

Policy Committee - 1 August 2018 Attachments

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Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee
held in the Edinburgh Room, Municipal Chambers,
The Octagon, Dunedin on
Wednesday 13 June 2018, commencing at 8:30am

Membership

Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)
Cr Michael Laws (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Carmen Hope
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Ella Lawton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Welcome

Cr Robertson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies for Cr Woodhead, and Cr Bell (for lateness) be accepted.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Noone
CARRIED

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A Leave of Absence was noted for Cr Kempton.

3. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner	<i>(Chief Executive Officer)</i>
Nick Donnelly	<i>(Director Corporate Services)</i>
Tanya Winter	<i>(Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management)</i>
Sian Sutton	<i>(Director Stakeholder Engagement)</i>
Gavin Palmer	<i>(Director Engineering Hazards and Science)</i>
Scott MacLean	<i>(Director Environmental Monitoring and Operations)</i>
Sally Giddens	<i>(Director People and Safety)</i>
Ian McCabe	<i>(Executive Officer)</i>
Lauren McDonald	<i>(Committee Secretary)</i>
Rachael Brown	<i>Policy Analyst - Item 10.1 and 10.3</i>
Sylvie Leduc	<i>Policy Analyst - Item 10.2</i>

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Cr Robertson proposed a change in order of agenda, for Item 10.3 Draft Biodiversity Strategy - Feedback to be taken as the first item following Public Forum.

Moved Cr Neill
Seconded Cr Noone
CARRIED

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Nigel Paragreen, Environmental Officer, Otago Fish and Game, spoke to the draft Biodiversity Strategy Feedback report.

He advised that Otago Fish and Game saw the inclusion of valued introduced species as a benefit to the Biodiversity Strategy and that it would also provide improved representation of individual fishing and gaming licence holders in the region (estimated at 30,000). He commented that it would place recognition on a wider range of biodiversity across the introduced and native species. He confirmed that Otago Fish and Game had submitted to the draft Long Term Plan for 2018-2028.

Cr Bell entered the room at 8:39 am.

Mr Paragreen responded to questions of clarification from councillors.

The Public Forum session closed at 8:48 am.

7. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2018 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Robertson
CARRIED

9. ACTIONS

(Status report on the resolutions of the Policy Committee). No current items for action.

10. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

10.1. Amendment 2 (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Ms Rachael Brown, Senior Policy Analyst in attendance.

The report provided an explanation of the amendment required to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan), due to the The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF), which came into effect on 1 May 2018. The report provided clarification of the Water Plan rules and sought recommendation for the approval of the proposed amendment.

Cr Noone and Cr Scott left the room due to a conflict of interest. at 9:38 am.

Discussion was held on the proposed amendments, including the stricter rules for the protection of endemic non-migratory freshwater fish (such as galaxiid species), impact of erosion from plantation forestry, discharge of sediment and bed disturbance as a discretionary activity.

Cr Bell returned to the room at 9:43 am.

Dr Palmer advised that a risk assessment to catchment infrastructure due to adverse weather events, vegetation (including forestry) was under action and would review existing methods.

Resolution

That Council:

- a) *Amend the Regional Plan: Water for Otago to clarify where stringency applies in relation to the National Standards for Plantation Forestry, as shown in Attachment 3:
Amendment 2 (NES Plantation Forestry) to protect ecosystem health values, in particular the viability and habitats of threatened endemic non-migratory fish, such as galaxiid species.*
- b) *Make Amendment 2 (NES Plantation Forestry) operative from 1 July 2018.*
- c) *Publicly notify Amendment 2 (NES Plantation Forestry) on Saturday 30 June 2018.*

Moved: Cr Deaker
Seconded: Cr Brown
CARRIED

Cr Noone and Cr Scott returned to the room at 9:47 am

10.2. Air Quality Strategy

The report summarised the feedback received on the draft Air Quality Strategy adopted by Council's Policy Committee on 29 November 2017; and the changes recommended to the draft strategy as a result of the feedback from public, key stakeholders and governance.

Ms Sylvie Leduc, Senior Policy Analyst in attendance.

Discussion was held on development of an implementation plan for the Air Quality Strategy, the need for partnership with TLAs to manage air quality and associated risks due to: energy poverty; housing standards in the community; impacts of growth of population in Central Otago, and health due to poor air quality.

Cr Laws expressed his concern of substantiated proof on the correlation between poor air quality and public health, such as hospital admissions.

It was agreed the need for an effective, workable implementation plan, in collaboration with TLAs, and for community education on compliance responsibilities.

Following discussion an additional recommendation (c) was placed - that a paper be provided to the Policy Committee in the next 2-3 months on the implementation of the strategy.

Resolution

- a) *Agree on any changes to draft Air Strategy, as proposed in Appendix 2;*
- b) *Subject to any agreed changes, that Council adopt the Air Quality Strategy.*
- c) *That a paper on implementation be brought to the Policy Committee in the next 2-3 months*

Moved: Cr Scott
Seconded: Cr Noone
CARRIED (Cr Laws voted against the motion).

10.3. Draft Biodiversity Strategy - Feedback

The report confirmed the completion of the online consultation on the draft Biodiversity Strategy and requested the Policy Committee give consideration to the feedback received, consequential changes outlined and to determine if the strategy would be recommended for approval by Council.

Ms Rachael Brown, Senior Policy Analyst in attendance.

The Chairperson declared an adjournment at 8:48 am and the meeting recommenced at 9:00 am.

Cr Robertson advised she considered the draft strategy provided a clear vision and the implementation plan was aligned with the objectives and vision. The strategy would allow enhancement of the biodiversity work being undertaken by communities and would provide and support ongoing focused collaboration and co-ordination with stakeholders.

Ms Brown responded to questions from councillors in regard to key feedback received and advised the need to maintain the focus on protection of indigenous biodiversity. She confirmed that Fish and Game New Zealand had been included as a stakeholder.

Following discussion an additional recommendation (c) was placed - that a paper be provided to the Policy Committee in the next 2-3 months on the implementation of the strategy.

Resolution

- a) *Agree on any changes to the draft Biodiversity Strategy (see Appendix 3);*
- b) *Recommend, subject to any agreed changes, that Council adopt the Biodiversity Strategy.*
- c) *That a paper on implementation be brought to the Policy Committee in the next 2-3 months*

Moved: Cr Robertson

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 am and reconvened at 9:37 am.

11. MATTERS FOR NOTING

11.1. Director's Report on Progress to 13 June 2018

The report provided an update on: policy responses; ORC policy, plans and strategies and an overview of water quantity plan change development.

Ms Winter provided a summary of the key issues in the report and confirmed the economic assessment reports have been completed for the Arrow catchment, almost completed for Cardrona and that consultants have been engaged for the Manuherikia catchment. She confirmed modelling for water surety was underway.

4.3 Minimum Flow Plan Change Manuherikia, Arrow and Upper Cardrona catchments

Summary of feedback from the information sessions held on 7 and 11 June with key stakeholders and the community:

- stakeholders do understand the benefits of a more streamlined process
- preference for all pieces of the "puzzle" to be completed before notification
- desire by the community to work with Council to finalise outstanding matters
- community concern for Cardrona catchment to be handled as two separate parts
- need for understanding of the economic and social impact to catchments.

Ms Winter confirmed a summary of the feedback received would be provided to councillors.

Discussion was held on the need for effective communication by Council in regard to the minimum flow setting, time frame for notification of the plan change, staff resourcing requirements, the need for further discussion with water groups, data collection and collation required prior to notification,

A request was made for Council to commit to gathering data and responding to the community before the plan change was notified.

Resolution

- a) *That 31 August is confirmed for notification subject to Minimum Flow figures and missing section 32 components being completed and brought to the Council and brought to the communities.*
- b) *That this report be noted.*

Moved: Cr Robertson
Seconded: Cr Laws
CARRIED

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion were advised.

13. CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11:00 am.

Chairperson