

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 4 October 2016, be confirmed as correct, with the addition of the comments made by Cr Ewen regarding the possibility of adding the words "Tai Poutini" to The West Coast Regional Council's name.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

Cr Archer asked G. McCormack for an update on the Okuru Enterprises resource consent application. G. McCormack advised that this consent application was processed as a non-notified consent and he would provide further information to Cr Archer after today's meeting.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT**

S. Jones spoke to this report and advised that submissions have now closed for the Land and Water Plan – Plan Change 1. She reported that 46 submissions were received, further submissions have now also closed and 26 further submissions were received. S. Jones reported that staff are now reviewing submissions, and a recommending report will be compiled.

S. Jones reported that the NPS on Urban Development Capacity has now been released. She advised that Council made a submission on this and the final version of the NPS is now on the MfE website. S. Jones advised that the NPS is primarily directed at the large urban centres.

S. Jones reported that the MfE has published a report on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement. She advised that the report does not make any recommendations but sets out what is currently happening around the country. S. Jones stated that Council was not consulted on this initially, but Compliance staff prepared comments late in the process. These were well received by MfE and MfE then made changes to the report which reflected the way this Council carries out compliance work.

S. Jones reported that this Council and Grey and Buller District Councils made a submission to the Productivity Commission on Better Urban Planning. She advised that the report date has been delayed to February 2017 due to the number of submissions made.

Cr Birchfield stated that he would like a copy of the MfE Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Report. S. Jones agreed to send the link to Cr Birchfield. She advised that this Council was not one of the participating Councils of the 13 councils originally involved. S. Jones stated that upon hearing of the project this Council become involved as there were not many smaller regional councils involved. Cr Archer asked when the hearings for the Land and Water Plan are likely to take place. S. Jones advised that hearings are expected to take place in the first half of next year.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT**

N. Costley spoke to this report. She advised 72 submissions were received in 2015, with 22 further submissions. N. Costley advised that over the last year staff have been working on a recommending report. She stated that prehearing meetings have been held with the key stakeholders over the past two months, which have been very useful in ironing out potential difficulties and understanding what the RPS is trying to achieve. N. Costley advised that Council is ensuring that the RPS is crafted for this region and represents the issues and pressures faced on the West Coast. N. Costley advised that the intention is to hold facilitated collaborative sessions with the key stakeholder to work through and resolve points raised by submitters to reach outcomes that are mutually agreeable and will reduce the risk of appeals being made after the decisions have been released. Cr Robb asked if the submitters have indicated whether or not they will participate in these sessions. N. Costley advised that those previously spoken to have indicated that this is a good idea and that they are keen to be involved. She advised that the sessions are scheduled for the second week of December and all parties that have been met with during the prehearing meetings will be invited to attend. Cr Robb stated that he agrees with the process but it does not guarantee that Council will get the outcome it is seeking but it will be good to try to get some common ground. M. Meehan advised that it is hoped that all parties involved will get together and engage and they will better understand what all parties involved are trying to achieve. He stated that this is a positive way to try to reduce appeals further down the line and to get parties that at the opposite end of the spectrum to get together prior to the hearings and to find middle ground. Cr Birchfield stated that he feels this is going to take too long. M. Meehan advised that optimistically hearings will be held in the first quarter of next year, recommending reports will then be put together, with decisions being notified by the middle of next year. Cr Birchfield stated that some parties will be very hard to satisfy. M. Meehan stated that he is hopeful that all parties will participate and will be willing to engage to come to a common way of thinking. Cr McDonnell asked what the tenure is for the RPS. N. Costley advised that the previous RPS was adopted in 2000. Cr Archer asked who would be representing Council and would Councillors be invited. N. Costley advised that M. Meehan will front Council's point of view and will look for outcomes that are best for the region. N. Costley, S. Jones and L. Sadler will also be in support roles. N. Costley stated that she is unsure of the role that elected members might play as she is unsure of how this would sit with those attending. Discussion took place and Cr Archer stated that he assumes that councillors would be on the hearing committee. M. Meehan stated that these are pre hearing meetings, not committee meetings, he advised these have been held at a staff level. Cr Ewen stated that under Standing Orders, any Councillor can attend any committee meeting of council.

**Moved** (Ewen / Archer)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That Council resolves to extend the time to release decisions for two years, to December 2018, on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that submissions closed on 21 October with seven submissions received. R. Beal advised that there is an amendment to this report, with Canadian Geese referred to in the staff report, not Paradise Ducks. R. Beal advised that staff are now working on a recommending

report. R. Beal advised that submitters are broadly supportive of the Plan. Cr Archer asked R. Beal if anyone has been disadvantaged as a result of the late submissions. R. Beal confirmed that nobody has been disadvantaged. Cr Ewen asked if a peer review is necessary. M. Meehan advised that MPI had offered to do the peer review process because of the new policy direction. M. Meehan advised that the Biosecurity Officer has consulted with a colleague from Ecan to review the Plan to ensure that it is consistent with what is happening around the South Island. Cr Birchfield asked if Paradise Ducks are still listed as a pest. R. Beal advised that they are still listed as a game bird under the Fish and Game rules and a special permitted can be applied for outside of the season.

**Moved** (Challenger / McDonnell)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That Council accepts the late submissions received from Te Runanga O Makaaawhio and Denise Howard.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to his report and reported that six site visits were carried out in relation to consent applications. He reported that 19 non notified resource consent applications were received, including two for whitebait stands. G. McCormack reported that three variations to consent conditions were granted. G. McCormack answered various questions from Councillors including a request from Cr Ewen for a report on the engineered platform in relation to RC-2016-0111 for Roa Mining Ltd. Discussion took place on which agency takes responsibility for the work currently being undertaken at Pike River Mine. M. Meehan clarified that Council would not have responsibility for this site in relation to the potential for water to be dammed in the portal.

**Moved** (Challenger / Birchfield) *That the November 2016 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to this report. He advised that 120 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. G. McCormack reported that 21 incidents / complaints were dealt with. G. McCormack reported that one letter of direction, seven formal warnings, two infringement notices, and four abatement notices were issued during the reporting period. He reported that eleven mining work programmes has been received during the reporting period and two bonds are recommended for release. Cr Clementson commented that there seems to be an increase in the amount of formal enforcement action taken. G. McCormack responded that the increase in complaints is perhaps as a result of the better weather and people getting out and about a bit more.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the bonds for Hampton RC10214 and Greid Mining RC2014-0207 are released.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.3 EXPLORATION NEW ZEALAND LTD RC12217 BOND REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to the report and advised that he has tried to make contact with the company in question and has been unsuccessful. G. McCormack reported that the company was served with an abatement notice to undertake rehabilitation of the mined area and they have not complied with this. G. McCormack reported that he has been in discussions with the landowner and has now come to an agreement with him to do the rehabilitation work. G. McCormack confirmed that there is not a lot of work required and that the \$6,000 is enough to complete this work.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Ewen)

*That Council calls the \$6,000 cash bond to enable the rehabilitation of the property at Blackwater.*

*Carried*

**5.2.4 KOURA MINING LTD RC2015-0120 BOND**

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that this report is in relation to a \$50,000 bond. He stated that Council has tried to make contact with the mining company but there has been no response and there has been no mining carried out for quite some time. G. McCormack answered various questions from Councillors and stated that he is happy that the bond will cover the rehabilitation work. Cr Archer asked G. McCormack if the consent would automatically lapse. G. McCormack confirmed this.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield)

*That Council calls the \$50,000 cash bond to enable the rehabilitation of the property at Fox Creek.*  
*Carried*

Cr Clementson stated that he has nothing to report this month for his Chairman’s report.

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

Cr Clementson stated that he has nothing to report this month for his Chairman’s report.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date