
MINUTES
of the
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
held
9.30am, Thursday, 5 August 2021
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Deputy Mayor S Bryant (Chair), Cr C Mackenzie (Deputy Chair), Mayor T King, Crs D McNamara, C Butler, D Ogilvie, T Tuffnell, C Hill, A Turley, B Dowler, T Walker, K Maling, D Wensley

In Attendance: Group Manager Community Infrastructure (R Kirby), Programme Delivery Manager (R McGuigan), Transportation Manager (J McPherson), Waters and Wastes Manager (M Schruer), Acting Property Manager (R Cant) and Executive Assistant (L Turpie)

Part Attendance: Group Manager Service & Strategy (S Edwards), Reserves and Facilities Manager (R Hollier), Libraries Manager (G Coote), Community Relations Manager (C Choat), Community Partnerships Co-ordinator (Gary Alsop); Project Management Adviser (C Blythe), Senior Resource Scientist Freshwater & Estuarine Ecology (T James), Road Safety Co-ordinator (M Bell)

1 OPENING KARAKIA, WELCOME

Chairman Bryant opened the meeting and welcomed everyone attending.

Councillor Mackenzie presented the opening karakia.

Chief Executive, Janine Dowding introduced Tino Āpiha Whakahaere - Chief Operating Officer Leonie Rae to the committee and gave a background of her experience.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Rae.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Walker/Cr Turley

OC21-08-1

That apologies for lateness from Mayor King and absence from Cr Greening be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Martin Barlow spoke in support of the Mapua Waterfront Working Group Report and the presentation scheduled to be given by David Martin that morning. Mr Barlow thanked Reserves and Facilities Manager, Richard Hollier and Reserves Officer Stephen Richards for their contribution. He also acknowledged the keenness of the Councillors in their support of the Mapua waterfront particularly Councillor Turley.

Te Wehi Ratana spoke of his extreme disappointment at the Council's failure to support the Motueka community in keeping the trees on High Street, Motueka. The tree removal works was carried out by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency during the previous night. Mr Ratana was totally opposed to the removal of the trees which had taken many years to grow and were an important feature of Motueka. Mr Ratana did state his extreme disappointment despite a community survey indicating that 62% of the community wanted the trees to remain.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Moved Cr Wensley/Cr Mackenzie
OC21-08-2**

That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on Thursday, 24 June 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Nil.

8 PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Māpua Wharf

The Chairperson Māpua Waterfront Working Group, David Martin, gave a presentation relating to the Māpua Area Masterplan Work Group report (see attachment 4 of the agenda). Mr Martin gave background to the purpose of the working group and an overview of the Māpua waterfront features. Mr Martin spoke on his concern that the masterplan is significantly affected by the Council's decision to fund the proposed Māpua boat ramp in the Long Term Plan. Mr Martin gave an overview of the many features of the waterfront however he spoke of his disappointment at the neglect of the Grossi Point Reserve.

The Chairman thanked Mr Martin for his informative presentation.

8.2 Tasman Alliance – Recent Weather Events

Transportation Manager Jamie McPherson introduced Tasman Alliance Manager Drew Hayes, who made a presentation on the recent weather events that caused severe flooding and damage in the region. Mr Hayes spoke on some difficulty they experienced where drivers removed cones to drive through "road closed" areas.

In response to a question about Waka Kotahi emergency funding Mr McPherson responded that the damage caused by the weather events did meet the threshold for extra funding from Waka

Kotahi for the repair work to be undertaken.

The Councillors acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Alliance and the challenges they have faced during the recent weather events.

8.2 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency – National Land Transport Programme and SH60 Tākaka Hill Update

Emma Speight, Director Regional Relationships, Greater Wellington and Top of the South, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency gave two presentations.

National Land Transport Programme

Ms Speight spoke on the National Land Transport Programme and explained how the fund works and how project are funded through it. She explained the unusual situation that though there is more money than ever available it has become a tighter funding environment.

SH60 Tākaka Hill Update

Ms Speight spoke on the SH60 Tākaka Hill repair work. The repairs have responded well with the recent weather events. Night closures have been scheduled for 23 – 30 August. The programme timeline will see the road open to two lanes by end of December (subject to storm delays) and the project completed by February 2022.

Motueka High Street Update

Ms Speight gave an update on the works carried out on High Street, Motueka. All trees that were identified for removal have been removed and the next stage of widening and safety improvements on High Street and will now commence.

In response to a comment about the learnings of the Tākaka Hill repair work Ms Speight stated that all learnings were valuable and that emergency events and their recovery are all unpredictable. Their learnings gives Waka Kotahi the opportunity to look at contractual arrangements to share the risks and incentivise work to be completed within a reasonable timeframe.

In response to a question about funding sources Ms Speight stated that Waka Kotahi revenue is mainly through fuel excise duty and road user charges, currently neither rail nor coastal shipping are a funding source.

The Chairman thanked Ms Speight for her presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 11.01am and resumed at 11.17am.

9 REPORTS

Item - ROC21-08-3. Chairman's Report - has been moved to another part of the document.

9.2 Proposed Temporary Road Closure - PF Olsen Forest Harvesting

Road Safety Co-ordinator Megan Bell, presented the proposed temporary road closure report which was taken as read.

Moved Cr Dowler/Cr Mackenzie OC21-08-4

That the Operations Committee:

- 1. receives the Proposed Temporary Road Closure - PF Olsen Forest Harvesting ROC21-08-4; and**

2. **approves the temporary closure of Sherry River Road, from Monday 9 August 2021 to Friday 17 December 2021 from the forest entrance approximately 6.5km from Tadmor-Bushend Road, to approximately 7.0 km from Tadmor-Glenhope Road. The total length of closure is approximately 2.5km (refer map Attachment 1).**

CARRIED

9.3 Freshwater and Estuary Environments Enhancement Work 2018-21

Senior Resource Scientist Freshwater and Estuarine Ecology Trevor James, presented the Freshwater and Estuary Environments Enhancement work 2018-21 report which was taken as read. Mr James introduced to the committee new staff member Blair Reid, Project Manager – Wetland Restoration.

Mr James clarified the process of working in conjunction with the Rivers Team on tree selection for river edge plantings.

In response to a question on Te Kaukau Stream, Tākaka, Mr James clarified the works undertaken to remediate oxygen levels in the stream and the consultation undertaken with the residents.

The Chairman and committee members thanked Mr James on his presentation and obvious enthusiasm for his work.

**Moved Cr Tuffnell/Cr Wensley
OC21-08-5**

That the Operations Committee receives the Freshwater and Estuary Environments Enhancement Work 2018-21 ROC21-08-5.

CARRIED

9.4 Programme Management Office - Post COVID 19 Stimulus Funding Packages Progress Report

Project Management Adviser, Chris Blythe presented the Programme Management Office report which was taken as read.

In response to a question about the risks for projects Mr Blythe explained that the main risk was the securing of good employees as unemployment is very low and recruitment has proven tricky. Supply chain difficulty and inflation costs are also considered financial risks.

In response to a question about the confusion on the reporting of the hazardous tree programme Mr Blythe responded he would look into this and respond directly to the Councillors via email.

In response to a question about the Fresh Water Improvement Fund Mr Blythe explained that there was a detailed plan on the Council website on how this funding will be distributed.

**Moved Cr Mackenzie/Cr Maling
OC21-08-6**

That the Operations Committee receives the Programme Management Office - Post COVID 19 Stimulus Funding Packages Progress Report ROC21-08-6.

CARRIED

Cr Wensley left the meeting at 12.02pm.

9.5 Libraries, Community Partnerships and Communications Update Report

Libraries Manager, Glennis Coote spoke to the Libraries update report which was taken as read.

In response to a question about a possible café in the Motueka Library, Ms Coote stated that this has also been allowed for in the design of the new Motueka Library to be installed at a later date.

The Committee congratulated Ms Coote on the success of the pop-up library initiative.

Community Relations Manager, Chris Choat spoke to the Communications update report which was taken as read. He was pleased to report on the increased numbers of Antenna users.

In response to a comment on the helpfulness of the weather alert emails in preparing for severe weather events, Mr Choat stated that the Hydrology Team are responsible for this and he will pass onto them the praise received.

Community Partnerships Co-ordinator, Gary Alsop spoke to the Community Partnerships update report which was taken as read.

In response to a question on rescheduling the Greenways meeting to earlier, Mr Alsop said he would discuss this with the appropriate staff member.

In response to a question about finding out who was successful in attaining a Council grant Mr Alsop stated he would put a system in place that the names of the successful applicants be sent to Councillors for their information.

In response to a question about connectivity for the rural youth Mr Alsop stated this was driven by Age Concern and Volunteer Nelson, and that it was initially being established in the Nelson area first.

**Moved Cr Wensley/Cr Turley
OC21-08-7**

That the Operations Committee receives the Libraries, Community Partnerships and Communications Update Report ROC21-08-7.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.29pm and resumed at 12.56pm.

9.6 Community Infrastructure Group Activity Report

Group Manager – Community Infrastructure, Richard Kirby spoke to the Community Infrastructure Activity report which was taken as read. He explained that under the reorganisation the Parks and Reserves report will now appear in this section and he corrected an error in his report that Community Housing falls under Parks and Reserves and not Property Services as he had stated.

Mr Kirby stated he had completed a report to be presented at Full Council the following week on the three waters reform. In response to a question about opting in and out, Mr Kirby advised that the government timeline suggested Council make this decision in November/December this year. However before making a decision Council would need to have all the necessary information and fulfil its statutory responsibilities regarding public consultation. This would enable Council to make a fully informed decision.

In response to a question about Waka Kotahi funding for Council roads Mr Kirby stated that letters has been sent to the Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi Chief Executive. A case has been put forward that we require \$53 million to manage our network which is \$8 million more

then we have been allocated.

Acting Property Manager Robert Cant spoke to the Property Services report which was taken as read.

Reserves and Facilities Manager, Richard Hollier spoke to the Reserves and Facilities update report which was taken as read.

Mr Hollier stated his agreement that a letter of thanks be written to David Martin, recently retired Chairperson of the Māpua Waterfront Group, from the Operations Committee Chairman for his leadership of the group.

In response to a request of a summary of how many people are on waiting lists for council housing for the district, Mr Hollier responded he would send this out.

Waters and Wastes Manager, Mike Schruer spoke to the Waters and Wastes report which was taken as read.

In response to a question on managing resources for the recent river flooding events Mr Schruer explained that the team have been working with Taylor Contracting prioritising the river works. The rivers team have been proactive in meeting residents with damage on the River Z networks, suggesting options available to them for the repair work required.

In response to a question about gravel accumulation and if it exacerbated the recent flooding problems Mr Schruer replied that all planned extraction was completed prior to the rain event and that he was currently reviewing the gravel extraction totals.

Mayor King entered the meeting at 1.35pm.

Transportation Manager, Jamie McPherson spoke to the Transportation report which was taken as read.

In response to a question about the Ruskells Bridge collapse on Creighton Road Mr McPherson confirmed they were talking with the truck driver's insurer regards responsibility of repair costs.

In response to a suggestion that Mayor King take to the Local Government New Zealand forum that the funding received through fuel excise duty and road user charges should be put back into roading and not diverted to rail or ports, Mayor King responded he would be happy to do this. Further the Mayor stated he felt that Local Government New Zealand was aware of the frustration of the channelling of funding to the correct area.

In response to a question about Waka Kotahi funding for Council roads Mr Kirby stated that letters have been sent to the Minister of Transport and Waka Kotahi Chief Executive. As previously reported to the Committee, a case had been put forward for \$54 million to maintain and renew our network over three years 2021-24, and only \$45 million has been allocated by Waka Kotahi.

In response to a question about how prioritisation of the Waka Kotahi funding will be undertaken Mr McPherson stated that the confirmed amount of funding will be set by the end of August or early September, and the entire programme may need to be re-prioritized depending on funding from Waka Kotahi. This will then be brought back to the Council to finalise.

The meeting adjourned at 2pm and resumed at 2.16pm.

Crs Tuffnell and Dowler left the meeting at 2.16pm.

Programme Delivery Manager, Russell McGuigan spoke to the Programme Delivery report which was taken as read. He stated that the wet weather had affected some projects due to the high levels of ground water.

Moved Cr Mackenzie/Cr Ogilvie

OC21-08-8

That the Operations Committee receives the Community Infrastructure Group Activity Report ROC21-08-8.

CARRIED

9.1 Chairman's Report

Chairman Stuart Bryant presented his report which was taken as read.

In response to a question about the land ownership of the trees removed from Motueka High Street Mr Kirby responded that Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency own the carriageway and kerbing. We own and maintain the footpath and receive financial assistance from Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency for this.

Moved Cr Turley/Cr Wensley

OC21-08-3

That the Operations Committee receives the Chairman's Report ROC21-08-3.

CARRIED

Councillor Hill presented the closing karakia.

10 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil.

The meeting concluded at 2.31pm

Date Confirmed:

Chair: