

**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)	
		Mrs	N West	(Policy Analyst)
		Mr	R Phipps	(Science Manager)
		Mrs	V McKay	(Science Manager)
		Mr	D West	(Environment Team Leader)
Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)		
Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)		
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

