

MINUTES

Policy & Planning

Date: 10 June 2025

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

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Present:

B J Bigham	Chairperson
S W Hughes	
A L Jamieson	
D M Cram	(zoom)
C S Williamson	ex officio (left meeting at 1.08pm)
N W Walker	ex officio
B Haque	New Plymouth District Council (left meeting at 12.13pm)
C Filbee	South Taranaki District Council
M Ritai	Iwi Representative (zoom - left meeting at 11.45am)
E Bailey	Iwi Representative (zoom – left meeting at 1.58pm)
P Moeahu	Iwi Representative (left meeting at 11.53am)
L Gibbs	Federated Farmers

Attending:

S J Ruru	Chief Executive
A J Matthews	Director – Environment Quality
D Harrison	Director – Operations (left meeting at 1.21pm)
F Kiddle	Acting Director – Resource Management and Strategy lead
M Jones	Governance Administrator
L Hawkins	Policy Manager (zoom)
F Kumeroa	Scientist - Freshwater
F Jansma	Scientist – Water Quality
T Kleysen	Scientist - Freshwater
T McElroy	Manager – Science and Technology
J Reader	Communications and Engagement Manager
C Woollin	Communications Advisor
S Tamarapa	Pou Takawaenga - Relationship Facilitator
B Hutterd	Senior Policy Analyst (joined meeting at 11.48am)
G Marcroft	Senior Policy Analyst - Regional Planning Lead
A Smith	Science Communications Adviser (left meeting at 11.33am)
J Cookson	Programme Lead - Primary Industry
T Gordan	Programme Manager – Freshwater
H Goslin	Consultant
F Boyd	Consultant

15 members of the public in attendance. 12 left the meeting at 11.44am

The meeting opened at 10.30am.

Apologies: Were received and sustained from Councillor Littlewood, Councillor McIntyre and Councillor Boyde – Stratford District Council.

Bigham/Hughes

1. Deputation: Fiona Young – Protect our Moana Taranaki.

- 1.1 Fiona spoke in opposition of the matters of seabed mining and the fast-track process.

2. Deputation: D Ngāwera-Packer – Ngāti Ruanui

- 2.1 Debbie spoke in opposition of the fast-track process relating to seabed mining.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee:

- a) received the deputations from F Turner and D Ngāwera-Packer.

Bigham/Hughes

3. Confirmation of Minutes Policy and Planning 29 April 2025

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) took as read and confirmed the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held on 29 April 2025 at Taranaki Regional Council 47 Cloten Road Stratford
- b) noted the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

Bigham/Walker

4. Fast-track Approvals Act and Taranaki VTM Project

- 4.1 F Kiddle provided an overview of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and the Taranaki VTM Project to undertake iron sand extraction in the South Taranaki Bight.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- b) received this memorandum titled *Fast Track Approvals Act and Taranaki VTM Project*
- c) noted that if Council is deemed a relevant local authority, it will be asked to nominate a person to the decision-making panel for the Taranaki VTM Project application and provide comment on the application
- d) noted Council must approach the Taranaki VTM Project application without predetermination, focusing its comments on the regulatory tests after a robust assessment of the relevant documents
- e) noted that due to time constraints, some decisions may need to be consulted with the Policy & Planning Committee out of session via email, and either retrospectively endorsed or taken directly to Ordinary Council for a decision.

(L Gibbs abstained from the vote, stating that Federated Farmers has not formed a view on the Taranaki VTM Project)

Williamson/Hughes

5. State of the Environment Monitoring Report 2019-2024 and Marine and Coast Snapshot

- 5.1 A Matthews introduced J Valdes who provided an overview of the Rocky Shore State of the Environment monitoring report 2019-2024.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum Rocky Shore State of the Environment Monitoring Report 2019-2024 and Marine and Coast Snapshot
- b) noted the recommendations therein
- c) received the accompanying technical report and environmental snapshot.

Walker/Williamson

6. Investigating Drivers of Temporal Patterns in Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Metrics in Taranaki

- 6.1 A Matthews introduced F Kumeroa who gave an overview of the recent NIWA report - Investigating drivers of temporal patterns in freshwater macroinvertebrate metrics in *Taranaki* that was commissioned by Council.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum *Investigating Drivers of Temporal Patterns in Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Metrics in Taranaki* and the accompanying technical report
- b) noted the findings therein.

Walker/Williamson

7. Freshwater Implementation June Update

- 7.1 L Hawkins provided a freshwater Implementation update for June 2025.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the June 2025 update on the Freshwater Implementation Programme.

Williamson/Walker

8. Suspension of Standing Orders – Land and Freshwater Workshop items

- 8.1 S Ruru explained the need to suspend Standing Orders for the following agenda items:

- a. Freshwater Implementation Update
- b. Integrated Management
- c. Fish Passage Update
- d. Contaminated Land
- e. High Flow Harvesting
- f. Animal Effluent phase out report back

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the Suspension of Standing Orders - Freshwater Workshop items memorandum
- b) approved the suspension of Standing Orders 20.2, 20.5, 20.6, 20.8, 20.10, 20.11, 20.12, 20.13, 20.14, 20.15, 21, 24 and 25
- c) determined in accordance with Standing Order 3.5, that these standing orders should be suspended to facilitate more in-depth discussion between Committee members and officers in relation to the different policy options that might exist for a particular issue
- d) noted that the suspension of Standing Orders will end at the completion of the Animal Effluent phase out report back item
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- f) determined 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, determined 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.

Bigham/Filbee

9. Integrated Management – Draft Land and Freshwater Plan

- 9.1 L Hawkins outlined the purpose, structure and direction that is being navigated by staff in drafting the Integrated Management (IM) chapter of the draft Land and Freshwater Plan (LFWP).

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum title Integrated Management – draft land and freshwater plan.
- b) supported the direction set out in the memorandum, pending any changes in detail discussed during the workshop held during the meeting
- c) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) determined 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, determined 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.

Walker/Bailey

The meeting was adjourned at 12.28pm

The meeting reconvened at 12.55pm

10. Fish Passage Update

- 10.1 L Hawkins introduced B Hutterd and T Kleyzen who gave a PowerPoint presentation update on the work that has been completed to date in support of fish passage remediation throughout the region.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) supported the direction set out in Option 2 to refine the Draft Plan's management approach to instream works
- b) received the draft classification of desirable and undesirable species within Taranaki found in Appendix I
- c) noted that further engagement is required for the classification of desirable and undesirable species
- d) noted the work being taken to maintain, improve and remediate fish passage across the region
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002
- f) determined 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, determined 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.

Cram/Gibbs

11. Contaminated Land and Waste

- 11.1 L Hawkins introduced H Goslin and C McKenzie who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed framework to manage contaminated land and waste in the draft Freshwater Plan.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled – Contaminated Land and Waste
- b) supported the recommended direction to managing Contaminated Land and Waste set out in this paper
- c) noted that staff will engage with iwi Pou Taiao as part of the next phase of work, including discussions with the Wai Steering Group.

Filbee/Walker

12. High Flow Harvesting

- 12.1 F Boyd gave a PowerPoint presentation and sought support from the Committee for a preferred framework in managing high flow harvesting.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled – High flow harvesting
- b) supported the recommended direction for managing high flow harvesting set out in this paper
- c) noted that staff will continue to engage with iwi Pou Taiao as part of the next phase of work, including discussions with the Wai Steering Group.

E Bailey and C Filbee were not in support of recommendation b)

Jamieson/Hughes

13. Report Back on Proposed Dairy Effluent Management phase - Out

13.1 L Hawkins and F Boyd provided a further update on proposed dairy effluent management phase out options which included alternate phase-out options based off the feedback received from the 29 April 2025 Policy and Planning committee meeting.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum title Report back on proposed effluent phase-out; and
- b) supported the direction set out in the alternative option for phasing out existing discharges to water as described in this paper.

Bigham/Jamieson

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, B J Bigham, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed at 2.14pm.

Policy and Planning

Committee Chairperson: _____

B J Bigham