



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

Unconfirmed

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Planning Committee

Date: 13 March 2024

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Present: Cr H Ormsby (Co-chair)
T Hopmans (Co-chair) – *Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust*
T Eden (Deputy Co-chair) – *Mana Ahuriri Trust*
Cr T Hokianga (Deputy Co-chair)
Cr Will Foley
Cr X Harding
M Hazel – *Te Kopere o te Iwi Hineuru*
L Kele – *Tamatea Pōkai Whenua*
N Kirikiri – *Te Toi Kura O Waikaremoana*
Cr C Lambert
Cr J Mackintosh
M McIlroy – *Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Trust*
M Mohi – *Ngati Tuwharetoa Hapu Forum*
Cr D Roadley
J Nelson-Smith – *Tamatea Pōkai Whenua*
T Thornton – *Ngati Pahauwera Development & Tiaki Trusts*
Cr J van Beek
Cr M Williams

In Attendance: N Peet – Chief Executive
K Brunton – Group Manager Policy & Regulation
T Munro – Interim Te Pou Whakarae
N Nicholson – Acting Manager Policy & Planning
A Doak – Governance Advisor
G Ide – Principal Advisor Strategic Planning

1. Welcome/Karakia /Apologies

The Chair, Hinewai Ormsby, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Mike Mohi opened with a karakia.

Dr Nic Peet announced the appointment of Council's new Te Pou Whakarae, Te Wairama Munro, who will commence in the role in mid-April.

The Committee welcomed Jenny Nelson-Smith to her first meeting as a Tamatea Pōkai Whenua representative.

Resolution

RPC3/24 That the apologies for absence from councillors Charles Lambert and Jerf van Beek and for early departure from Martin Williams and Tania Eden be accepted.

**Ormsby/Hopmans
CARRIED**

2. Conflict of interest declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. Chair's Co-governance Statement

The Chair explained that the co-chairs felt it pertinent to share a letter from HBRC's chair and Dr Nic Peet sent to all PSGEs, taiwhenua and iwi in December, reinforcing that despite some messages coming out of central government, the Council is fully committed to working on and building on the partnerships we have built over time with marae and hapū, and acknowledging the strength of those existing partnerships.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Regional Planning Committee held on 16 August 2023

Correct page 4, item 10, by inserting the name of the staff member who presented the item.

Resolution

Minutes of the Regional Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 16 August 2023, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record as amended.

**Harding/Mackintosh
CARRIED**

5. Call for minor items not on the Agenda

No items were raised.

6. New Government's intentions for Resource Management-related reforms

Dr Nic Peet introduced the item and briefly outlined, from a recent Regional Sector meeting with several government ministers, the three phases of the government's planned RMA reforms of:

- Phase 1 completed with repeal of the Spatial Planning and Natural & Built Environments acts. Phase 2 will include targeted RMA amendments likely focused on fresh water, housing, renewable energy and aquaculture. Phase 3 will be replacement of the RMA at the end of this 3-year term of government.

Gavin Ide provided additional updates which, including questions and discussion, covered:

- Fast Track Consenting Bill now called the Fast Track Approvals Bill – not just about resource consenting, also fast tracking a number of other types of approvals and permits under the

Wildlife Act, Conservation Act, and Public Works. Referred to the Select Committee and open for submissions until 19 April.

- RMA reform minister wrote to notify that Government plans to replace the NPS for Freshwater Management – which will take a considerable amount of time to produce.
- HBRC can charge ahead and continue to work toward meeting the requirements of current legislation however may end up in a situation similar to what’s happened with TANK. TANK is currently under appeal because it was written to meet NPSFM 2017, not HPSFM 2020. Counter to that, any regional council can include measures in its plan that are over and above those in an NPS – and choose to be more stringent but cannot be less stringent.
- We understand the environmental challenges in region and have other work to get on with – integrated land management, coastal plan due for review, RPS due for review, transport sectors that need updating – while we wait for the NPSFM changes. Currently engaging with PSGEs on contracts for the vision and values for Te mana o te Wai objectives however will pause before working on the National Objectives Framework setting limits and targets because we need to understand what those are likely to be.
- RPC submission to the Fast Track Approvals Bill in relation to RPC functions, and its status in Treaty redress and upholding of Treaty settlements. The Bill appears to undermine the purpose of the RPC, weighing RMA, RPS and regional plan provisions as low priority. Staff would value assistance from PSGE and advisors to make sure the treaty nuance piece is properly expressed.
- There is a duty for applicants to consult with local government and Treaty Settlement Entities during the application process – before being approved by ministers to be on the list. Once a project is on the list and approved by ministers, the ministers will refer them to an Expert Panel for deciding conditions and recommending to ministers for approving.
- Very concerning that applications will arrive at Council with very short timeframes for determining what the environmental effects will be and recommending conditions.
- A balanced approach to a submission on the Bill is to be taken, with Tania Hopmans and Hinewai Ormsby to provide PSGE input.

RPC5/24

Resolution

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *New Government's intentions for Resource Management-related reforms* staff report.

Eden/Harding
CARRIED

4. Regional Policy Statement project update

Nichola Nicholson, Acting Manager Policy & Planning, introduced the item. Questions and discussions covered:

- Staff are seeking the committee’s endorsement of the approach to progressing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) part of the Kotahi project. The RPS sets the direction for the organisation, identifies the regionally significant environmental issues for the region and how those will be addressed and can direct the district plans in the region.
- The RPS sets up the framework for a management approach and associated rules are included in the Regional Resource Management Plan (stage 2).
- The intention is that stage one of Kotahi will be the preparation and development of a draft Regional Policy Statement, working with tāngata whenua to identify their visions and values for the environment to inform the tāngata whenua chapters and provisions.
- When a draft RPS is ready, the RPC will be the gate keeper and make the decision whether to notify it for consultation, considering where Central Government is at, where development of rules for the RRMP is at and what the environment looks like.
- The HB RRMP is old and the city/district councils of the region have been seeking improved regional guidance via the Regional Policy Statement to assist them in responding effectively to issues such as Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Risk, Transport, and Biodiversity.

- The thinking from current conversations and engagement with PSGEs will be included in the RPS development.

RPC6/24 **Resolutions**

That the Regional Planning Committee:

1. Receives and considers the *Regional Policy Statement project update* staff report.
2. Endorses the proposal to divide the Kotahi project into two phases, with:
 - 2.1. the first phase being the development of the draft Regional Policy Statement and
 - 2.2. the second the phase being the development of the draft Hawke’s Bay Regional Resource Management Plan.
3. Endorses the progression of the Regional Policy Statement.

**Hopmans/Foley
CARRIED**

5. February 2024 Policy Projects update

Nichola Nicholson introduced the item, which was taken as read.

RPC7/24 **Resolution**

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *February 2024 Policy Projects update*.

**Williams/Hokianga
CARRIED**

6. February 2024 Statutory Advocacy update

Nichola Nicholson introduced the item, which was taken as read. Questions and discussions covered:

- Next steps for the NPS on Natural Hazards Decision-making are being sought from ministers.
- Regional spatial planning is something that could be compelled by the RPS however would not include the national voice so would need to investigate a way to get that.
- The latest OIC is intended to streamline consenting processes by making the flood mitigation works to enable land to be reclassified from 2 to 1 a ‘controlled activity’ for the specific communities of Wairoa, Whirinaki, Wiohiki, Ohiti Road Omahu, Pakowhai, Havelock North Streams and Porangahau, plus pump stations at Awatoto.

RPC8/24 **Resolution**

That the Regional Planning Committee receives and notes the *February 2024 Statutory Advocacy update*.

**Ormsby/Hopmans
CARRIED**

7. Discussion of minor items not on the Agenda

There were no items raised for discussion.

Mike Mohi offered a karakia to close the meeting.

Closure:

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 00.00pm on Wednesday, 13 March 2024.

Signed as a true and correct record.

Date:

Chair: