
MINUTES
of the
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING
held
Thursday, 29 July 2021
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

- Present:** Cr D Wensley (Chair), Cr D Ogilvie (Deputy Chair), Mayor T King, Councillors S Bryant, C Butler, C Hill (via Zoom), B Dowler, K Maling, C Mackenzie, D McNamara, T Tuffnell, A Turley and T Walker
- In Attendance:** Environment and Planning Manager (D Bush-King), Executive Assistant to the Mayor (R Scherer) and Executive Support Officer (L Atkins)
- Part Attendance:** Team Leader – Environmental Health (D Winter), Compliance and Investigations Officer (N Green), Compliance and Investigations Officer (S Waters), Team Leader – Monitoring and Enforcement (C Cheeseman), Regulatory Manager (A Humphries), Communications Officer (D Palmer (via Zoom)), Senior Environmental Health Officer (T Waddington), Environmental Health Officer (D O’Grady), Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer (J Halsey), Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer (P Dempsey), Engineering Services Manager (R Kirby), Communications Officer (T O’Connell (via Zoom)), Administration Officer – Compliance (C Radbourne), Environmental Policy Manager (B Johnson) and Principal Planner (K Fletcher)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

Cr Wensley welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Councillor Hill to present the karakia.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Ogilvie/Cr Turley

RC21-07-1

That apologies from Councillor M Greening and for lateness from Mayor T King and Councillor S Bryant be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Ray Hellyer spoke about Option D to manage the cost overruns for the Waimea Community Dam. He also spoke about the current three waters reforms and asked the Council to consult with ratepayers on the proposed reforms.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 LATE ITEMS

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Maling/Cr Dowler

RC21-07-2

That the minutes of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on Thursday, 6 May 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Moved Deputy Mayor Bryant/Cr Mackenzie

RC21-07-3

That the confidential minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 3 March 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Wensley/Deputy Mayor Bryant

RC21-07-4

That the minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Moved Deputy Mayor Bryant/Cr Wensley

RC21-07-5

That the confidential minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Moved Deputy Mayor Bryant/Cr Wensley

RC21-07-6

That the minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Moved Deputy Mayor Bryant/Cr Wensley

RC21-07-7

That the confidential minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

7 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 REPORTS

8.1 Application to become a Recognised Agency for Verifying Food Businesses

Team Leader – Environmental Health, Daniel Winter and Regulatory Manager, Adrian Humphries presented the report which was taken as read.

Mr Winter confirmed that staff are seeking the Council's approval to proceed with a quality management system (QMS) to deliver national food safety programmes in Tasman District. He noted that Tasman District is one of 17 councils that don't currently approve national food safety programme under the QMS.

Mayor King joined the meeting at 9.39 am.

Mr Winter explained the current process which he said requires applicants to seek approvals through non-Council suppliers.

Responding to a question about a possible increase in staff numbers required to work on the QMS programme, Environment & Planning Manager, Dennis Bush-King said that the QMS programme work would be complementary to the work environmental health staff are currently carrying out and any need for additional staff would have to be cost-recoverable. He noted that staff will be monitoring the budget for this work to ensure it stays on budget.

Mr Humphries said that if there was no capacity to do the work, then staff won't do it. He noted that the aim of the programme was to allow businesses in the Tasman District to reduce their costs.

In response to questions about the cost-effectiveness of becoming accredited, Mr Bush-King said that staff are not expecting to gain a lot of work from this decision; the aim is to provide a choice for our clients but to ensure costs were recovered.

Mr Bush-King noted that staff will present a further report at the next Regulatory Committee meeting in response to the questions asked at today's meeting and including the charges and fees for this work.

Councillor Stuart Bryant arrived at 10.08 am

Moved Cr Turley/Cr Butler

RC21-07-8

That the Regulatory Committee:

- 1) receives the Application to Become a Recognised Agency for Verifying Food Businesses report, RRC21-07-1; and**
- 2) instructs staff to proceed with the development of a Quality Management System for food safety services and apply to the Ministry of Primary Industries to obtain recognised status for verifying National Programmes and template Food Control Plans (FCPs) outside Council exclusivity.**

CARRIED

8.2 2020-2021 Farm Dairy Effluent Compliance Survey

Mayor King left the meeting at 10.10 am

Team Leader – Compliance and Monitoring, Carl Cheeseman presented the report which was taken as read.

Several Councillors congratulated Compliance and Investigations Officer, Kat Bunting on a very thorough report and a great result for the dairy farming community in Tasman District. In particular Ms Bunting was praised for her attitude and her commitment to working with dairy farmers to help them manage their dairy effluent.

Responding to a question, Mr Cheeseman said that regional councils have agreed that dairy farms should be surveyed once every year. He noted that the farmers involved in the survey like the interaction and contact with our council and the relationships provide a lot of benefits. Ms Bunting is able to provide advice on technical aspects of dairy effluent management and also help farmers understand the implications of their farming operations on freshwater.

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Maling

RC21-07-9

That the Regulatory Committee receives the 2020-2021 Farm Dairy Effluent Compliance Survey RRC21-07-2

CARRIED

8.3 Annual District Wide Water Monitoring Report

Mr Cheeseman and Compliance and Investigation Officers, Jim Trembath and Neil Green presented the report which was taken as read.

The Councillors discussed the number of non-compliances noted in the report. Responding to a question, Mr Trembath noted that central government has directed councils that they cannot insist on water users having telemetry to provide regular reporting on water use. He also noted that a requirement for telemetry would require a change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan and result in added costs to the water user.

He also noted that the issue of capacity with the Council's IT systems to cope with the amount of data that would be sent to the Council if every water user had telemetry. Mr Bush-King said that he would report back to the Regulatory Committee on the options around enforcing telemetry for water users to provide their regular water readings and also how the Council can gain efficiencies on the current water use monitoring process including how we can increase

cost recovery in this area.

Moved Cr McNamara/Deputy Mayor Bryant

RC21-07-10

That the Regulatory Committee receives the Annual District Wide Water Monitoring Report RRC21-07-3.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am and resumed at 11:10 am.

8.4 Chair's Report

Councillor Wensley presented the Chair's report which was taken as read.

Mr Bush-King referred to a loophole within the Freedom Camping Act that allows a person to argue that they were resting for the purpose of avoiding driver fatigue while parked in a banned freedom camping area. Councillor Wensley noted that she had written to Ministers regarding how this loophole could be remedied.

Moved Cr Wensley/Cr Maling

RC21-07-11

That the Regulatory Committee receives the Chair's Report RRC21-07-4.

CARRIED

8.5 Environment and Planning Manager's Report

Mr Bush-King presented his report which was taken as read. Mr Bush-King tabled two documents:

- The Council's draft submission on the Natural and Built Environments Bill exposure draft; and
- An appendix to the annual report showing the level of consenting approvals in the District.

Mr Bush-King advised the Councillors that the draft submission on the Natural and Built Environments Bill exposure draft was due on 4 August 2021. He recommended that the resolution include an agreement for the final submission to be signed off by Councillors Wensley and Maling.

Referring to the appendix to the annual report, Mr Bush-King noted that there had been a 27% increase in the number of building consents for new dwellings in Tasman District Council over the 2020/2021 financial year from the 2019/2020 financial year.

Mr Bush-King spoke about the recent annual survey of customers who had sought a building or resource consent, a dog registration or an environmental health permit or licence during 2020/2021. He noted that overall levels of satisfaction had dropped especially in the resource consents area. He advised the Council that the resource consents team was short-staffed with five vacancies and the Council had not been able to supplement staff numbers with the use of more consultants. Consequently, the discounts on resource consent application charges was likely to increase.

Responding to a question, Mr Bush-King said that the shortage of staff in the planning and consents area was a nationwide problem. He noted two particular issues: that councils cannot compete with the salaries that are being offered by central government agencies as well as the cost of living in this region.

It was agreed that Councillor Wensley and Mr Bush-King would discuss options of how the Council might express its dissatisfaction with this situation to central government.

In response to a question about the Pakawau foreshore issue, Mr Bush-King confirmed that he would get an update for Councillors on the Pakawau residents group's current resource consent.

Mr Bush-King noted that staff are working on a submission to the Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development and he will include the submission in his next report to the Committee.

The Councillors discussed the requirements from central government for farm management plans. It was suggested that the demands from central government are placing more and more costs on farmers.

In response to a question, Mr Bush-King agreed that he would follow up with staff regarding an AED being provided on the Council's Harbourmaster boat "Sentinel".

Cr McNamara left the meeting at 12.05 pm

Mr Bush-King confirmed that he would provide a confidential report to the next Regulatory Committee meeting regarding the asbestos issue at a building in Motueka.

Moved Cr Butler/Cr Ogilvie

RC21-07-12

That the Regulatory Committee:

- 1. receives the Environment and Planning Manager's Report RC21-07-5; and**
- 2. endorses the draft submission the Exposure Draft on the Natural and Built Environments Act subject to Cr Wensley and Cr Maling having sign-off authority.**

CARRIED

9 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

Cr Hill presented the closing karaka and the meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: