

Date 26 April 2022, 10.30am

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

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Members	Councillor	C L Littlewood	Committee Chairperson
	Councillor	M G Davey	
	Councillor	M J McDonald	
	Councillor	D H McIntyre	
	Councillor	C S Williamson	<i>zoom</i>
	Councillor	E D Van Der Leden	
	Councillor	M P Joyce	ex officio
Representative Members	Councillor	S Hitchcock	New Plymouth District Council <i>zoom first 15 minutes</i>
	Councillor	C Young	South Taranaki District Council
	Ms	B Bigham	Iwi Representative <i>zoom</i>
	Ms	L Tester	Iwi Representative
Attending	Mr	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
	Mr	A D McLay	Director - Resource Management
	Ms	A J Matthews	Director - Environment Quality
	Mr	D R Harrison	Director - Operations
	Mr	C Spurdle	Planning Manager
	Mr	N Bradley-Archer	Policy Analyst
	Mr	S Tamarapa	Iwi Communications Advisor
	Miss	J Mack	Governance Administrator
	Ms	V McKay	Science Manager <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	R Phipps	Science Manager <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	C Wadsworth	Strategy Lead <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	J Robinson	Science Advisor
	Ms	G Marcroft	Policy Analyst (<i>Item 7 & 8</i>)
	Ms	A Campbell	Planning Officer (<i>Item 7 & 8</i>)
	Ms	K Holland	Communications Adviser
	Ms	L Davidson	Executive Assistant
	Ms	C Robb	Happen Consulting <i>zoom</i>
	Mr	D Luke	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
	Ms	F Davey	Nga hapū o Orimupiko Marae
	Mr	J Davey	Nga hapū o Orimupiko Marae
			<i>Four members of the public</i>
			<i>Two members of the media on zoom</i>

Apologies Apologies were received and sustained from Councillor D N MacLeod , Councillor N W Walker, Councillor G Boyde, Mr P Muir (Federated Farmers) (Stratford District Council) and Mr P Moeahu (Iwi Representative - due to technical issues).

McIntyre/Van Der Leden

Notification Of Late Items There were no late items

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 15 March 2022

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 10.30am
- b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 5 April 2022.

McDonald/Young

Matters arising

- 1.1 Councillor C L Littlewood noted in the minutes (agenda item 3 - long term vision on FW), that there was detailed discussion on the struggles with community engagement and requested an action for officers to think how better engagement going forward could be achieved and reported back to the Committee

2. Freshwater Implementation Programme Update

- 2.1 Mr C Wadsworth, Strategy Lead - Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with a Freshwater implementation programme update.
- 2.2 Councillor D H McIntyre commented the E.coli component of the report noted that significant reduction is needed, and questioned whether this is achievable. Ms A Matthews, Director - Environment Quality, responded that this is currently being investigated.
- 2.3 Ms L Tester, Iwi Representative, sought clarification regarding ongoing work to set draft rules and whether this was taking place in partnership with iwi representatives? Mr C Wadsworth noted it was internal drafting given the tight timeframes. There will be collaboration with the new positions being recruited by iwi and funded by Council.
- 2.4 Councillor C L Littlewood referred to the social, culture and economic cost benefit analysis referred to within the update and asked when it would be completed. Mr C Wadsworth responded there will be background work required in that context which will determine when the work will be commissioned.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the update on the Freshwater implementation programme
Van Der Leden/Joyce

3. Essential Freshwater Implementation Review

- 3.1 Mr C Wadsworth, Strategy Lead - Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum to inform the Committee of the recent changes to the Essential Freshwater implementation and the review of that process by external consultants.
- 3.2 Ms Christina Robb, Happen Consulting, introduced herself and the review team and spoke to the circulated presentation.
- 3.3 Ms L Tester, Iwi Representative, asked what level of iwi engagement had occurred during the review given iwi are equal partners in this process. Ms Robb responded that to date it has been Taranaki Regional Council present at the review workshop as iwi had Covid response pressures that limited their availability.
- 3.4 Councillor C L Littlewood commented that the timeline to notify the plan had shifted out six months, and what the balance was between allocating more resources at this versus timeline challenges? Ms C Robb responded that there are only so many resources available, and everyone is up against the same resourcing pressures. She noted the Taranaki Regional Council has a good team and arrangements in place and suggested concentrating on getting the issues we know addressed and this review completed by 2024.
- 3.5 Ms B Bigham, Iwi Representative, asked if the plan will be presented to commissioners for adjudication and what capacity do we have to influence the makeup of that panel? Is there capacity for Taranaki iwi to reflect preference for panel members? Ms C Robb responded – yes, it is set out in the RMA, and one of the panel members is nominated by tangata whenua of the region.
- 3.6 Councillor C L Littlewood thanked Ms Robb for the presentation and attendance.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the Memorandum titled *Essential Freshwater Implementation Review*.
Joyce/Van Der Leden

4. Regional sector submission in response to proposed changes to the Environmental Reporting Act 2015

- 4.1 Ms A Matthews, Director - Environmental Quality, spoke to the memorandum to update Committee members on a recent submission by Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa in response to the Ministry for the Environment's proposed amendments to the Environmental Reporting Act 2015: *Te whakawhanake i te pūnaha rīpoata taiao o Aotearoa – Improving Aotearoa New Zealand's Environmental Reporting System*.
- 4.2 Ms A J Matthews, Director – Environment Quality advised the timeframes for the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) consultation and that an update would be provided to the Committee when MfE has received all submissions.

- 4.3 Councillor C L Littlewood, commented on the need to keep this Committee engaged in the process of sector and individual submissions and reporting those submissions back to this Committee. In response, Mr A D McLay noted the timeline for submissions was often very tight and where there were important local views the Council would compile its own submission or ensure these views were presented.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum '*Regional sector submission in response to proposed changes to the Environmental Reporting System*'
- b) notes the recommendations raised in the submission of Te Uru Kahika, a full copy of which is provided in Appendix C.

Young/McDonald

5. Regional sector submission on Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Green Paper

- 5.1 Ms A Matthews, Director - Environmental Quality, spoke to the memorandum to update Committee members on a recent submission by Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa, in response to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) *Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Green Paper*.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum '*Regional sector submission in response to proposed changes to the Environmental Reporting System*'
- b) notes the submission and recommendations of Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa in regard to the Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Green Paper, a copy of which is provided in Appendix B.

McDonald/Van Der Leden

6. State of Environment 2022 report

- 6.1 Ms A Matthews, Director - Environmental Quality, spoke to the memorandum to advise the Committee of the up-coming launch of the State of Environment 2022 report.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and endorses the proposed workshop with Councillors and Committee members on 7 June 2022
- b) notes the up-coming public release of the State of Environment 2022 report via the 28 June 2022 Ordinary Council meeting.

McDonald/Young

7. Responsibilities for kaimoana management and cultural practices

- 7.1 Mr A McLay, Director – Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum outlining which agencies manage kaimoana, the current state of the resource, and options for improved management. This item arises from Members’ interest at the committee meeting of 15 March 2022 asking officers to investigate the state of the resource and look at options going forward.
- 7.2 Mr S Tamarapa, Iwi Communications Advisor, gave a mihi to guests Fran Davey, Dion Luke, and other hapū members from Taranaki Iwi.
- 7.3 Ms F Davey spoke to the Committee, acknowledging the agenda memorandum. She outlined the reasons for the rāhui and the marked increase in visitors from out of region, and their excessive and unethical harvesting practices. Rāhui protects, preserves and allows for regeneration so they placed a rāhui as part of their customary fishing rights. A brochure was handed to Members for information. The delegation is planning a section 186a Fisheries Act application, to protect the resource. They intend to present this to the Minister of Fisheries in June. If the application is successful it would last for two years and could be extended, if the resource had not recovered. The group also requested support from the Council when the public submission period on their application opens.
- 7.4 Councillor Davey congratulated those present and supports the proposed application.
- 7.5 Councillor D H McIntyre asked if closing this area of coastline will move the problem to other areas. Ms F Davey responded that neighbouring hapū have aligned with them leaving a small section of coastline – but there could be an all of Taranaki coast rāhui.
- 7.6 Councillor E Van Der Leden queried whether there was use of any citizen science where kaitiaki are undertaking monitoring and data collection over the rāhui? Ms F Davey responded that it is planned during the two year closure to develop a management plan and undertake surveys. Schools have also been engaged in the area to complete surveys and monitoring.
- 7.7 Ms B Bigham, Iwi Representative noted in the report (page 220) a comment that there was no clear business case on pursuing the change to the Coastal Plan option and what moral responsibilities do we have? Mr A D McLay responded it was about the cost of the process and the most appropriate and effective legislation was the Fisheries Act.
- 7.8 Ms B Bigham, Iwi Representative requested the Council send a representative with the delegation presenting the Fisheries Act application. Councillor C L Littlewood agreed and asked officers to action.
- 7.9 Ms B Bigham, Iwi Representative, referred to page 223 of the report where surveys had been undertaken at six sites twice a year, and asked if this could be extended to include more data around kaimoana. Mr A D McLay referred to paragraph 30 of the agenda memorandum noting that the Council has monitoring expertise and will offer to continue discussion with iwi/hapū on monitoring methods and options.
- 7.10 Councillor S Hitchcock made comment that rāhui cannot be enforced by the Fisheries Officers and the officers don’t have a high community profile. Ms F Davey replied, a conversation is needed with MPI fisheries because often the public don’t understand the difference between law and the Treaty – which is also confusing to visitors. This is a new area for all to understand, requiring things like signage and communication between iwi and the community.
- 7.11 Councillor M P Joyce queried the likely timeframe for an application. Ms F Davey responded that there is communication happening with the Minister, but other coastal

areas in NZ were also under pressure and others potentially making applications. The length of coast included in a Taranaki application was being discussed by mana whenua.

- 7.12 Councillor D H McIntyre asked whether the rāhui and delegation facilitate the ability for taking of kaimoana for local people, or is it total prohibition? Ms F Davey responded that public submissions will determine any restrictions, noting that beaches can be impacted differently.
- 7.13 Mr Dion Luke – Environmental Lead for Te Korowai Trust then spoke to benefits of the temporary closure through the rāhui and noted fisheries officers numbers and effort needed to be increased to regulate kaimoana harvesting.
- 7.14 Councillor M J McDonald asked whether two years was long enough to allow regeneration of stocks? Any application should be based on scientific research.
- 7.15 Councillor S Hitchcock asked whether there was sufficient funding to enable effective monitoring to be undertaken? Mr Luke commented the Trust are looking at options now.
- 7.16 The Committee thanked the delegation.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memo entitled *Responsibilities for kaimoana management and cultural practices*
- b) notes the rāhui by the hapū to protect, preserve and allow for the kaimoana resource to recover
- c) notes the Fisheries Act is the most appropriate statute to apply to kaimoana management
- d) notes that once an application is made for a temporary closure, under the Fisheries Act, the Council will consider making a submission;
- e) determines that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- f) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Van Der Leden/Davey

8. New policy directions and the Treaty of Waitangi

- 8.1 Mr C Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum to update Members on the adoption of a Heads of Agreement between the Taranaki Regional Council and Iwi Authorities on facilitating iwi engagement on the development of a *Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki* (NRP), and summarising recent work undertaken in exploring the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and its application to the NRP development process.

- 8.2 Ms L Tester, Iwi Representative, congratulated the Council on the report and asked if the appointments were fixed term or permanent? Mr C Spurdle responded it was a 3 year agreement, noting this is a starting point to build upon.
- 8.3 Ms B Bigham, Iwi Representative also offered congratulations on implementing this initiative, noting that the language around iwi authorities and clarification could be confusing. Mr C Spurdle responded that the language is from the Resource Management Act but the new relationship will be more in the spirit rather than legal side of things.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum titled *New Policy Directions and the Treaty of Waitangi*
- b) notes the adoption of the Heads of Agreement
- c) notes Resource Management reforms propose to require councils to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi
- d) notes that, as part of the development of a proposed NRP, Council will be discussing with tangata whenua opportunities for giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi
- e) determines that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- f) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Joyce/McDonald

9. General Business

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, Councillor C L Littlewood, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed at 11.50am. The meeting closed with a karakia.

Confirmed

Policy and Planning

Chairperson: _____

C L Littlewood
7 June 2022