procedure on its *2017/2018 Annual Plan*. The consideration of submissions on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document* allows the Council to make changes to the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*. This particular submission deals with the issues that have arisen since the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document* was adopted.

Estimates

There have been a number of staffing changes and minor estimates changes during the last three months. The estimates have been updated to reflect these changes. There is no effect on the level of general rates proposed for 2017/2018.

Editorial changes

There are a few minor typos and editorial changes required to finalise the *Plan*. None of these are significant or have financial implications. Therefore, it is recommended that the Chief Executive be delegated the authority to make the necessary editorial changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document*.

Yours faithfully

BG Chamberlain
Chief Executive

**2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document:
Summary of submissions, comment and recommendations**

Submitter and Summary of Submission	Comments
<p>1 Renewable Power Ltd</p> <p>The TRC need to be more proactive about climate change. There hasn't been a renewable energy project in Taranaki since 1984. 2016 was the warmest year since records began. I feel the TRC should take this into consideration in the consenting process and add more weight to renewable projects. Also, I propose a regional tax on fossil fuel power stations used to look at ways the region can reduce carbon emissions such as switching the council over to electric cars.</p>	<p>Doc No. 1833419</p> <p>The Council's policies on climate change and energy management are set out in the RPS, which represents the community's agreed position for the Council. The Council's functions and constraints re these issues are further stipulated within the RMA (especially with regard to consent applications), and by Environment Court rulings (which have upheld the Council's approach). The Council considers it is acting lawfully and properly and in accordance with these precedents.</p> <p>The Council has no statutory ability to levy a regional tax on fossil fuel power stations.</p> <p>The Council maintains a fleet that is fit for purpose. The fleet is required to cover a wide area and undertake work both on and off-road. Currently, electric vehicles do not meet the Council's requirements in terms of ability to do the job, cost and recharging facilities. However, it is clear that this industry will continue to evolve and, at some point, it will be viable for the Council to bring electric vehicles into the fleet.</p> <p>Recommendations: That the Taranaki Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>thanks</u> the submitter for their submission 2. <u>makes</u> no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

**2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document:
Summary of submissions, comment and recommendations**

Submitter and Summary of Submission	Comments
<p>2 Murray Duke</p> <p>Yes, the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds. If there is serious intent to make NZ pest free then proactive work must be undertaken to research the best methods. Well done to the TRC for proposing to take a lead in this.</p> <p>Opunake Flood Diversion – as this does not affect my rates I have not submitted on this issue.</p> <p>Yes, I support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates). As the old lodge is now gone it needs to be replaced.</p>	<p>Doc No: 1844663</p> <p>Support noted, no response required.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>That the Taranaki Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>thanks</u> the submitter for their submission2. <u>makes</u> no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

**2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document:
Summary of submissions, comment and recommendations**

Submitter and Summary of Submission	Comments
<p>3 Roland Smith</p> <p>Yes, supports the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds.</p> <p>No, does not support the construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates).</p> <p>I am opposed to spending of \$1.2 million on a new lodge. In fact I would go further and ask that the council consider not replacing the lodge at all, or perhaps replacing it with an open shelter where people can sit in poor weather. The gardens already have an education centre so there is no public need for a replacement lodge.</p> <p>In 10 years of visiting the gardens I have never been able to access the old lodge so I would question why the rate payers of New Plymouth should pay for a new lodge. The spend on the gardens in the last few years has been massive and is completely disproportionate to the number of rate payers who visit the gardens. I would ask that future spend at the gardens is considered carefully, especially in few of the economic slowdown in the region. While the incremental increase in rates would be small, overall rates rises are still higher than they should be and this is an example of an expensive 'luxury' project that has little benefit to most of the rate payers.</p>	<p>Doc No: 1846439 Support noted.</p> <p>Pukeiti is an important regional community asset that was transferred to Council ownership in 2010. Asset management plans for the property have been prepared and incorporated into previous Council Long-Term Plans and consulted on with the community. This has seen over the last few years a major upgrade of the aging facilities at Pukeiti and a significant increase in visitor numbers.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the Lodge, the 62-year-old building that was the cultural hub for the development of Pukeiti in its early and middle years, was always part of the original plan. Unfortunately, detailed inspection revealed the poorly insulated and damp building to be in poor condition with a number of significant structural issues. Refurbishing it would be both costly and risky.</p> <p>The Council and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust have both agreed that a completely new building is a better option. A new lodge will capture the history of the founders of the garden and will be available to all Pukeiti users – the public of Taranaki and their visitors.</p> <p>Recommendations: That the Taranaki Regional Council: 1. <u>thanks</u> the submitter for their submission 2. <u>makes</u> no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.</p>

**2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document:
Summary of submissions, comment and recommendations**

Submitter and Summary of Submission	Comments
<p>4 Federated Farmers Taranaki Federated Farmers Taranaki support the Council's preferred options in all three proposals.</p>	Doc No: 1846595
<p><u>Pest Control project in the Waiwhakaiho</u> Improved pest control could bring significant benefits for the environment and perhaps also some side benefits for primary production (possums and feral cats for example may pose animal health risks in some circumstances). We support council's intention to proceed with this project only if partnership funding can be secured, as we think this should keep costs down for council/ratepayers, while maximising the potential impact of the programme.</p> <p>Federated Farmers is (as you will know) a signatory to the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust. We have already talked to its coordinating body "Wild for Taranaki" about how best to engage with and support farmers to participate in pest control initiatives, particular around communication options and making traps easily available to landowners. We look forward to our farmers playing a part in this project, if partnership funding can be secured as planned.</p>	Support noted.
<p><u>Opunake flood control works</u> The only concern we might have had (other than cost) would have been the potential impact on farmers of any works or division of water away from the town onto/through farmland. We have made enquiries locally and understand that farmers and Council are currently working through the issues.</p> <p>As costs appear minimal and are in line with other flood protection schemes in Taranaki, we support funding of this proposal. We would however ask Council to do what they can to ensure that individual farmers are not disadvantaged by these works.</p>	Support noted. The Council will continue to work with land owners to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.
<p><u>Replacing the lodge at Pukeiti</u> We understand that replacement was considered preferable to refurbishing the original building, for reasons of cost and risk. Given the impact on rating is small, we can support this project also. This is on the understanding that the additional capital cost of \$700,000 to the Council is covered by money previously set aside (presumably from depreciation).</p>	<p>Support noted – yes the funding does come through accumulated depreciation (retained earnings).</p> <p>Recommendations: That the Taranaki Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. thanks the submitter for their submission 2. makes no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Comments

Doc No: 1847531

Support, both financial and otherwise, is noted and appreciated.

On behalf of the Trust I wish to thank the TRC for its continue support and commitment to the founding principles towards the Pukeiti garden.

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. makes no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Comments

Doc No: 1850371

Support is noted as are the comments around the design of the new Lodge.

Destination architecture offers a point of difference that can help drive visitors to diverse destinations. The Len Lye Centre has proven the value of destination architecture to achieve significant positive change in regional tourism. Similarly, replacing the Lodge at Pukeiti with powerful architecture, with the ability to further position Pukeiti as an unmissable component of Taranaki's visitor portfolio, can help to grow visitor numbers to this important regional asset.

Venture Taranaki supports investment in a new Lodge, and seeks the Council's assurance that the chosen design will reflect both the iconic nature of Pukeiti, the cultural significance of the site, and the region's emerging status as a confident, progressive and design-driven destination.

Recommendations:

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. makes no change to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

**2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation Document:
Summary of submissions, comment and recommendations**

Submitter and Summary of Submission	Comments
<p>7 Taranaki Regional Council</p> <p>There have been a number of staffing changes and minor estimates changes during the last three months. The estimates have been updated to reflect these changes. There is no effect on the level of general rates proposed for 2017/2018.</p> <p>There are a few minor typos and editorial changes required to finalise the <i>Plan</i>. None of these are significant or have financial implications. Therefore, it is recommended that the Chief Executive be delegated the authority to make the necessary editorial changes.</p>	<p>Doc No: 1855701</p> <p>Recommendations: That the Taranaki Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. thanks the submitter for their submission2. approves the minor changes to the estimates noting that there is no change to the proposed level of general rates3. delegates, to the Chief Executive, the authority to finalise the layout and design of the <i>2017/2018 Annual Plan</i>4. makes no further changes to the <i>2017/18 Annual Plan</i>.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



Subject: Confirmation of Minutes – 3 April 2017

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858284

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Hollard Centre, Hollard Gardens, 1686 Upper Manaia Road, Kapinga, on Monday 3 April 2017 at 9.00am.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1843405 – Minutes Ordinary Meeting

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the
Taranaki Regional Council, held in the
Hollard Centre, Hollard Gardens, 1686
Upper Manaia Road, Kaponga, on
Monday 3 April 2017 at 9.00am.**



Present	Councillors	D N MacLeod	(Chairperson)
		M J Cloke	
		M G Davey	
		M P Joyce	
		D L Lean	(Deputy Chairperson)
		C L Littlewood	
		M J McDonald	
		D H McIntyre	
		B K Raine	
		C S Williamson	
Attending	Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)
		A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		S R Hall	(Director-Operations)
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)
	Mr	P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
	Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
		One Member of the public.	
Apologies	The apology from Councillor N W Walker was received and sustained.		
Notification of Late Items	There were no late items of business.		

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 20 February 2017

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 20 February 2017 at 10.30 am.

Lean/Davey

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 8 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Wednesday 8 March 2017 at 11.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Davey/Joyce

Matters arising

SH3 Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme update

Mr M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services, advised the Council that the Minister of Transport will likely announce the preferred option in early April albeit a definite announcement date has not yet been confirmed.

General

Regional Transport Committee Chairperson, C S Williamson, noted to the Council his attendance at a New Zealand Transport Agency community consultation drop-in session (Waitara) on proposed safety improvements on State Highway 3 between Bell Block and Waitara. Councillor Williamson advised that the session was well attended with the public encouraged to provide feedback and suggested improvements.

3. Consents and Regulatory Committee Minutes – 14 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 9.30am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Davey/Joyce

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Policy and Planning Committee Minutes – 14 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the 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 Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 11.00 am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Walker/McIntyre

Matters arising

Regionally significant surf breaks

Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, advised that the composition of the 'expert panel' has been extended to board riding groups with positive feedback received to date.

Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management

It was noted that the Council's booklet *Taranaki Regional Council Requirements for good farm management in Taranaki* has been distributed and is also available as an electronic copy through the Council's website.

5. Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 27 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes and confidential minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 27 March 2017 at 10.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Lean/MacLeod

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Joint Committee Minutes

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2017
2. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on Tuesday 7 March 2017.

MacLeod/Joyce

7. 2018/2028 Long-Term Plan – Initial Planning

- 7.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum outlining the process and timetable around the preparation and adoption of the Council's *2018/2028 Long-Term Plan*.

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum on the proposed process and timetable around the preparation, audit and adoption of the *2018/2028 Long-Term Plan*
2. notes the general approach and timetable on the preparation, audit and adoption of the *2018/2028 Long-Term Plan*
3. notes the areas in which additional work will be undertaken ahead of the preparation, audit and adoption of the *2018/2028 Long-Term Plan*.

Williamson/Davey

8. Triennial Agreement 2016-2019

- 8.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum to ratify the Taranaki Triennial Agreement 2016-2019 as required under Section 15 of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum Triennial Agreement 2016-2019
2. ratifies the Taranaki Triennial Agreement 2016-2019 to have effect until the next triennial election of the Council in October 2019.

Lean/Cloke

9. Riparian Management Plan Compliance Certificate

- 9.1 Mr S R Hall, Director-Operations, spoke to the memorandum presenting to Members for adoption, an updated Riparian Management Compliance Certificate regime.
- 9.2 It was noted that the Council has been encouraging plan holders to complete their riparian plan implementation by 2020 or near thereafter. There are still 2,272

kilometres of fencing and 3,432 kilometres of planting with current implementation rates required to be increased to achieve completion by 2020.

- 9.3 The Council will continue to promote riparian management compliance to allow plan holders to voluntarily get a Certificate of Compliance before 1 July 2020 before the Council moves into a regulatory phase thereafter whereby a resource consent will require riparian fencing and planting to continue intensive farming.

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum on riparian management compliance certificate
2. adopts the updated Riparian Management Compliance Certificate process and associated assessment criteria and waterbody review guidelines
3. notes that the Certificate of Compliance is likely to form the basis of a compliance regime when riparian management is regulated in the near future.

McIntyre/Davey

10. Meeting Dates May 2017

- 10.1 The next six-weekly round of Council meetings for May 2017 were received and noted.
- 10.2 Discussion was held on combining the Council's Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 16 May with the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 8 May. The Ordinary Meeting on 8 May is to hear submissions on the Council's *2017/2018 Annual Plan*. Council staff will clarify to Members whether the Ordinary Meetings will be combined following the close of submissions to the Annual Plan and the nature of matters arising from the submissions received.

There being no further business, Chairman D N MacLeod, declared the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council closed at 9.50am.

Confirmed

Chairperson: _____
D N MacLeod

Date: **8 May 2017**

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



**Subject: Consents and Regulatory Committee
Minutes – 2 May 2017**

Prepared by: G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858290

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 9.30am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1855670 – Minutes Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 9.30am.



Members	Councillors	M P Joyce M J Cloke C L Littlewood M J McDonald B K Raine N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
		D L Lean D N MacLeod	(ex officio) (ex officio)
Attending	Messrs	G K Bedford A D McLay M J Nield B E Pope C H McLellan S Tamarapa	(Director-Environment Quality) (Director-Resource Management) (Director-Corporate Services) (Compliance Manager) (Consents Manager) (Iwi Communications Officer)
		Mrs V McKay	(Science Manager)
		Mrs H Gerrard	(Science Manager)
		Mr R Phipps	(Science Manager)
		Mrs K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
		Mr P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
		Mr R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)
	One Member of the public.		

Apologies The apology from Councillor M G Davey was received and sustained.

Notification of Late Items There were no late items of general business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 14 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Consents and Regulatory Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 9.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 3 April 2017.

Cloke/McDonald

Matters Arising

It was noted there were no monitoring reports to be presented to the meeting because they had all been completed for the period.

2. Resource consents issued under delegated authority and applications in progress

- 2.1 The Committee considered and discussed the memorandum advising of consents granted, consents under application and of consent processing actions since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 2.2 Officers gave an update on prehearing processes for the Julian and Fonterra applications and reasons for and responses to the reduced number of applications being received.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

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

Littlewood/Raine

3. Incident Register – 20 February 2017 to 13 April 2017

Councillor D N MacLeod declared an interest in Item 3 (Incident Register 20 February 2017 to 13 April 2017) in relation to Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited and took no part in the discussions or deliberations.

Councillor M P Joyce declared an interest in Item 3 (Incident Register 20 February 2017 to 13 April 2017) in relation to the Taranaki Agricultural Research Station Trust and took no part in the discussions or deliberations.

- 3.1 The Committee received and noted the summary of the Council's Incident Register for the period 20 February 2017 to 13 April 2017.

- 3.2 Mr B E Pope, Compliance Manager, provided an overview to the Committee on the reported incidents and answered questions concerning officer assessments of the incidents.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum
2. receives the summary of the Incident Register for the period from 20 February 2017 to 13 April 2017, notes the action taken by staff and adopts the recommendations therein.

McDonald/Littlewood

4. Environment Defence Society Report into Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement

- 4.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum presenting to the Committee the findings of a recent Environment Defence Society survey report *Last Line of Defence – Compliance, monitoring and enforcement of New Zealand's environmental law*.
- 4.2 The Committee noted that the survey considered a number of environmental statutes, including the RMA, and involved all councils. It provided useful and objective information to assist this important Council function. It was noted the Council's compliance, monitoring and enforcement regime is well established, sophisticated and effective.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and Environmental Defence Society report *Last Line of Defence – Compliance, monitoring and enforcement of New Zealand's environmental law*
2. notes that the Council's compliance, monitoring and enforcement regime is well established and effective and does not experience the political and operational issues identified at other council's surveyed.

MacLeod/McDonald

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor M P Joyce, declared the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting closed at 9.55am.

Confirmed

Chairperson _____
M P Joyce

Date **6 June 2017**

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



**Subject: Policy and Planning Committee Minutes
– 2 May 2017**

Prepared by: A D McLay, Director-Resource Management

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858296

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the 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 Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 10.30am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1855699 – Minutes Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

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 Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 10.30 am.



Members	Councillors	N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
		M P Joyce	
		C L Littlewood	
		D H McIntyre	(from 10.40am)
		B K Raine	
		C S Williamson	
		D L Lean	(ex officio)
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
Attending	Councillor	R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)
	Councillor	P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mrs	B Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
Attending	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)
		N West	(Policy Analyst)
	Mrs	R Phipps	(Science Manager)
	Mr	V McKay	(Science Manager)
	Mrs	D West	(Environment Team Leader)
	Mr	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
	Mrs	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)
	Mr		
Apologies	The apology from Councillor G Boyde (Stratford District Council) was received and sustained.		
Notification of Late Items	There were no late items of business.		

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 14 March 2017

Resolved

THAT the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the 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 Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 11.00am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 3 April 2017.

Williamson/Raine

Matters Arising

Introducing dung beetles to Taranaki dairy farms

Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, advised the Committee that a report exploring an increased investment in a dung-beetle release programme in Taranaki has been delayed and will be presented to the next Committee meeting.

Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management

It was noted to the Committee that the Council's publication *Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management* has been well received following its distribution.

2. Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017

- 2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum outlining the main changes to the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 (the Act) that became law on 18 April 2017.
- 2.2 Mr McLay noted to the Committee some of the changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), including the removal of the financial contributions provisions in five years and the immediate introduction of provisions allowing discussions on Iwi Participation Agreements between iwi authorities and the Council to occur, that address iwi input to resource management. It was noted a review of iwi input to resource management, and the results of a survey of iwi input to resource management at all regional councils, will form part of a review report to the Council.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017*
2. notes that council staff will be developing an implementation plan to give effect to the Act.

MacLeod/Joyce

3. Estimation of water quality contaminant loads and the likely effect of riparian fencing in Taranaki

- 3.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the preparation of a report for the Council that evaluates the

comparative consequences for water quality improvement, of requiring riparian fencing in the dairying areas of Taranaki either according to the recommendations of the Land and Water Forum, or alternatively according to the Council's working policy as drafted in preparation for the next Regional Freshwater Plan. The report, '*Estimation of water quality contaminant loads and the likely effect of fencing in Taranaki*' has been prepared for the Council by Professor RW McDowell, of the Soil and Physical Sciences department of the faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Lincoln University.

- 3.2 It was noted that the report validates the Council's long-standing riparian management programme whereby waterways that are fenced and planted improve water quality (reducing pollution and nutrient levels) and go beyond the recommendations by LAWF and central government that involve just fencing to exclude stock from waterways and not fencing and planting as occurs in this region.
- 3.3 Despite the Council's work in substantially improving regional water quality to date, it is still not enough to meet government's 'swimmability' targets. To achieve the government's targets regarding water quality, the Council will be required to significantly increase resources and costs to adhere to increased water compliance monitoring, with very little real benefit to the community.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Estimation of water quality contaminant loads and the likely effect of fencing in Taranaki*
2. receives the report *Estimation of water quality contaminant loads and the likely effect of fencing in Taranaki* prepared for the Council by Prof R W McDowell of Lincoln University
3. notes the findings of the report and supports taking account of them in its submission to the Government on the *Clean Water* discussion document and in its consideration of policies for the revised *Freshwater Plan for Taranaki*.

Nixon/Littlewood

4. Stream macroinvertebrate community responses to adoption of land management mitigation practices

- 4.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the publication of a report that evaluates the benefits for in-stream ecological health and overall water quality of various practice and management options in dairy catchments. The Waiokura Stream catchment in South Taranaki is one of the five subject 'best practice dairy' catchments. The report, '*Responses of stream macroinvertebrate communities and water quality of five dairy farming streams following adoption of mitigation practices*' has been published in the *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*.
- 4.2 The report shows the benefits of increasing farm dairy effluent system discharges to land, riparian fencing and bridging to remove stock from waterways, and planting the

riparian margin. Profitability of the farms had also increased. Members requested communication material to be prepared based on this and other relevant material, for distribution to the community, particularly dairy farmers.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Stream macroinvertebrate community responses to adoption of land management mitigation practices*
2. receives the report '*Responses of stream macroinvertebrate communities and water quality of five dairy farming streams following adoption of mitigation practices*' (A E Wright-Stow and R J Wilcock) published in the *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*
3. notes the findings of the report and supports taking account of them in its consideration of policies for the revised *Freshwater Plan for Taranaki*.

Williamson/Joyce

5. Submission on Clean Water consultation document

- 5.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the Ministry for the Environment of their Clean Water consultation document and to recommend its endorsement. The submission was previously circulated to members for comment and sent by the due date (28 April 2017). The submission raises a number of significant scientific/technical, operational and financial (Council and community) concerns about the proposal to meet the swimmability targets.
- 5.2 The Committee endorsed the submission and wanted its concerns to be summarised into a few key points and sent to key local stakeholders, including local ministers of parliament, under the signature of the Chairman. Accordingly, an additional recommendation was added

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receive the memorandum *Submission on Clean Water consultation document*
2. endorses the submission
3. provides a summary of the submission to key local stakeholders.

McIntyre/Joyce

6. Public perceptions of New Zealand's environment: 2016

- 6.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum introducing a report prepared by Lincoln University on public perceptions of New Zealand's environment.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Public perceptions of New Zealand's environment: 2016*.

MacLeod/McIntyre

7. Review of Pest Management in Taranaki: Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki; Section 71 Report, and Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2037

- 7.1 Mr C L Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum presenting for Members' consideration the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (the Proposed RPMP), the report *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki - Impact Assessment and Cost Benefit Analyses* (Section 71 Report), and the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2037*.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum and the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki, Section 71 Report, and Biosecurity Strategy
2. notes that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan has been the subject of a successful inter-regional consistency check and is consistent with a regional collective template for proposed plans
3. agrees that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan meets the section 71 content requirements for a proposed regional pest management plan as required by the Biosecurity Act 1993
4. agrees that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is not inconsistent with the *National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015*, other pest management plans on the same organisms, any pathway plan, regional policy statements or plans under the Resource Management Act 1991, or any regulation
5. agrees that that each organism included in the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is capable of causing at some time a serious adverse and unintended effect in relation to the region
6. agrees that the benefits of the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan in relation to each organism to which the proposal applies outweigh the costs after taking account of the likely consequences of inaction or other courses of action
7. agrees that, for each subject, persons who are required to meet directly any or all of the costs of implementing the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan –
 - (i) would accrue, as a group, benefits outweighing the costs or
 - (ii) contribute, as a group, to the creation, continuance, or exacerbation of the problems proposed to be resolved by the plan

8. agrees that for each subject, there is likely to be adequate funding for the implementation of the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for five years
9. agrees that each proposed rule would assist in achieving the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan's objective and would not trespass unduly on the rights of individuals
10. agrees that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is not frivolous or vexatious, that it is clear enough to be readily understood, and that Council has not rejected a similar proposal within the last three years
11. notes that the Section 71 Report will be made publicly available
12. agrees to publicly notify the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Biosecurity Strategy for public submissions on or before 20 May 2017.

Joyce/Raine

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 11.45am.

Confirmed

Chairperson

N W Walker

Date

6 June 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Executive, Audit and Risk Committee
Minutes – 8 May 2017**

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858300

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 8 May 2017 at 10.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1858320 – Minutes Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – [due to the timing of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting, the minutes will be tabled at the Ordinary Meeting.](#)

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



Subject: Joint Committee Minutes

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858337

Purpose

The purpose of the memorandum is to receive for information the minutes of the Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2017.

Executive summary

The Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee is a Joint Committee between the Taranaki Regional Council and the New Plymouth District Council.

The Local Government Act (Schedule 7, clause 30(8)) states that a joint committee is deemed to be both a committee of the local authority and a committee of the other local authority or public body.

Each council has therefore been given the minutes of the joint committee meetings for their receipt and information.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2017.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document #1847069 – Minutes Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee

YARROW STADIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

File Reference: ECM 7383628
Meeting Date: Wednesday 5 April 2017 3pm
Venue: Yarrow Stadium
Members Present: Councillor Michael Joyce (Chairperson), Councillor Craig Williamson (TRC), Mayor Neil Holdom, Councillor Alan Melody (NPDC)

Non-members Present:

Councillor John McLeod

Staff in Attendance:

Mike Nield (TRC), Teresa Turner, Jan Holdt, David Langford, Ron Murray (NPDC)

Minutes

Resolved:

Mayor Holdom)

Cr Williamson)

That the minutes of the Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee meeting (6 December 2016), and the proceedings of the said meeting, as previously circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

MATTERS FINALLY DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION AND RECORD

1. Yarrow Stadium: Major Projects Report to Joint Committee

ECM 7369461

To present a progress report to the Joint Committee on the progress of Major Projects identified within the 2016/17 budgets for Yarrow Stadium.

Resolved:

Councillor Joyce)

Councillor Melody)

That, having considered all matters raised in the report, the report be noted.

Carried

The Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee meeting closed at 3.16pm.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Electoral Officer's Report on the 2016
Triennial Elections**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services

BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1855712

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to receive the Council's Electoral Officer's Report on the 2016 Triennial Elections.

Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the Electoral Officer's Report on the 2016 Triennial Elections.

Background

Local government elections are required to be conducted every three years, with the 2016 election occurring on Saturday 8 October 2016. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The Council appointed Mr Dale Ofsoske of Election Services as its electoral officer.

Discussion

The 2016 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 8 October 2016. The elections for the Taranaki Regional Council were conducted by the constituent territorial authorities of New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council. They were completed satisfactorily, on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

With the 2016 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken, together with election statistics for the information of Council.

The final cost was over budget due to higher than anticipated postal costs and the lack of elections in some areas reducing the ability to spread costs.

Moving forward, the Council will need to review its electoral system and its representation arrangements.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 1849873: 2016 Triennial Elections

Election Services
Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
PO Box 5135, Wellesley Street
Auckland 1141
Phone: 64 9 973 5212
Email: info@electionservices.co.nz

Report to the
Taranaki Regional Council
regarding the

2016 Triennial Elections

From the
Electoral Officer

30 March 2017



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Outline

The 2016 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 8 October 2016. The elections for the Taranaki Regional Council were conducted by the constituent territorial authorities of New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council and were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

This report summaries the electoral process.

Background

Local government elections are required to be conducted every three years, with the 2016 election occurring on Saturday 8 October 2016. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The following preliminary actions/decisions were made:

- (i) as the last representation arrangements review was undertaken in 2012 (for the 2013 and 2016 triennial elections), there were no changes in representation arrangements for the 2016 triennial elections. The number of councillors remained at 11, elected from 4 constituencies;
- (ii) the FPP (first past the post) electoral system to be used for Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council elections; the STV (single transferable voting) electoral system to be used for the Taranaki District Health Board election;
- (iii) postal voting to be used;
- (iv) the alphabetical order of candidate names was adopted for Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and Taranaki District Health Board; the pseudo-random order of candidate names was adopted for South Taranaki District Council.

The electoral officer appointed by Taranaki Regional Council is Dale Ofoske of Election Services.

With the 2016 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken, together with election statistics for the information of Council.

Narrative

Elections Required

Elections were undertaken for:

Taranaki Regional Council

- 2 Members elected from the North Taranaki Constituency
- 5 Members elected from the New Plymouth Constituency

- 1 Member elected from the Stratford Constituency
- 3 Members elected from the South Taranaki Constituency

Election Timetable

Key election functions and dates were:

Nomination period

15 July – 12 August 2016

Inspection of Preliminary Electoral Roll

15 July – 12 August 2016

Delivery of voting mailers

16-21 September 2016

Special voting/early processing

16 September – 8 October 2016

Election day/preliminary count

8 October 2016

Official count

9 – 13 October 2016

Return of Electoral Donations & Expenses Form

by 9 December 2016

Electoral Roll

For each constituent territorial authority, the electoral roll comprises two parts, the Residential Electoral Roll and the Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

The Residential Electoral Roll contains parliamentary electors, whose details are maintained and supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Each constituent territorial authority is responsible for compiling its own non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

To compile the Ratepayer Electoral Roll, two actions are required:

- (i) a nationwide advertising campaign on the criteria of ratepayer elector qualifications and enrolment procedures; and
- (ii) the issuing of Ratepayer Confirmation Forms to all eligible 2013 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors, and if returned, these along with any new enrolments, form the basis of the 2016 Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

A national advertising campaign was undertaken by SOLGM during May 2016 advising readers in all major daily newspapers of the criteria and qualifications required to be eligible for the Ratepayer Electoral Roll. A 0800 free-phone service was again used as a national

helpline for ratepayer roll enquiries.

In April 2016, a total of 123 Ratepayer Roll Confirmation Forms were issued to eligible constituent territorial authorities 2013 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors. A total of 106 non-resident ratepayer electors appeared on the constituent territorial authorities 2016 Ratepayer Electoral Rolls.

Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls

The Preliminary Electoral Rolls were available for public inspection at each constituent territorial authority office/service centre and library during normal office hours between 15 July 2016 and 12 August 2016.

Statistics relating to the Final Electoral Rolls are as follows:

Territorial Authority	Final Roll		
	No. Residents	No. Ratepayers	Total
New Plymouth District	56,003	62	56,065
South Taranaki District	17,375	33	17,408
Stratford District	6,312	11	6,323
TOTAL	79,690	106	79,796

Nominations

The nomination period was 15 July to noon 12 August 2016.

Nomination material was available during this time by:

- (i) visiting a constituent territorial authority office/service centre;
- (ii) downloading the material from the Council's website;
- (iii) phoning the electoral office.

A detailed '2016 Candidate Information Handbook' was prepared and made available to all candidates, any interested party (eg media) and placed online. The handbook contained relevant information about the electoral process to potential candidates.

A total of 24 valid nominations were received for the 11 vacancies, these detailed as follows:

Constituency	No. Nominations	No. Vacancies
New Plymouth	9	5
North Taranaki	8	2
South Taranaki	5	3
Stratford	2	1
Total	24	11

For a list of candidates, refer Notice of Day of Election – **Appendix 4**.

The 24 nominations received compares to 18 nominations received at the 2013 election.

Voting Mailers

Voting mailers consisting of an outward envelope, return prepaid envelope, voting document and a candidate profile booklet (which included instructions in English and Māori) were posted to electors by the constituent territorial authorities from Friday 16 September 2016.

The voting mailers were produced by the NZ Post Group and were consistent in design layout to all other local authorities in the country.

Special Voting

Special votes were available from 16 September 2016 to noon 8 October 2016 by:

- (i) visiting one of the constituent territorial authority offices;
- (ii) phoning the electoral office.

Elector Turnout

In total, of the 79,796 electors on the constituent territorial authorities Final Electoral Rolls, a total of 36,354 electors returned their voting document. This represents a 45.6% return.

By constituent territorial authority, voter returns were:

New Plymouth District Council: 47.78%

South Taranaki District Council: 38.39%

Stratford District Council: 45.58%

A schedule of the number of daily returned voting documents over the voting period for each constituent territorial authority is attached (**Appendices 1-3**).

Of note, the 2016 average nationwide elector turnout is 42% compared to 41.3% for the 2013 election and 49% for the 2010 election.

Results

With the undertaking of the early processing of returned voting documents during the voting period, progress results were released on election day at around 1pm. Progress results reflected about 95% of votes cast and excluded votes received at Council offices on election day morning. The release of progress results was very successful and avoided an unnecessary wait by candidates on knowing who were provisionally elected.

The preliminary results were released early on Sunday morning following the receipt and processing of a large number of votes received at the Council offices on election day morning.

Both the progress and preliminary results were released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

The final results (Declaration of Results of Election – see **Appendix 5**) were made on Thursday 13 October 2016 and appeared in the Taranaki Daily News on Saturday 15 October 2016.

Election Costs

The 2016 estimated election cost set in October 2015 was \$90,000 + GST (or for an estimated 78,700 electors, \$1.14 + GST per elector), subject to actual costs incurred.

The 2016 final election cost has now been determined under the agreed MOU cost sharing calculator at \$103,351 + GST (or for 79,796 electors, \$1.30 + GST per elector).

The cost increase is largely due to:

- (i) significant higher than budgeted third party costs of postage and voting mailers, and
- (ii) no physical mayoral elections required for South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council (resulting in a higher cost share for other organisations).

Upcoming Issues

Inquiry into the 2016 elections

Parliament's Justice & Electoral Select Committee is to undertake its normal inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 local government elections.

The Terms of Reference, as publicly notified on 20 October 2016, are to examine the law and administrative procedures surrounding the conduct of the 2016 local authority elections.

Submissions to the select committee will close on 31 December 2017 and recommendations are expected to be released in 2018.

The Committee will also consider the petition of Andrew Judd which asks that 'the House of Representatives consider a law change to make the establishment of Māori wards on district councils follow the same legal framework as establishing other wards on district councils.'

Electoral System Review

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, any local authority may resolve, before 12 September 2017, to change the electoral system used at the last election. Should Council wish to consider changing its electoral system (from first past the post to single transferable voting), it can do so by resolution no later than 12 September 2017.

However, a public notice must be given by 19 September 2017 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

Māori Representation Review

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council may at any time resolve to introduce Māori constituencies. If a resolution is made before 23 November 2017 (to apply for the 2019 triennial elections), public notice must be given by 30 November 2017 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

If Māori constituencies are to be introduced for the 2019 triennial elections, this would need to be reflected in the required representation arrangements review.

Representation Arrangements Review

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires every local authority to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once in every 6 year period. As Council last undertook a review in 2012, it is now required to conduct a review in 2018 for the 2019 triennial elections.

An initial proposal cannot be resolved by Council before 1

March 2018, but informal public consultation can occur prior to this date, if considered appropriate.

Summary and Conclusions

The Taranaki Regional Council's 2016 triennial elections were conducted successfully and met all legislative and practical requirements. No issues or concerns of significance arose from these elections and all tasks were completed satisfactorily and on time.

There are however several electoral issues Council may wish to consider during 2017:

- (i) make a submission to the Justice & Electoral Select Committee's inquiry into the 2016 local government elections – by 31 December 2017;
- (ii) consider whether Council retains the first past the post electoral system or adopts the single transferable voting electoral system for the 2019 triennial elections – by 12 September 2017;
- (iii) consider whether Council introduces Māori constituencies for the 2019 triennial elections – by 23 November 2017;
- (iv) undertake a representation arrangements review in 2018 (or earlier if informal public consultation is undertaken).



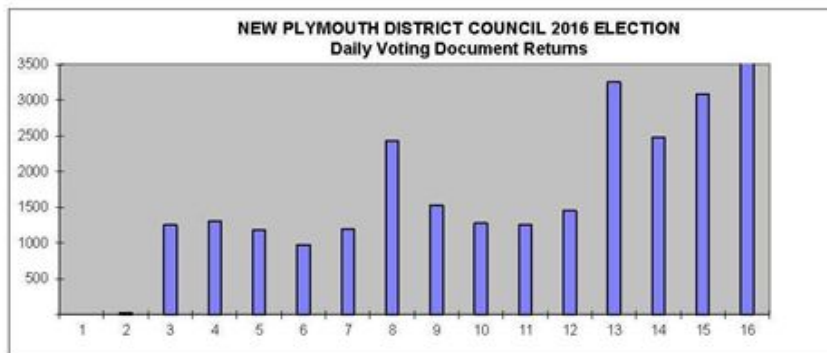
Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer // Taranaki Regional Council
Election Services

APPENDIX 1



VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2016 ELECTIONS

WARD/ELECTORS	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
NEW PLYMOUTH CITY 40593		25 0.1%	900 2.3%	775 4.2%	850 6.3%	675 7.9%	825 10.0%	1825 14.5%	1125 17.2%	825 19.3%	1000 21.7%	1150 24.6%	2450 30.6%	1925 35.4%	2350 41.1%	2931 48.4%
NORTH 7472			200 2.7%	225 5.7%	175 8.0%	225 11.0%	150 13.0%	375 18.1%	175 20.4%	175 22.8%	175 25.1%	175 27.4%	325 31.8%	350 36.5%	350 41.2%	485 47.6%
SOUTH WEST 8000			150 1.9%	300 5.6%	150 7.5%	75 8.4%	225 11.3%	225 14.1%	225 16.9%	275 20.3%	75 21.3%	125 22.8%	475 28.8%	200 31.3%	375 35.9%	723 45.0%
TOTAL 56065		25 0.04%	1250 2.27%	1300 4.59%	1175 6.69%	975 8.43%	1200 10.57%	2425 14.89%	1525 17.61%	1275 19.89%	1250 22.12%	1450 24.70%	3250 30.50%	2475 34.91%	3075 40.40%	4139 47.78%
DAILY %		0.04%	2.23%	2.32%	2.10%	1.74%	2.14%	4.33%	2.72%	2.27%	2.23%	2.59%	5.80%	4.41%	5.48%	7.38%
*Final - Incl. Specials																



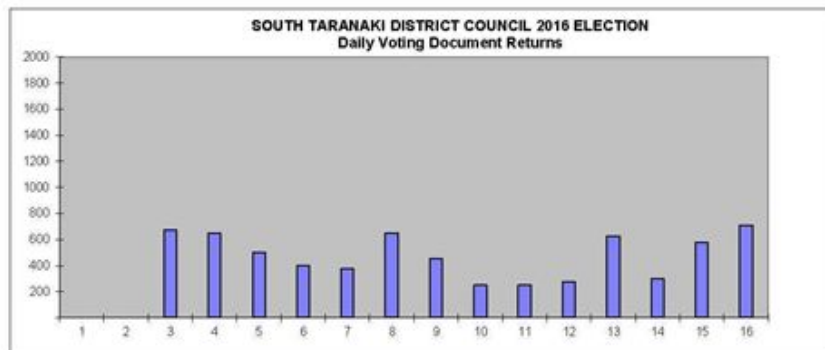
APPENDIX 2



VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2016 ELECTIONS

WARD/ELECTORS	ELECTION DAY															
	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
EGMONT PLAINS 3944			100 2.6%	150 6.5%	75 8.5%	75 10.4%	50 11.7%	125 15.0%	75 16.9%	25 17.6%	50 18.9%	75 20.8%	75 22.8%	75 24.7%	125 28.0%	145 31.7%
ELTHAM 2532			150 5.9%	100 9.9%	75 12.8%	50 14.8%	50 16.8%	75 19.7%	50 21.7%	50 23.7%	600 23.7%	650 25.7%	725 28.6%	800 31.6%	850 33.6%	942 37.2%
TANAGHOE 1799			75 4.2%	50 6.9%	50 9.7%	25 11.1%	25 12.8%	75 16.7%	50 19.9%	25 20.8%	25 22.2%	25 23.6%	75 27.8%	25 29.2%	50 32.0%	120 38.6%
HAWEA-NORMANBY 6756			250 3.7%	250 7.4%	225 10.7%	200 13.7%	175 16.3%	300 20.7%	200 23.7%	125 25.5%	100 27.0%	100 28.5%	300 32.9%	75 34.0%	275 38.1%	252 41.8%
PATEA 2477			100 4.0%	100 8.1%	75 11.1%	50 13.1%	75 16.1%	75 19.2%	25 22.2%	25 23.2%	75 26.2%	25 27.3%	100 31.3%	50 33.3%	75 36.3%	99 40.3%
TOTAL 17408			675 3.88%	650 7.61%	500 10.48%	400 12.78%	375 14.94%	650 18.67%	450 21.25%	250 22.69%	250 24.18%	275 25.71%	625 29.30%	300 31.02%	575 34.32%	708 38.99%
DAILY %			3.88%	3.73%	2.87%	2.30%	2.15%	3.73%	2.59%	1.41%	1.44%	1.58%	3.59%	1.72%	3.30%	4.07%

*Final - incl. Specials

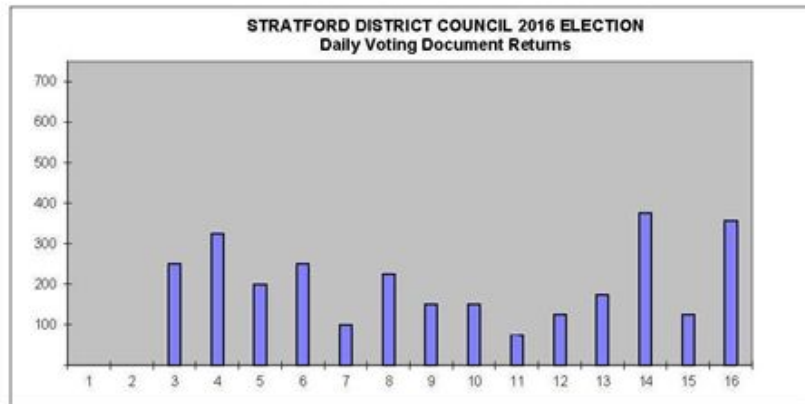


APPENDIX 3




VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2016 ELECTIONS

WARD/ELECTORS	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
RURAL 2402			100 4.2%	125 9.4%	50 11.4%	75 14.6%	25 15.6%	75 18.7%	75 21.9%	50 23.9%	25 25.0%	50 27.1%	75 30.2%	125 35.4%	50 37.5%	171 44.6%
URBAN 3921			150 3.8%	200 8.9%	150 12.8%	175 17.2%	75 19.1%	150 23.0%	75 24.9%	100 27.4%	50 28.7%	75 30.6%	100 33.2%	250 39.5%	75 41.4%	186 46.2%
TOTAL 6323			250 3.95%	325 5.14%	200 3.16%	250 3.95%	100 1.58%	225 3.56%	150 2.37%	150 2.37%	75 1.19%	125 1.98%	175 2.77%	375 5.93%	125 1.98%	357 5.65%
			*Final - Incl. Specials													



APPENDIX 4



Taranaki
Regional Council

NOTICE OF DAY OF ELECTION for the Taranaki Regional Council 2016 elections

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

Notice is given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that the following persons have been duly nominated as candidates for:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL *(eleven vacancies)*

New Plymouth Constituency *(five vacancies)*

CLOKE, Tom	LITTLEWOOD, Charlotte
GIBSON, David	RAINE, Bev
HORTON, Peter Douglas	WILLIAMS, Richard
LARMER, John	WILLIAMSON, Craig
LEAN, David	

North Taranaki Constituency *(two vacancies)*

BURNSIDE, Netta	HILL, John
DAVEY, Mike	MCINTYRE, Donald Hugh
DOMBROSKI, Vicky	SCHUMACHER, Karen
HENDRY, Rex	WILKES, Chris (100% Pure Taranaki)

South Taranaki Constituency *(three vacancies)*

JOYCE, Michael	SHAW, Robert Keith (Independent)
MACLEOD, David	WALKER, Neil
PRATT, Karen	

Stratford Constituency *(one vacancy)*

JEFFARES, Brian	MCDONALD, Matthew
-----------------	-------------------

As there are (for each office) more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, an election will be held between the listed candidates on Saturday, 8 October 2016, under the first past the post electoral system by postal vote.

ISSUING OF VOTING DOCUMENTS

Voting documents will be posted to electors from Friday, 16 September 2016.

RETURN OF VOTING DOCUMENTS

Voting documents must be returned not later than noon, Saturday, 8 October 2016 to the respective constituent district council electoral officer.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered to the following constituent district council offices between Friday, 16 September 2016 and Friday, 7 October 2016 during normal office hours, and Saturday, 8 October 2016 between 9am – noon:

- New Plymouth District Council, Civic Centre, 84 Liardet Street, New Plymouth
- South Taranaki District Council, Administration Building, 105-111 Albion Street, Hawera
- Stratford District Council, Administration Building, 61-63 Miranda Street, Stratford

SPECIAL VOTING

Special voting in terms of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 may be exercised at the above council offices and times.


A person can apply to enrol as either a residential elector or ratepayer elector right up to and including 7 October 2016 – the day before the close of voting.

Dated at Stratford, 17 August 2016

Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer
Taranaki Regional Council
47 Cloten Road, Stratford
(Phone: 0800 922 822)

Local Elections 2016
YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY

APPENDIX 5



Taranaki
Regional Council

DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION for the Taranaki Regional Council 2016 elections

I hereby declare the results of the elections held on 8 October 2016 for the following offices:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL *(eleven vacancies)*

Votes Received		Votes Received	
New Plymouth Constituency <i>(five vacancies)</i>			
CLOKE, Tom	10,534	LITTLEWOOD, Charlotte	9,740
GIBSON, David	4,956	RAINE, Bev	7,255
HORTON, Peter Douglas	5,862	WILLIAMS, Richard	3,915
LARMER, John	4,685	WILLIAMSON, Craig	9,182
LEAN, David	10,681		
Informal votes received: 23			
Blank votes received: 1,321			
I therefore declare Tom CLOKE, David LEAN, Charlotte LITTLEWOOD, Bev RAINE and Craig WILLIAMSON to be elected.			
North Taranaki Constituency <i>(two vacancies)</i>			
BURNSIDE, Netta	1,451	HILL, John	1,197
DAVEY, Mike	3,324	MCINTYRE, Donald Hugh	2,041
DOMBROSKI, Vicky	1,467	SCHUMACHER, Karen	1,545
HENDRY, Rex	1,098	WILKES, Chris <i>(100% Pure Taranaki)</i>	1,489
Informal votes received: 26			
Blank votes received: 511			
I therefore declare Mike DAVEY and Donald Hugh MCINTYRE to be elected.			
South Taranaki Constituency <i>(three vacancies)</i>			
JOYCE, Michael	3,760	SHAW, Robert Keith <i>(Independent)</i>	1,382
MACLEOD, David	4,321	WALKER, Neil	3,806
PRATT, Karen	2,753		
Informal votes received: 20			
Blank votes received: 370			
I therefore declare Michael JOYCE, David MACLEOD and Neil WALKER to be elected.			
Stratford Constituency <i>(one vacancy)</i>			
JEFFARES, Brian	1,125	MCDONALD, Matthew	1,523
Informal votes received: 10			
Blank votes received: 172			
I therefore declare Matthew MCDONALD to be elected.			
Dated at Stratford, 14 October 2016			
Dale Ofoske Electoral Officer Taranaki Regional Council 47 Cloten Road, Stratford (Phone: 0800 922 822)		Local Elections 2016 YOUR VOTE YOUR COMMUNITY	

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Remuneration Authority Review of Local
Government Elected Members
Remuneration**

Approved by: MJ Nield, Director – Corporate Services
BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858591

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to consider and respond to, if necessary, the Remuneration Authority's Review of Local Government Elected Members Remuneration.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the Remuneration Authority's Review of Local Government Elected Members Remuneration
2. advises the Chief Executive of the Council's initial position on the issues raised by the Remuneration Authority to allow a response to be prepared
3. notes that a response will be drafted and referred back to Members prior to the submission being referred back to the Remuneration Authority.

Background

The Remuneration Authority has responsibility for developing and approving Councillor remuneration and expense reimbursement. The Remuneration Authority is required to issue a new determination covering local government elected members remuneration and allowance, which takes effect from 1st July 2017.

In considering how they will approach this, they have concluded that there is an opportunity for both short term improvements to the system for immediate implementation as well as some deeper changes which they propose to introduce in 2019.

Attached for the Council's feedback is a consultation document, which discusses the proposals. It is divided into two main sections:

- **Part Two – Proposed Immediate Changes (2017 Determination):** The Authority would appreciate receiving feedback, on this part, by **Monday 19th June 2017** or earlier if you can.
- **Part Three – Longer Term Proposals: The Authority** would appreciate feedback, on part three, by **Friday October 20th 2017**.

Discussion

The proposals were received on Wednesday 3 May 2017, so there has been insufficient time to review the proposals and provide guidance on them. Accordingly, it proposed:

- to receive Councillors initial feedback
- to undertake a proper evaluation of the proposals
- to prepare a draft response on Part Two
- to undertake an email feedback, to Members, on the draft response
- to finalise the draft response prior to returning to the Remuneration Authority by the 19 June 2017 deadline
- to spend more time addressing the issues in Part Three.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 1858596: Remuneration Authority: Local Government Review Consultation Document



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Part One - General Introduction

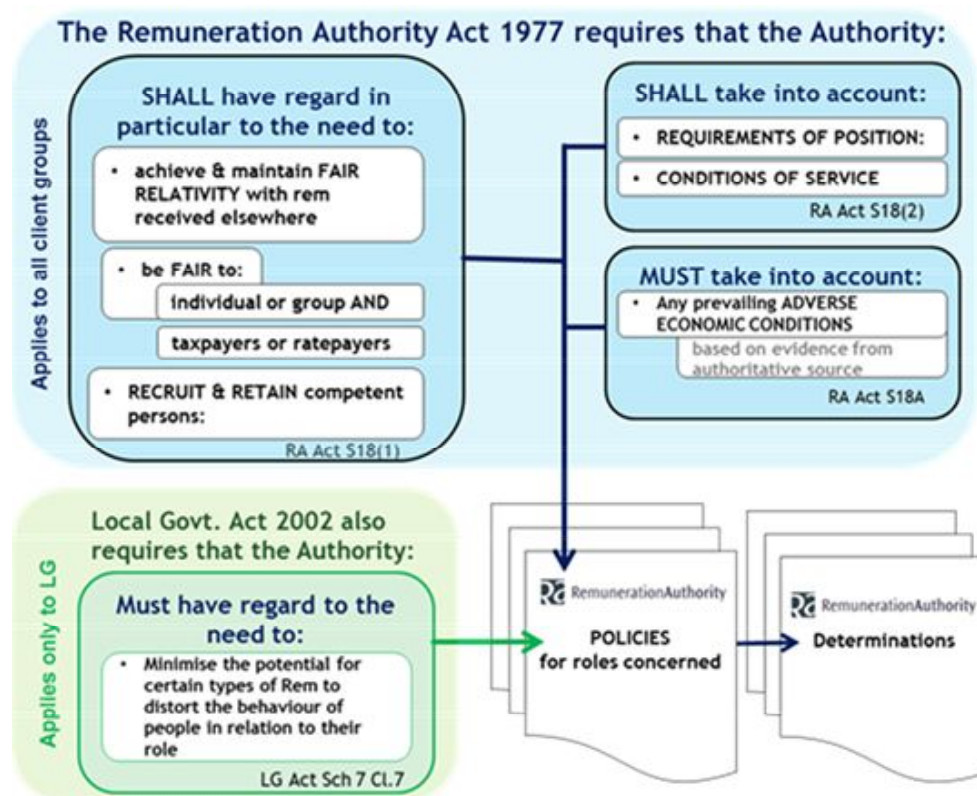
Introduction

1. The Remuneration Authority (the Authority) is required to issue a new determination, taking effect from 1st July 2017, covering local government elected members. In considering how we should approach this in future, we have concluded that there is an opportunity for both short term improvements to the system, including some clarification of current policies, as well as some deeper changes which we propose introducing in 2019.
2. Hence this paper has two substantive sections – Part Two covering proposals for this year and Part Three covering the longer term. We are seeking views of councils on both. The timetable for responses on the shorter-term proposals is unfortunately short. This is because as we got deeper into our review we saw the need for more fundamental change which, had we waited till we had all detail finalised, would have delayed our release of this paper. However, we feel that the issues in Part Two are sufficiently familiar for councils that they will be able to provide reasonably rapid responses. In contrast, Part Three contains more fundamental change proposals and we believe that the local government sector needs time to contemplate these. We have provided a window of several months and during that time we would anticipate attending either zone or sector meetings to discuss the proposals with you.
3. Recently the issue of the potential provision of child care subsidies or services has been raised. We have not addressed it in this paper but will be consulting the sector shortly about this issue.
4. The Authority would like to thank a number of people who have assisted us with the review so far. We commissioned ErnstYoung to provide facilitation, research and analysis. The following people also provided assistance and we very much appreciated their insights and information:
 - Local Government Leadership Group:
 - David Ayers, Mayor, Waimakariri District
 - Jan Barnes, Mayor, Matamata-Piako District
 - Brendan Duffy, Independent Consultant and former Vice-President LGNZ
 - Justin Lester, Mayor, Wellington City
 - Jane Nees, Deputy Chair, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
 - Rachel Reese, Mayor, Nelson City
 - Local Government New Zealand:

- Lawrence Yule, President
 - Mike Reid, Principal Policy Advisor
- Local Government Commission:
 - Suzanne Doig, Chief Executive Officer
 - Donald Riezebos, Principal Advisor
- Local Government Officials:
 - Dennis Bush-King, Tasman District Council
 - Miranda Cross, Greater Wellington Regional Council
 - John O'Shaughnessy, Hastings District Council
- Central Government Officials
 - Deborah Brunning, Statistics New Zealand
 - Sarah Lineham, Office of the Auditor-General
 - James Stratford, Department of Internal Affairs
- Alistair Gray, Statistics Research Associates Limited

Legal requirements for the Authority when setting remuneration

5. The work of the Authority is governed by the Remuneration Authority Act 1977, which has had several amendments since it was first enacted. This act and the Local Government Act 2002 contain the statutory requirements which the Authority must follow when making determinations for local government elected members. They are summarised below:



Role of local government

6. In undertaking this review the Authority has looked at past thinking on local government remuneration. One particular document¹, issued by Local Government NZ in 1997, contained a thoughtful summary of the role of local government.

7. The document said:

“The strength of representative democracy ultimately depends on two factors. One is the level of citizen participation and trust in democratic institutions. The other is the ability and commitment of elected representatives and their role in encouraging participation and promoting levels of trust.

Local government constitutes one of the underpinning structures of democratic society, providing ‘voice and choice’ to citizens and communities, and the mechanism for making decisions about local needs and preferences. It also provides a forum to debate issues of mutual interest and concern.

Good local government depends upon the goodwill and understanding of its citizens, and the quality of its staff. Most of all, however, it depends on the ability of those elected to govern. Attracting people with the capacity to lead and govern at local level involves a number of factors. These include:

- *The opportunity to contribute effectively, be professionally valued and receive a sense of satisfaction at achieving a job well done*
- *The existence of structures and processes to support and professionally advise elected members and enable them to contribute constructively on matters of community importance*
- *The presence of consultative and participative arrangements that strengthen relationships between and with their communities*
- *The existence of a remuneration system that enables people from all sectors of the community to commit time and effort necessary to fulfil their responsibilities as elected members without being unduly disadvantaged.”*

8. In our view, this characterisation of local government has not changed since it was written twenty years ago.

¹ Options for Setting Elected Members’ Remuneration – A Discussion Document for Local Government and Stakeholders, prepared by the Local Government New Zealand Elected Members’ Remuneration Working Party (1997)

Part Two – Proposed Immediate Changes (2017 Determination)

Introduction

9. The Authority is seeking the views of local government (i.e. territorial authorities, unitary councils and regional councils) on the proposals set out below in this section of the paper. These changes will affect elected mayors, chairs and councillors from each council including Auckland. Part of it will also affect community board members.
10. Please note that we are seeking the views of councils, not of individual elected members or staff.
11. We would appreciate any feedback that councils wish to give to be emailed to us by **5pm Monday 19th June 2017** or earlier if you can. Please email to info@remauthority.govt.nz

RMA Plan hearing fees

12. Current practice is that those elected representatives who are undertaking resource consent hearings can receive an hourly fee which is determined three-yearly by the Authority and which is not included in the council's pool of money to cover payment for additional positions of responsibility. This has not applied to other hearings conducted under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Nor does it apply to hearings for a plethora of other plans or policies developed by councils under different pieces of legislation.
13. The Authority has received many enquiries and suggestions from councils on this issue. In particular, there is growing concern about the treatment of often-protracted hearings of District Plans, Regional Policy Statements and other land, air, coastal and water plans under the RMA.
14. We have looked at the range of council plans that involve hearings and believe that many of them could be considered part of "business as usual" for councillors.
15. However, of particular concern is that councillors who sit on RMA plan hearings are required to be accredited commissioners. This means that they must have undertaken *the Making Good Decisions* course and they must renew their credentials every three years. The requirements for councillors are in this respect the same as for non-councillor commissioners and there is a cost in both time and money to gain and maintain the accreditation.
16. Because of the technical and legal nature of plan hearings, they tend to take months and, in some cases, can span an election period. This is especially the case if the hearing covers a review of the whole plan.

17. The Authority is aware of the increasing trend for councils to engage external commissioners as members of the panel for these plan hearings. This use of external contractors is being driven by several considerations, including time requirements, unavailability of sufficient numbers of councillors who are qualified commissioners, or a view that because councillors have developed the plans as part of their core business, the hearings should be conducted by a different set of independent commissioners. External commissioners are paid an hourly rate for the work. In some cases, a council will use a mixed panel of external commissioners and councillors, which clearly creates a disparity between panel members.
18. Because of these factors, we agree that any such hearings should be treated in the same way as resource consent hearings under the RMA insofar as councillor remuneration is concerned.
19. The Authority is proposing that an hourly rate should be paid to councillors who are members of such hearing panels.
20. The rate would be set every three years by the Authority, as with payments for consent hearings. It will apply to site visits, reading (not to exceed the hearing time) and, in the case of an elected person chairing such a committee, the hourly rate would also cover the time spent in writing the decisions. For clarity, we also propose that this last provision be included for elected members who are chairing resource consent hearings.

- **Do you agree that elected members who are sitting on plan hearings under the RMA should be remunerated in the same way as elected members who are sitting on resource consent hearings?**
- **Do you agree that elected members who chair such hearings should be remunerated for time spent writing up decisions?**

Leave of absence for elected members and acting mayor/chair payments

21. From time to time a councillor or mayor/chair needs extended leave of absence from council work. This could be for personal reasons such as family/ parental leave, extended holiday, illness or, in some cases, when standing for another public office. On these occasions the Authority is asked whether or not a council can grant such leave and, if it involves a mayor or chair, whether an additional payment can be made to the person (generally the deputy) who is acting in place of the mayor/chair.

22. We have looked at the rules for governance boards in the state sector and adapted those rules for local government elected members. Rather than an ad hoc approach, we propose the following:

Councillors:

- Leave of absence can be granted for a period of up to six months (maximum) by formal resolution of the council.
- The leave must involve total absence. The councillor cannot be present for any duties either formal or informal – this includes council meetings, meetings with external parties and constituent work. Nor can the councillor speak publicly on behalf of the council or represent it on any issues.
- The councillor's remuneration and allowances ceases during the period for which leave of absence is granted.

Mayors/Chairs:

- Leave of absence can be granted for a period of up to six months (maximum) by formal resolution of the council.
- Notwithstanding the above, the period must be longer than a single cycle of council meetings, whether that be monthly or six weekly or whatever. This is because we consider that one of the key roles of a deputy mayor/chair is to cover for short absences by the mayor/chair, but that a longer absence would necessarily put an unexpected extended work burden on the deputy.
- The leave must involve total absence. The mayor/chair cannot be present for any duties either formal or informal – this includes council meetings, meetings with external parties and constituent work. Nor can the mayor/chair speak publicly on behalf of the council or represent it on any issues.
- The remuneration to mayor/chair ceases during the whole of the period for which leave of absence is granted.
- Allowances including a mayor/chair vehicle will also be unavailable during that period.
- The council may also resolve to appoint a councillor as acting mayor/chair for the whole of the period concerned, and may pay that appointee a sum up to the normal remuneration of the mayor/chair in place of the normal remuneration received by that person.

23. Councils may make decisions within these rules but must inform the Authority as soon as possible.

24. We have reflected on the proposed six-month period and consider that it would require exceptional circumstances for an absence of that period to be granted, especially to someone in a leadership position on a council. It would mean that the constituents who elected that person would be unrepresented or, under a multiple-member ward, less

represented, than would normally be the case. This would be an electoral risk that the person concerned would need to consider carefully.

25. A further issue is the extension of an acting role beyond the anticipated length of time – for example, if the incumbent were elected to another role and there needed to be a by-election. Under those circumstances, the acting role may need to be extended for a further period, perhaps up to three months. In that case, we advise that councils make a new, separate decision.

- **Do you agree that there should be provision for elected members to be granted up to six months leave of absence by councils? If not, what should be the maximum length of time?**
- **Do you agree that additional remuneration can be made to an acting mayor or chair under the circumstances outlined?**
- **If you disagree with any of the conditions, please state why.**
- **Are there any other conditions that should apply?**

Approach to expense policies

26. The current approach is for each council to send in their policy to the Authority every three years for approval. In between we often receive requests for assistance in interpreting the provisions in the determination. We are aware of the need for policies to be more transparent and for greater clarity in the explanatory notes, both in determination and on our website.
27. We have looked at many council expense policies and it is clear that some are struggling to develop them, possibly because small staff size does not provide any depth of expertise in this area. On the other hand, some policies are highly developed and contain clear guidance as to what is permitted and under what circumstances.
28. We are thus proposing that instead of each council needing to develop a policy from scratch and then gain approval from us, we work with local government to develop a prototype policy that could be adopted by all councils.
29. The metrics in such a prototype would obviously be the top (maximum) of the allowed range, so any council wanting to pay/reimburse less (or even nothing at all) would be free to do so.

30. With respect to the current role of the Authority in authorising or checking such policies, this is enabled by the legislation and has been required in our previous determinations. However, the Authority proposes that such compliance audits should be part of the role of local government auditors who should check council expenses policies to ensure conformity to the Determination. Auditors should also be assessing whether councils are actually following their own agreed policies in this area.

- **Do you agree that the Remuneration Authority should supply a prototype expenses policy that will cover all councils and that councils should be able to adopt any or all of it to the upper limit of the metrics within the policy?**
- **Do you agree that each council's auditor should review their policy and also the application of the policy?**

Provision of and allowances for information and communication technology and services

31. A communications allowance has been included in the determination since 2008, and was introduced to bring some equity across the country in the reimbursement of costs and the provision of such support to elected members.
32. The continuing development of information and communication technology (ICT) has led the Authority to reconsider the allowance. Our view is that elected members should not carry the costs of communicating with councils or with residents.
33. Mobile technology is now ubiquitous and so much business is now conducted digitally that mobile phones and tablets are considered tools of trade in many businesses, in both the private and public sectors. It is no longer considered to be a personal benefit for a person to have her/his basic technology integrated with that of the business.
34. The Authority's preferred approach in the past was that councils provided the necessary equipment, consumables and servicing, as well as reimbursement (on proof of expenditure) of other costs that might occur. However, there was also provision for hardware costs incurred by elected members to be partly reimbursed.
35. Given recent changes in both the business environment and in technology, we are now of the view that all councils should provide an appropriate council-owned technology suite for their elected members. The two exceptions to this are payment for the use of broadband, which can vary greatly depending on the nature of the household of the elected member, and payment for phone usage.

36. The complexities of ensuring that security is kept up to date mean that elected members are likely to find it increasingly difficult to manage the technical demands of being part of a larger organisation, which may have more stringent standards than they would have for their own personal technology. For the councils, there should be a major benefit in having all elected members using identical technology and systems, managed efficiently and effectively by the council's ICT officials. Councils often have complex software driving different parts of their systems (e.g. water plants) and possess large databases of residents and ratepayers. Managing these systems in a robust way and decreasing the possibility of cyber-attack is a challenge and will be assisted if there are fewer different entry points into the main system. This is also a protection for both the council and for residents/ratepayers who may have privacy concerns.

ICT hardware

37. It is the responsibility of each council to decide the communications equipment needed to carry out its business effectively and efficiently. Decisions about equipment for individual councillors should flow from that. We note that councils should be able to get good purchasing leverage on equipment and on usage plans to keep costs down.
38. We propose that councils provide all elected members with the following equipment:
- a mobile phone
 - a tablet or laptop
 - a monitor and keyboard if required, plus the hardware to connect the various pieces of equipment
 - a printer
 - a connection to the internet.
39. Consumables such as paper and ink should also be supplied by the council as required by the elected member.
40. In the past, there has been a desire by some elected members to utilise their own communication equipment to undertake council business, possibly because of unwillingness to segregate personal and council usage on the same device. Now it is commonplace for people to have more than one account on one computer, so the issue of carrying round an additional tablet should no longer apply.
41. Equipment would remain the property of the council and be replaced or updated as part of the council's asset renewal programme – presumably triennially. This would allow councils to obtain the advantages of bulk purchase and ensure maximum efficiency by providing equipment that is consistent across the organisation, fit for purpose and adequately protected to provide security and privacy for ratepayers, elected members and staff.
42. Where there is a strong reason for the council not to supply the technology, the Authority would need to make a decision allowing that council to put in place a reimbursement

system. We note that there is a cost in time and money to all parties in managing such a system and it would have the inherent technology security weaknesses described above. In such cases, exceptional circumstances would need to exist before the Authority was prepared to move to a reimbursement system. In addition, in the interests of efficiency, the reimbursement system would need to apply to the whole council, not just to a few councillors.

43. Where council decided to provide an allowance for the use of personal ICT hardware, it should cover all ICT equipment used by members and the Authority would prescribe an upper limit for expenditure. This would represent three years' depreciation on the hardware (mobile phone, tablet/laptop, printer, monitor, keyboard, installation of an internet connection) plus an assumption that half the usage would be on council business. The allowance can be paid monthly or at the beginning of a triennium.

Internet usage and phone plans

44. Previously the Authority considered the extent to which the costs of data and phone use were apportioned between council and elected member. This can be complex and will reflect differing household usage as well as council usage. For example, in a household which already has personal usage close to their broadband cap, the increased traffic required to move to electronic board papers may require an increase in monthly band usage, even though the data transmitted is modest compared to other internet and electronic traffic.
45. With regard to home broadband, we propose that elected members should be responsible for their own plan. The Authority previously determined that no more than 25% of the usage charges could be regarded as bona fide additional costs incurred by an elected member in carrying out council business. We accept that this is still the case but note that there is now a huge variety and combination of plans available for home broadband, so arriving at an "average" is simply not possible. We therefore propose that councils continue to reimburse up to 25% of a maximum dollar amount to each elected member to cover internet usage costs, on production of receipts. The Authority would review the percentage and the maximum amount every three years.
46. The use of mobile phones as a primary form of communication is increasing exponentially. Alongside this is a proliferation of different types of plans for mobile phones, paralleling what is happening in home broadband connections. The difference between home internet use and phone use is that for the home broadband, anyone else in the household can access the internet connection, whereas a phone is a personal device. We therefore consider that, except for mayors and chairs, elected members should receive reimbursement of up to half the cost of their personal mobile phone usage up to a maximum dollar amount, on production of receipts. If the council owns the plan, the same rule would apply as for home broadband use - the council would pay for half the annual usage cost with a capped dollar amount and the elected member would need to reimburse

the council for the rest. Elected members would be charged for all private international calls.

47. For mayors and chairs the council should cover the total cost of the plan, except that the user will be charged for private international calls.

Unusual circumstances

48. Over the years the Authority has occasionally been approached to cover the one-off costs of providing connection access or non-standard equipment where regular landline or mobile coverage is not available. We propose to continue the current policy, which is that where such circumstances exist, the council may put a costed recommendation to the Authority for approval to make a one-off payment for installation and either a reimbursement or allowance for on-going maintenance and support reflecting the costs involved. It is anticipated this allowance will normally reflect no more than 75% of the costs involved.

- **Do you agree that it should be common policy for councils to provide the ICT hardware proposed above for all elected members?**
- **Do you agree that exemptions to this policy would be limited to exceptional circumstances?**
- **Do you agree that a proportion of the ongoing cost of the use of home internet and personal mobile phones should be reimbursed as outlined above?**
- **If you disagree with either of these proposals, please give reasons and outline your alternatives.**
- **Do you agree with the “unusual circumstance” provision in para 49 above?**

Travel time allowance

49. We do not propose to make any changes to the approach on travel time allowances. This provides for all elected members who are not full time to be eligible for an hourly allowance when travelling on business for the council or community board in respect of any travel exceeding an hour and assuming the fastest form of transport. The rate is set by the Authority and is reviewed each three years.

- **Do you agree that the current policy on travel time allowance should be continued?**
- **If not, please state reasons for change.**

Mileage claims

50. About two thirds of all mayors/chairs take up their entitlement to have a dedicated vehicle provided for them by the council. Others choose to use their own vehicle for a variety of reasons but often, we understand, because of a belief that their constituents will not approve of them having the “perk” of a council vehicle. Our view is that for mayors/chairs, who normally travel great distances each year, the car is a “tool of trade” and an entitlement rather than a “perk”. In any other occupation, people who travelled the distances clocked up by most mayors/chairs would be provided with a company car rather than having to use their own.
51. We have checked the distances travelled annually by mayors/chairs. The average and the median are both around 22,000 to 23,000km a year. Unsurprisingly the distances vary greatly – from 35,000km down to a few thousand – though we wonder if the lower level reflects the fact that some who use their own vehicles claim very little. In fact at least three make no claims whatsoever.
52. Currently we utilise NZ Automobile Association metrics regarding the cost of running a vehicle and we use IRD formula for mileage rate reimbursement. We propose to continue to use these benchmarks, which will be updated as appropriate. The one exception is that in recognition of the fact that mayors/chairs using their private vehicles are likely to be in the medium/high group of users of their own cars for work purposes, we propose to alter the formula around the application of the higher and lower IRD rates.
53. At present the higher rate (currently 74 cents per km) applies to the first 5000km travelled on council business and the remaining distance on council business is reimbursed at a rate of 37 cents per km. We propose that above that first 5000km, which would act as a base, mayors/chairs using their own vehicles should be reimbursed at the higher rate for the first 25% of the remaining distance they travel on council business.
54. We have no data about councillor use of personal vehicles on council business and we assume that distances travelled would normally be less than that of a mayor - but not always, especially in the case of a “distant” ward. Regardless, we propose that the formula outlined above also applies to councillor travel reimbursement.

- **Do you agree with the proposed change to the current 5000km rule?**
- **If not, what should it be and why?**

55. The other issue which we are frequently asked to clarify is the “30km rule”. We propose to keep this approach. Basically it recognises that virtually all New Zealanders have to pay the cost of their own transport to and from their work place. However, elected members also have other work in other places. The 30 km rule is based on an assessment that most people would live within 15 km of their work place. That means that a “round trip” to and from the “work place” – i.e. the normal council meeting place – can be claimed only if it is above 30km. If the trip to and from the council’s normal meeting place is above 30km, the first 30km are always deducted. This means that if an elected member lives closer than 15km, then no claim can be made for attending a meeting at the council office. If a member must come to the office twice in one day, if she/he is not simply taking the opportunity to go home for lunch, then the whole of the distance for the second trip may be claimed. This assumes that most workers travel to and from work only once per day, but recognises that elected members may have a formal meeting, say in the morning, then another meeting much later in the afternoon. We expect common sense to prevail in councils when authorising such claims.

56. With regard to work of elected members outside of the normal council meeting place, the full mileage can be claimed. That means that the elected member may claim from her or his home to the address of the meeting or event and back again by the shortest route.

57. If an elected member has an additional place of residence (e.g. a holiday home) the primary place of residence, normally identified by being her/his address on the electoral role, will be considered the official residence.

58. If a council is holding one of its normal meetings in a different venue - for example in an outlying town - then the full mileage can be claimed. However, we expect common sense to prevail. If the exceptional meeting place is just down the road from the normal venue then the 30km rule would apply.

- **Do you agree with the proposal to retain the 30km rule in its current form?**
- **If not, what should this rule be?**

Mayor/chair car valuations

59. We do not propose to make any changes to the valuation of the mayor/chair motor vehicle at this stage. The formula is consistent with the methodologies applied to valuing motor vehicles for full private use in public sector roles. The Authority's formula goes one step further in that it recognises that a greater proportion of vehicle usage by a mayor/chair is spent on council business rather than on personal use.
60. The formula and associated variables used to value mayor/chair motor vehicles will be reviewed with the main determination triennially. Any changes will be applied in election year.

Annual changes in remuneration

61. The main local government determination will usually be applied in election year, then in the intervening two years we propose to change remuneration to reflect changes in the Labour Market Statistics (LMS) – (see Part Three for more details on the timetable).

Changes following an election

62. The Authority is aware that there has been some confusion in the past regarding the exact days on which payment ceases for outgoing elected representatives and commences for those who are newly elected, and around remuneration continuing for those who are re-elected.
63. The following outlines the legal situation:
- All newly elected and re-elected local government members come into office the day after the results are publicly notified under S.86 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
 - All sitting members vacate office on the same day.
 - In the case of an uncontested election the declaration must be made as soon as possible after the day the nominations close.

Part Three – Longer Term Proposals

Introduction

64. The Authority is seeking the views of local government (i.e. territorial authorities, unitary councils and regional councils) on the proposals set out below in this section of the paper. These changes will affect elected mayors, chairs and councillors, as well as community board members, from every council except Auckland. Later this year we will be issuing an additional consultation paper on the Auckland Council, following the completion of its governance review. However, we are proposing that the general principles outlined in this paper around council sizing should apply to Auckland.
65. Please note that we are seeking the views of councils, not of individual elected members or staff.
66. We would appreciate feedback to info@remauthority.govt.nz by Friday October 20th 2017. Please email to info@remauthority.govt.nz

Recent history of local government remuneration setting by the Authority

67. In late 2011 the Authority issued a discussion document - *Review of Local Authority Remuneration Setting*. This was followed in November 2012 by a further document - *Remuneration Setting Proposals for Local Authorities* - which outlined the system that the Authority was proposing to institute from the 2013 election. A copy of that document is attached as *Appendix 1*. It transpired that for a variety of reasons in the years 2014 to 2016 the Authority did not completely implement the proposed process. However, significant elements are in place. Importantly, the work which the Authority commissioned from the Hay Group in 2015 remains current in our view and has provided useful data to assist with our current considerations.
68. To assist with context, the main elements of the 2013 proposal are summarised below. They were:
- a) Moving away from the traditional salary/meeting fee mix for local government remuneration.
 - b) Creating a size index for councils derived from population and council expenditure.
 - c) Basing the remuneration for councillors/mayors/chairs on:
 - the relative place of the council in the size index;
 - the job size of the positions as assessed for sample councils;
 - the proportion of full time work as demonstrated by survey results;
 - the Authority's pay scale.
 - d) Providing a pool for each council equivalent to one councillor's remuneration to be allocated for additional positions of responsibility.

- e) Reviewing local government remuneration approximately two years after each election and setting the base remuneration for councillor and mayor/chair roles at the beginning of each election year, together with provision for changes in positions of responsibility within each council.
 - f) Recalculating annually each council's place on the size index and, in the following July determination, automatically applying any increase warranted, with the proviso that any reductions in the base remuneration would not be implemented during the term of that council.
 - g) Providing a loading of 12.5% for unitary council remuneration to recognise their additional regional responsibilities.
 - h) Retaining arrangements for resource consent hearings whereby elected members can be paid an hourly fee in addition to their base remuneration.
 - i) Requiring councils to confirm their expenses policies only in election year rather than annually.
 - j) Retaining valuation methodology for mayor/chair vehicles with adjustments made each year on July 1 to coincide with the determination.
 - k) Various changes to community board remuneration setting.
69. The new system was in place for the 2013 Determination in which the Authority made the following comment: *"Aware of its responsibility of fairness to both elected members and ratepayers, the Authority moderated both increases and decreases to smooth the transition to the new system"*.
70. In the 2014 Determination, the same comment was made with the additional comment that *"this approach was continued, with moderation to reflect wage growth, this year"*.
71. In 2015 the same comment was again made. However, in issuing that Determination the Authority said the following: *"The relationships between council size and remuneration, as well as any necessity for moderation of large increases or decreases, will be reassessed during the 2015/16 year ready for implementation at the time of the 2016 local body elections"*.
72. During 2015 the Authority reviewed the framework again, including job-sizing the positions of a representative group of councils and assessing workloads. In issuing its 2016 Determination the Authority made the following comment: *"The Authority found clear evidence regarding the size of positions but has less confidence in the evidence relating to workload. Given that uncertainty, the Authority has not proceeded to fully or partially implement increases that would in many cases have been well in excess of 10%. It has instead applied increases to the base remuneration payable to councillors ranging from 1.5% to 3% depending on the size of the council. This reflects at the higher level the movements in the public sector remuneration more generally."* The following comment was also made: *"The Authority is also concerned that the expectations placed on local representatives continue to increase and remuneration does not in all circumstances reflect the skill and effort required from members. It will therefore begin further work this year to*

establish an ongoing basis for remuneration that treats both the ratepayer and the elected member fairly”.

Rationale behind current proposal

73. While the legal requirements are set out above in paragraph 2 of Part One (above), the Authority members have also decided that these legal requirements (including attraction and retention of competent people) should be aimed at attracting a wide variety of competent people and balanced by the need to have a local government remuneration system that is accepted in the wider community. To enable this, we require a robust process that is as transparent as possible, intuitively plausible and sustainable for the foreseeable future.
74. We recognise that whether or not the level of financial reward matches the personal contribution of any elected member is not necessarily a significant determinant of the willingness of many people to stand for election. However, remuneration may be an issue for some, depending on personal circumstances, and it may also become an issue for an incumbent deciding whether or not to continue.
75. In considering this proposal, the Authority has decided to maintain a number of existing approaches. The principal ones are:
- a) Maintaining a “total remuneration” approach rather than meeting fees.
 - b) Using a size index to determine relativity between various councils.
 - c) Adopting a “pay scale” for local government that is fair and seen to be fair.
 - d) Reviewing the components of the council size index every three years and applying appropriate factors to territorial authorities and regional authorities.
 - e) Recognising that unitary councils have dual responsibilities and sizing them accordingly.

Council Sizing

76. Overview

We define council size as the accumulated demands on any council resulting from its accountability for its unique mix of functions, obligations, assets and citizenry. The size of councils varies considerably. The most obvious difference is in the size of population with the biggest council (Auckland) having 1,614,300 citizens and the smallest (the Chatham Islands) just 610 at the last census. Even outside of these two, there still a wide population range from Christchurch (375,000) to Kaikoura (3,740).

77. However, despite their differences, there are also many similarities between different councils and the roles of elected representatives.

78. All local government representatives have a basic workload that includes decision-making around local plans, policies and regulations; civic representation; assisting constituents; and

working with other organisations (public and private sector). Importantly, councils are also tasked with employing a chief executive and monitoring performance and delivery.

79. With regard to differences, as noted above, the starkest is in population, but even then there is not an exact connection between population and work load. We have taken account of several characteristics in addition to population to compare the size of each council. We are limited by the ready availability of information. However, with the information that is available, we have been able to use statistical methods to identify several factors that are significant influences on the workload of Councils.
80. We can identify councils that are most likely to be comparable in size, despite differences in what brings this about. Such comparisons can never be exact, because amongst all the councils there are influences on their size that are either unique or unable to be quantified using existing evidence. The analytical approach taken this year by the Authority will be further developed whenever the information base is able to reflect such situations.
81. We considered a variety of factors that could be used for sizing councils and, after consultation and further analysis, we are proposing several factors, with some differences between territorial authorities and regional/unitary councils. The indicators for each factor came from official statistics and departmental reports, and they were analysed by standard statistical methods which enabled the variety of demands on councils from different sources to be compared and accumulated. The initial list of factors and the modelling was identified with a representative group of elected local authority leaders, and then developed further by the Authority.
82. The strong direct effects on size from population, assets and operational expenditure were modified by differences in guest night stays, social deprivation levels and physical size.

Factors proposed to be used in sizing

83. Territorial authorities:

- a) **Population.** This factor not only determines the scale of services that a council will provide, but also the rating base by which activities are funded. Population is most likely to be the indicator that most New Zealanders would use when asked to distinguish between various councils. The statistics we are using are the most recent population estimates by Statistics New Zealand.
- b) **Operational expenditure.** In many cases, operational expenditure correlates with population, but there are also some differences - in particular when a council may be in the midst of a specific expansion programme in a particular area of activity. Our data is taken from the annual accounts of councils.
- c) **Asset size.** This represents the capital base of the council that the council is required to manage, providing essential service such as water, wastewater, roads and flood protection, and also social infrastructure. One of the challenges in asset management is to ensure that assets do not lose value. In recent years there has been greater focus on asset management in the sector, requiring (if it is undertaken rigorously) a higher degree

of attention to detail on the part of elected members, not just the asset managers in the organisation. The data on asset size is also extracted from the consolidated annual accounts of councils and includes the value of their council controlled organisations (CCOs).

We acknowledge that there are different degrees of assets held by local government. Some have highly commercial assets with commercial boards comprising directors selected for their relevant competencies and business experience. Others have land holdings that are long-term and more “passive” investments. Others again are assets such as ports which although highly commercial and competitive are often also strategic assets for their local government owners.

There are also different degrees of oversight. Some councils are extremely “hands on” with their assets and others are more arms-length in their relationships, particularly with CCOs. We recognise that whatever measure of asset size is used, its relevance will differ somewhat among councils to a greater extent than is likely with other factors.

- d) **Social deprivation.** This measures the differences between councils in their need to take account of economic disadvantage among citizens. We recognise that in many council districts the high level of social deprivation in some areas is counterbalanced by a higher economic status in others. However, we believe there are some councils that do not have this balance and that, given the reliance of many councils on rates income, for those councils a high level of social deprivation will have a significant impact. Data is drawn from the third quartile of the NZDEP index prepared from the last population census.
- e) **Number of guest nights.** This represents the demands on councils (e.g. infrastructure development and service provision) resulting from visitors. We recognise that this is a current issue which may in future years be resolved and that it is but one sector in New Zealand’s economy which is of concern to local government. However, it has been raised with us on many occasions and we believe it is relevant to allow for such demands being faced by council at present. It may be that it is replaced by another factor in future years. For this factor we use the Monthly Accommodation Survey of Statistics New Zealand. We were unable to find any data on visitors who may pass through a district and use facilities but not stay overnight, or on the current vexed issue of freedom campers.

84. Regional councils:

Although all councils (territorial, regional and unitary) have a power of general competence, the legal responsibilities of regional councils and unitary councils differ from those of territorial authorities. The breadth of their mandate in national legal instruments (such as the Resource Management Act) requires regional and unitary councils to operate at a different scale from that of territorial authorities, especially in their focus on regulating and managing land and water. For example, regional and unitary councils must develop and administer Regional Plans and Unitary Plans, and territorial authorities must give effect to these plans, which drives behaviour around issues such as water quality (i.e. storm water

and waste water). In contrast, regional councils do not have the significant focus on social issues that is required from either unitary or territorial councils. Hence **land size** is inherently important to the work of a regional or unitary council. In measuring size, we are proposing to eliminate the deprivation index factor for regional councils and add a land area factor.

85. Unitary councils:

For some years, the Authority has added a loading of 12.5% to account for the additional regional council responsibilities of the four smaller unitary councils – Gisborne, Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman. This did not include Auckland, even though it is also a unitary council, because the remuneration for Auckland was considered separately when it was set up.

We are uncertain as to the basis for the 12.5%, and are thus proposing that this loading now be removed and that instead the size of these four unitary councils be measured by both the regional and the territorial authority factors. Thus the factors by which we measure the size of unitary councils would include both land area and social deprivation.

The Authority believes that with the additional regional council factor of land area included, this is a fairer way of sizing unitary councils.

With regard to the proposed factors to be used for sizing councils

- **Are there significant influences on council size that are not recognised by the factors identified?**
- **Are there any factors that we have identified that you believe should not be used and why?**
- **When measuring council assets, do you support the inclusion of all council assets, including those commercial companies that are operated by boards?**
- **If not, how should the Authority distinguish between different classes of assets?**

Weighting

86. The weight given to each factor was assessed intuitively by the Local Government Advisory Group, drawing on their knowledge and experience. These weights were then further refined by formal statistical analysis. The Authority has not yet completed this part of the exercise and, before we do, we would like to hear views on the proposed factors. Nevertheless, in our work to date, the following “order of magnitude” listing indicates what

we consider to be the relative importance of the various factors in determining size. They are listed here in terms of our current view of the highest to lowest influence on size.

87. Territorial authorities:

- Population; operational expenditure
- Assets
- Deprivation index; visitor nights

88. Regional councils:

- Operational expenditure; geographic size
- Assets; population
- Visitor nights

89. Unitary authorities:

- Population; operational expenditure; geographic size
- Assets
- Deprivation index; visitor nights

90. When the weighting exercise is completed, the size of each council estimated in this way will become the size index.

- **Are you aware of evidence that would support or challenge the relativity of the factors for each type of council?**
- **If you believe other factors should be taken into account, where would they sit relative to others?**

Mayor/chair remuneration

91. The work that the Authority commissioned from the HayGroup in 2015 included a review and evaluation of the roles of mayor, regional council chair, committee chair and councillor across 20 councils.

92. The evidence reported by Hay was that mayor and regional council chair roles generally require a full-time commitment, though this is not true in absolutely all cases. Even in smaller authorities where the mayor's role may not be full time, the nature of the job means that it is usually difficult to get another job to supplement what might not be a fulltime income. From the knowledge of members of the Authority and advice from a range of participants in local government, including the Advisory Panel, the Authority accepts that mayors/chairs are full time and we propose that mayor/chair remuneration be determined on this basis.

93. We are also proposing that there should be a “base pay” for all mayors/chairs. Additional remuneration would then be on top of this, depending on the size of the council.

- **Should mayor/chair roles should be treated as full time?**
- **If not, how should they be treated?**
- **Should there be a “base” remuneration level for all mayors/chairs, with additional remuneration added according to the size of the council?**
- **If so, what should determine this “base remuneration”?**

Councillor remuneration

94. The relativity between mayor/chair and councillors is somewhat more difficult to determine and we note that in 2015 the Authority suggested that although there was evidence about the size of positions, there was less evidence about workload.

95. We are aware that there are clear differences in both the job size and the workload of councillors on different councils for a several reasons. There can also be significant differences in workloads of councillors within a single council. The influences on a councillor workload obviously include measurable factors such as population and the other indicators we have outlined above in paragraph 5, as well as the number of councillors, which varies from council to council.

96. However, other influences include current issues within a council area and individual councillor interest in or affiliation to different interest groups. The latter also applies to workload differences amongst councillors on a single council, as does the appetite for work amongst different councillors. The Authority is not able to take account of such differences in our determinations. Nor are we able to provide for “performance pay”. This means that on any single council the remuneration of the hardest working councillor will be the same as that of the lowest contributor.

97. Having looked carefully at the sizing factors, and discussed mayor/chair and councillor relativity with a variety of people, we have formed a view that we are unable to accommodate the differences between councillors on different councils with sufficient granularity to have a single national approach. The large metropolitan councils, for example, seem to have a higher councillor workload than of smaller rural and provincial councils, though this is not a universal rule. Additionally, there are differences between

similar sized councils which are addressed at council level by the allocation of committee and portfolio responsibilities.

98. We are also conscious of the discrepancies amongst councils in the current relationships between councillor remuneration and that of the mayor/chair. The range is from 54% down to 21%, and in some cases the proportion appears to be arbitrary. Discrepancies are also evident where councils of similar size (population) show variances of up to 10% in the ratio between councillors and mayors/chairs remuneration. Some of this may be historical - the legacy of previous approaches - or the result of councils having decreased or increased the number of councillors over time.
99. The Authority is looking at a new approach that, while providing a fiscal framework, would put the decisions round the details of councillor remuneration into the hands of the local council, which we believe is better able to understand and reflect community needs than we are on a national basis.
100. We are looking at setting a total “governance/representation pool” that each council would distribute. The pool would be linked to the size of the council and thus be irrespective of the number of elected members. Because we are now proposing formally that all mayor/chair roles be considered full time, the Authority would be in a position to set the salary for that position. Thus the mayor/chair remuneration would be separately allocated by the Authority, but included in the governance/representation pool allocated to each council. However, all other positions – councillors, deputy mayor/chair, chairs of committees, portfolio holders etc and community board members – would be allocated from its own pool by each council.
101. The pool proposal was included as one alternative in the 1997 LGNZ consultation paper, albeit the remuneration framework then was very different from how it has evolved today.
102. The advantages of this approach are that it focusses on the total governance and representation cost for each council (minus the mayor/chair) and that it allows each council to decide its own councillor and community board remuneration levels, including for positions of responsibility, reflecting its priorities for the current triennium. The total pool would be relative to the size of the council rather than to the number of elected members. Consequentially, if a council wished to increase its numbers via a representation review, and thus spread the workload, the allocated pool would need to be spread amongst more people. The reverse would also apply. It should be noted that if the workload for the whole council increased because of a change in the metrics of any factor(s) by which the council is sized, then the council would move to a higher ranking on the scale which would provide overall higher total remuneration pool.
103. The disadvantage is that no council is necessarily the master of its own destiny in terms of numbers of councillors. It must convince the Local Government Commission of the need to increase or decrease numbers. However, we do note that where representation changes reflect changes in what we call the “size” of the council (as described above in para 77-91),

any changes should also be reflected in the remuneration pool available to the council so there would then be a direct connection.

104. The pool approach provides councils with the flexibility to provide differences in positions of responsibility in a nuanced way. Because each council varies in terms of its committee/portfolio structure, this is an area where councils need discretion to decide. Current practice is for the Authority to set the councillor remuneration for each council, then to provide each council a “pool” equivalent to twice the base remuneration of one of its councillors to allocate to those undertaking specific positions of responsibility. These may include deputy mayor, committee chair, portfolio holder or other specifically designated roles. We have had no significant advice that the size of this extra pool is inadequate. However, we are aware that the provisions are applied in slightly different ways by different councils and that there are some councils that find the current provisions restrictive.

105. For example, there has been some confusion in the past as to whether every single councillor on a council can receive part of this additional pool by being allocated a position of responsibility. Generally, the Authority has not agreed to this when the council has proposed sharing the additional pool equally because this has simply amounted to a pay-rise for all councillors to move them above the level applied in the Determination. However, we have had enquiries about this and also observed current practice.

106. We propose that under the new regime (i.e. a total governance/representation pool for each council) the following rules should apply:

- a) All roles and remuneration levels will need to be agreed by formal resolution of the council, with a 75% majority.
- b) A remuneration rate must be set for the base councillor role
- c) The council needs to have a formal written role description for each additional position of responsibility above that of the base councillor role.
- d) The Authority will expect that any such roles within a council will have different levels of additional remuneration, depending on the nature and workload involved. In particular this needs to apply where every single councillor is allocated an additional position (as distinct from a more usual practice of having a deputy mayor/chair and a handful of committee chairs).

- **Should councillor remuneration be decided by each council within the parameters of a governance/representation pool allocated to each council by the Remuneration Authority?**
- **If so, should each additional position of responsibility, above a base councillor role, require a formal role description?**

- **Should each council be required to gain a 75% majority vote to determine the allocation of remuneration across all its positions?**

107. We also note that elected members are increasingly being appointed to represent their council on various outside committees and bodies. We propose that if any council wishes to do so, such appointments can also be captured under the process outlined above.

- **Should external representation roles be able to be remunerated in a similar way to council positions of responsibility?**

108. The issue of director's fees for elected members who are appointed to CCOs is a difficult one. On the one hand it could be said that a councillor sitting on a CCO is doing work that is similar to that of another councillor who may have a specified position of responsibility – or even less if the second councillor is, for example, a committee chair. However, the legal liabilities of CCO directors have become more onerous in recent years and may be more than those of elected members.

109. Those appointed as directors of CCOs need to be aware of the specific legislative duties and regulatory obligations that are imposed on them, in their capacity as directors, by the various acts, including the Local Government Act 2002, the Companies Act 1993, the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, the Charities Act 2005 and the Public Audit Act 2001.

110. It is not for the Authority to determine whether or not elected members should be directors of a CCO, but we do recognise the additional responsibility that is taken on in those cases and that it may require developing capabilities to meet obligations that are different from those required of other elected members. We also observe the increasing trend towards the appointment of external professional directors to such roles.

- **Do the additional demands placed on CCO board members make it fair for elected members appointed to such boards to receive the same director fees as are paid to other CCO board members?**

Community Board remuneration

111. We note that 40 councils (more than half the territorial authorities) have community boards. We also note that there is a huge variety in the nature of the work undertaken by community boards and in the powers delegated to them. Some undertake substantial and substantive governance work on behalf of the council, whereas others are more in the nature of community representatives and advocates.
112. We are also aware that in some places community board members are doing work that elsewhere might be undertaken by council officers. However, assuming that community boards are part of the governance/representation structure of a council, then this means that, all else being equal, the current cost of governance and representation for these councils could be relatively higher than that of councils which do not have them. Some councils fund the boards out of a targeted rate applied to the area that the board represents, whereas others use a general rate – i.e. the same as for funding the remuneration of councillors.
113. We suggest that if a council wishes to not cover remuneration for its community board members from the proposed governance/representation pool, then a targeted rate should apply to the area represented by the particular community board. However, councillors appointed to represent the council on the community board would be paid from the governance/representation pool.
114. We also consider that it is important that the functions undertaken by any community board are clearly and transparently defined by the council concerned and consider that all community board delegations should be by way of a formal council resolution.

- **Should community board remuneration always come out of the council governance/representation pool?**
- **If not, should it be funded by way of targeted rate on the community concerned?**
- **If not, what other transparent and fair mechanisms are there for funding the remuneration of community board members?**

A local government pay scale

115. Local government has no exact equivalent. The nearest that we have in New Zealand is central government, yet even that is not an exact match.

116. Section 2 of this paper sets out the legal requirements that the Authority is required to consider in making determinations. The first of those requires that the Authority “shall have regard in particular to the need to achieve and maintain fair relativity with remuneration received elsewhere”. This is particularly difficult in determining the remuneration for local government elected members because there is no obviously relevant comparator group. The Authority considered and rejected as inappropriate the following:

a) Local government senior managers’ salaries.

Information on local government management remuneration is readily available in market salary surveys and through councils’ annual reports. However employees of councils are selected for the knowledge, skills and experience they hold relative to the needs of the employment role. Elected members do not fit that profile at all. They are democratically chosen by the electors to represent the interests of the people of a particular area and provide governance over the council’s operations. There is no logical alignment that would connect the remuneration of the two groups.

b) Central government sector senior managers’ remuneration.

Information on public sector management remuneration is readily available in market salary surveys and the State Services Commission’s annual reports but this option suffers from exactly the same difficulties as option (a) above.

c) Remuneration of directors on boards, including public sector boards, commercial boards and large not-for-profit boards.

A significant part of the work of elected members consists of representational activities of one sort or another. Most boards of directors do not have this role. Those that do are often in the not-for-profit or NGO sector and, even there, the nature and time requirements of the representational work, including managing constituency issues, is different. Further, most boards are governing an enterprise that is essentially focused on a single group of goods or services within one industry, whereas councils have a significant array of services that are not necessarily similar in any manner – for example, providing building consents compared to social services.

117. Other aspects of local government elected roles which differ from the above are:

- The sheer “visibility” of the people involved, resulting in a lack of privacy. In some cases where the elected person is very high profile or important in a community, or when the community is very small, this is extreme and often their close family members are also impacted by this.
- This visibility is associated with the need for publicly elected representatives to “front” on difficult issues. This is less common amongst other boards members and

managers. When something goes wrong on a council the councillors and mayor/chair are held to account by the public, whereas on a board it would normally (though we recognise not always) be the CEO.

- The meeting requirements on local government are more onerous than they are in other sectors. The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and public expectation is that meetings will be held in public and that information behind decisions and actions will be readily available.
- Finally, and perhaps related to all the above, local government entities hold far more frequent meetings/workshops than do other governance boards and the distinction between governance and management is less clear than it is in most other models.

118. In the light of this, the Authority looked at a possible alignment with parliamentary remuneration for comparative purposes. Even though (as we note above) local government is not an exact match to central government, parliamentarians are also democratically elected to represent sections of the populace, and those who are members of the Government of the day also exercise governance over the public service. Within the parliamentary group there are different levels of remuneration between backbenchers, ministers and some other identifiable roles.

119. Given the obvious difference between central and local government elected members, any remuneration alignment could not be a direct one-on-one relationship. However, the nature of the roles is such that there are also similarities and this is the closest the Authority can find to “fair relativity with remuneration received elsewhere”. As in other areas of our work, this decision involved a degree of judgement – there is no exact science here and we would observe that the utility and value of any elected person is in the eye of the beholder.

120. We therefore propose that mayor/chair remuneration be related to that of MPs, but capped so that the highest remuneration for any individual mayor or chair cannot be more than that of a cabinet minister. All other mayor/chair roles would be provided with a relative alignment below that upper limit.

- **Is it appropriate for local government remuneration to be related to parliamentary remuneration, but taking account of differences in job sizes?**
- **If so, should that the relativity be capped so the incumbent in the biggest role in local government cannot receive more than a cabinet minister?**
- **If not, how should a local government pay scale be determined?**

Timetable

121. The current practice of the Authority – major three-yearly reviews with annual updating in non-review years – has been a sensible approach. We propose to continue it in the interests of efficiency and also to reflect the fact that the data we are using for sizing is not necessarily available annually.
122. In the intervening years, we propose that any change in local government remuneration reflect the change in the salary and wage rates for the public sector as shown in Statistics NZ’s Labour Market Statistics (LMS) which are produced quarterly. In 2014 the LMS replaced the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which was the mechanism chosen as the reference index when Parliament passed the Remuneration Authority (Members of Parliament Remuneration) Amendment Act 2015. Therefore, changes in MP remuneration are also tied to the change in salary and wage rates as published in the LMS. In addition to salary and wage rates, the LMS contain information on New Zealand’s official employment and unemployment statistics, number of filled jobs by industry group, total hours worked, levels of income, total gross earnings and paid hours, and average hourly rates by sector.
123. The cycle adopted by the Authority for setting local government remuneration will be as follows:
 - The first year of the cycle will be the local government election year. In that year the Authority will undertake a full review of council sizes, utilising the indicators described above. Prior to applying the result of the review, the Authority will apply the LMS changes to all local government remuneration, and the council sizing results will then be applied.
 - This determination will be issued on or about July 1 for implementation from the date the council formally takes office following the local government election later that year. At that time the Mayor/chair remuneration will be applied but the remuneration for all other positions to be decided out of the “governance/representation pool” will be applied on the day following the day on which the council formally resolves its remuneration policy for that triennium. Until then, from the day of assuming office, all councillors will be paid the base councillor remuneration that applied in the preceding triennium. The new determination will apply till the council ceases to formally hold office at the next local government election.
 - Meeting fees for RMA plan or consent hearings, as well as the parameters for expense reimbursement, will also be assessed at that time and any changes will apply to all councils at the same time as the remuneration changes.
 - In the subsequent two years, the determination will again be issued on or about July 1 but on these occasions for immediate implementation. For all councils, it will contain adjustments reflecting the change in the LMS. There will be no changes in plan or consent hearing fees or expenses policies at this time.

This consultation process from now on

124. This proposal is being circulated to all councils to obtain feedback on the approach. The Authority would need to receive any written feedback that councils wish to make by **30 October 2017**. We look forward to hearing from you.
125. For this year (2017) the Authority proposes to change remuneration according to the LMS change and we also propose to introduce the new provisions outlined in Section Two of this paper. All other changes would be introduced for the year 2019. This timetable allows time for councils to fully discuss the proposals and give us their responses. It allows us to then refine and test our final model for the “governance/representation pool” prior to implementation.
126. **We are conscious that 2019 is three years after the local government sector would have been expecting changes. However, with our proposal to change the model for sizing councils and to radically change the way councillor remuneration is decided, we believe that such a time period is justified.**

Agenda Memorandum

Date 8 May 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



Subject: Meeting Dates May-June 2017

Approved by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1858346

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification to Members of the next six-weekly round of Council meetings for 2017.

Meeting Dates

The six-weekly round of Council meetings for **May-June 2017** will be as follows:

Consents and Regulatory Committee	Tuesday 6 June 2017	9.30am
Policy and Planning Committee	Tuesday 6 June 2017	10.30am
Regional Transport Committee	Wednesday 14 June 2017	11.00am
Executive, Audit and Risk Committee	Monday 19 June 2017	10.00am
Ordinary Meeting	Tuesday 27 June 2017	10.30am

Joint Committee Meetings

Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee	Thursday 25 May 2017	10.30am
Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	Tuesday 20 June 2017	10.30am

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.