

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.34 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, N. Clementson, S. Challenger (arrived 11.45), J. Douglas

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Davies and Mrs Robyn Roberts from DoC to the meeting. Mr Davies spoke of the new 45-kilometre Pike29 Memorial Track which will be constructed from Blackball to Punakaiki. The Great Walk track is to be constructed through the Paparoa National Park. He stated that the National Park will extend by 3971 hectares to include the Pike River area as a memorial to the 29 men killed in the 2010 mining disaster. The new track will include part of the existing Croesus Track and the Pororari River Track. Mr Davies stated that DoC has worked closely with the Pike River Families Group Committee and Government representatives throughout the development of this project with input from Grey District and Buller District Councils and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. He stated that The Committee is very supportive of the enduring memorial for the families who lost loved ones in the mining disaster and the economic benefit it will provide to the West Coast community. Mr Davies advised that the Great Walk will include an eight-kilometre side track to the Pike River Mine where there will be an information centre at the amenities area, and a discreet memorial at the mine portal. He stated that the new track will be to Great Walk standards and will include two new 20-bed huts on the Moonlight Range and in the Pororari Valley. This will be open to walkers and mountain bikers and will be a three day / two night walk and is designed to be two way. The project is funded by additional funding specifically for this project. Mr Davies stated that a feasibility study has been completed and DoC is currently in a detailed planning phase at the moment. He stated the resource consents will be sought in a few months' time. Mr Davies advised that the Pike and White Knight catchments have now been formally added to the Paparoa National Park. Mr Davies stated the track will be a dual track with both cycling and walking. He advised that all of Solid Energy's assets will be transferred to DoC. Mr Davies advised that DoC has now started community engagement and public engagement will go through to around June 2016 with a draft plan ready around this time. Formal hearings are scheduled for around July 2016 with approval hoped for around Christmas. Mr Davies stated that he is hopeful of work commencing in the summer of 2016 / 17. He stated that the huts will be built first in order to give workers a base to work from with six crews working to construct the track. Mrs Roberts spoke to the meeting and advised that the DoC notified their intention to review the Plan in November. She stated that since then a lot of planning and organisation work has been done. Public meetings will be held all around the West Coast with consultation going on for the next six weeks. She explained the consultation process to the meeting and stated that there has been a lot of good input from interested parties to date. Mr Davies confirmed that people will be able to drive to the mine portal if they wish. Cr Robb asked if the stand at the Reefton A&P Show was well received. Mrs Roberts advised that over 100 visited the stand with some people coming back several times. She advised that some people completed the online survey at this time and she felt that the day was a huge success and there was no negative feedback at all. Mr Davies advised

that it is estimated that there will be between 3,500 and 5000 walkers a year, this equates to 10,000 bed nights for visitors coming to the region to walk the track. He stated that the Great Walk Track will be built to the same standard as the Milford Track. Extensive discussion took place with Mr Davies and Mrs Roberts answering questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen thanked Mr Davies and Mrs Roberts for their presentation.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 November 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Crs Clementson and Archer asked if there has been any feedback from MfE regarding sea level rise and air quality in Reefton. Management confirmed there has not been any updates at this stage but the cost benefit analysis for air quality in Reefton was received last week. M. Meehan advised that the deadline of September 2016 to meet the current NES of three exceedances is still not achievable without making huge changes. He stated that other airsheds in New Zealand are unlikely to meet the NES as well and it is likely that the NES will change.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that it has been a fairly quiet period. He asked several questions.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and took it as read.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That this report be received.*

Carried

5.1.6 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that there have been two results that have gone into the medium – high risk category. He stated one was in the Taylorville Swimming Hole on the Grey River and the other in the Seven Mile Creek at Rapahoe.

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger) *That this report be received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that 19 non notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. He advised that three changes for reviews of consent conditions were granted and one notified and one limited notified resource consent was granted during the reporting period. C. Ingle reported that the hearing of submissions for Westland District Council's application for the Hokitika sewage oxidation ponds consent application will be held on 23 February.

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell) *that the February 2016 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that 113 site visits were made during the reporting period. He stated that 23 alluvial gold mining visits were carried out. 61 dairy farm inspections were carried out, 44 farms were compliant and 16 had minor non-compliant issues with one awaiting sample results. M. Meehan reported that one formal warning was issued and two abatement notices were issued during the reporting period. Cr Challenger commented that there seems to be quite a few mining work programmes coming in at the moment. M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors.

Moved (Robb / Challenger)

- 1. *That the February 2016 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. *That the joint bond for RC11230 & RC09084 is released.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

C. Ingle stated that there has been a Blue Skies document put out about New Zealand’s Resource Management System. This document has been put out by LGNZ with regard to the RMA which is now 25 years old. C. Ingle advised that he has been asked by LGNZ Policy Analyst to provide some feedback from a regional council point of view. He stated that this is looking at the Local Government Act, the Land Transport Management Act and the RMA and seeing if combining this into a single piece of legislation may work better, or not. C. Ingle stated the Biosecurity Act and Civil Defence legislation is also relevant. C. Ingle advised that feedback from regional councils is that the plan agility is the biggest problem at the moment. C. Ingle stated that he focussed his feedback on this area mainly. It was agreed that C. Ingle would inform LGNZ that the comments are from him and not those of the West Coast Regional Council.

The meeting closed at 12.24 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date