

Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held in the Sigma Room, Energy Events Centre, Queens Drive, Rotorua on Wednesday, 3 August 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: R Bennett

Deputy Chairman: P Sherry

Councillors: I Noble, N Oppatt, P Thompson, M Whitaker

In Attendance: A Grayling (Rotorua Lakes Project Manager), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), M McConway (Acting Chief Executive), R McGarvie (Senior Policy Analyst), G Kroon (Planner), S Lamb (Principal Advisor/Executive Officer), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), G Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development), J Owen (Planning Administration Officer), K Parcell (Senior Planner), D Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager), S Kameta (Committee Administration Officer)

Apologies: Councillor T Marr. Council Chairman J Cronin, Councillors T Eru, J Nees and L Thurston for lateness.

1 Chairman's Announcement

Chair Bennett advised there would be a change to the order of business to accommodate the presenter for Agenda Item 3.1 to be received later in the agenda.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts a change to the order of business from that listed in the agenda.**

**Bennett/Sherry
CARRIED**

2 Reports

2.1 Nutrient Management Approach under the Proposed Regional Policy Statement

David Phizacklea, Planning Frameworks Manager presented the report providing the statutory context, reflected in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement, to the preparation of changes to the Regional Water and Land Plan to reduce nutrient discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes.

Councillors noted that the report had been very useful in setting the scene for the following report. Members asked that definitions for the terms “discharge” and “sedimentation” be improved and questioned the impact the proposed policies may have on property owners and property values.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, **Nutrient Management Approach under the Proposed Regional Policy Statement**.

Oppatt/Thompson
CARRIED

2.2 Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes - Timing and Costs

Kataraina Maki, the Sustainable Development Manager presented the report outlining a project scope to develop regional plan rules to manage nutrient discharges including estimated costs and timing.

Attendance

Council Chairman J Cronin joined the meeting at 9.42 a.m.

Councillors discussed and sought clarification on matters including timing and community consultation. Ms Maki noted that the timeframe included all 12 lakes and allowed for worst case scenario. The rule was likely to be the most contentious with Lake Rotorua requiring the most significant land use change. Further to this Ms Maki spoke about the importance of consulting with the community on the options to give them an understanding of Council's intent in what it is trying to achieve. Ms Maki advised that staff would bring back a paper on risk and benefit options for developing the rules.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receive the report, *'Developing Rules to Manage Nutrient Discharges to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes - Timing and Costs'*.

- 2 **Confirm that the policy intent of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement to manage nutrient discharges to lakes is to be implemented by rules in a regional plan.**
- 3 **Approve that staff:**
 - **Develop a Lakes Rules Program based on steps set out in Appendix 3.**
 - **Begin tasks that fit within existing budget allocations including the compilation of background documentation (Tasks 1 and 4, Appendix 3).**
- 4 **Note that this report has been sent to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group seeking their feedback on how they would like to be involved.**
- 5 **Note the indicative length of time and cost to develop rules, as outlined in Appendix 3, is 196 weeks and \$1,357,500 (excluding resolution of appeals).**
- 6 **Confirm that the resourcing for the Lakes Rules Program will be considered during the development of the Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.**
- 7 **Confirm that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and does not require further identification and assessment of different options, community views and written records.**

**Oppatt/Whitaker
CARRIED**

2.3 **Options for Ngāpuna Dust Reduction**

Karen Parcell, Senior Planner presented the report seeking changes to the Rotorua Air Quality Action Plan to include policy and implementation options for reducing dust exceedances in Ngāpuna.

Committee members agreed to an education-enforcement approach. Councillors discussed town planning and boundary encroachment issues between residential and industrial development and sought that matters be addressed in collaboration with the Rotorua District Council. Staff advised they would be updating Rotorua District Council on this matter and that discussion at the governance level would be beneficial.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Options for Ngapuna Dust Reduction*'.**
- 2 **Approves a new policy position that Ngapuna dust needs to be actively managed to reduce dust emissions and achieve no more than one annual exceedance of the air standard beyond 2020.**
- 3 **Agrees to implement the policy by:**
 - Option B: Awareness raising and enforcement methods (recommended) and approves in principle additional resources of \$105,000 required to implement Option B. This can be considered within decisions for the development of the Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.**

- 4 Approves an amendment to the Rotorua Air Quality Action Plan to include an additional action to reduce yard and road dust in Ngapuna as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5 That the Rotorua District Council be asked to partner with us to manage dust nuisance in the Ngapuna area within their responsibilities.
- 6 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).

Oppatt/Thompson
CARRIED

2.4 Introducing Policy for Healthy and Sustainable Homes

Refer to Tabled Document No.1.

Ms Maki and Ms Parcell presented the report seeking discussion and approval to adopt a policy for healthy and sustainable homes in the Bay of Plenty region. This was in response to the Committee's request at their 14 June meeting to expand the concept of clean heat and healthy homes across the wider region.

Committee members commended staff for providing the proposed policy for their consideration, but queried the implications of introducing the policy region-wide and stressed the need for a cautionary approach. Members provided staff with further direction and requested amendments be made to the policy for them to consider further.

The Committee agreed to defer the agenda item at 10.50 a.m. to allow staff the time to make amendments to the policy.

MOTION

Move: Councillor Bennett

Second: Deputy Chairman Sherry

That the agenda item "Introducing Policy for Healthy and Sustainable Homes" be deferred and meeting business continues.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.35 a.m. and reconvened at 10.50 a.m.

2.5 Proposed Scope for Review of Sewerage Scheme Assistance Policy

Stephen Lamb, Principal Advisor/Executive Officer introduced the report seeking approval to review the Regional Sewerage Scheme Assistance Policy. The review would involve reviewing the policy scope and process outlined in section 5 of the report

and investigating options to support hardship associated with Council-supported sewerage schemes.

Members questioned whether the policy would offer the same treatment for community schemes required under the OSET Plan. Staff advised that whilst previous decisions had been made to exclude some schemes, a range of options were being explored to expand the scope of the policy.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, ‘Proposed Scope for Review of Sewerage Scheme Assistance Policy’.**
- 2 Approves the proposed scope and process for a review of the Regional Assistance for Small-scale Sewerage Schemes Policy.**
- 3 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s strategic planning framework (Council’s Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

**Thompson/Bennett
CARRIED**

2.6 Gap Analysis of Regional Coastal Environment Plan against the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

David Phizacklea and Justine Brennan presented the report that provided a high-level update on the degree to which the Regional Coastal Environment Plan gives effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) and the level of amendment that will be necessary in the upcoming plan review.

Councillors sought and were provided clarification on the gap analysis and timing of the NZCPS and the plan’s review.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Gap Analysis of Regional Coastal Environment Plan against the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.**

**Oppatt/Whitaker
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillors Nees and Thurston arrived respectively at 11.15 a.m. and 11.17 a.m.

2.7 **Plan Change for Water Allocation**

Glenys Kroon and David Phizacklea provided an overview of the direction and progress for a plan change to the Regional Water and Land Plan on water allocation, and advised that the plan change aligned well with the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and would give effect to policy directives under the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management.

Committee members sought clarification on several matters. Ms Kroon advised that decisions on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement would be notified prior to notifying the proposed plan change for public submissions and that no further legislative directives were evident.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Plan Change for Water Allocation.**

**Bennett/Thompson
CARRIED**

2.8 **Bay of Connections - Updating the Strategy and Action Plan**

Miles McConway provided a presentation on the Bay of Connections project and advised that the updating of the strategy and action plan were due for completion in November this year.

Attendance

Councillor T Eru joined the meeting at 11.45 a.m.

Members asked questions of clarification on several matters and discussed initiatives for economic development. The Committee was advised that an informal councillor workshop on economic development will be held on 9 August 2011.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Connections - Updating the Strategy and Action Plan.**

**Bennett/Thompson
CARRIED**

2.9 **Introducing Policy for Healthy and Sustainable Homes (Continued)**

Staff provided the Committee with a revised policy for consideration (refer to Tabled Document No.1). Debate followed on the scope and implications of the policy still being too wide, the risk posed to Council and delivering core activities before expanding into other areas. Members in support of the policy noted that the amended

position now only focused on air pollution and increasing energy efficiency, reflecting the views of committee at the 14 June meeting.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Chairman Cronin

- 1 Receives the report, ‘Introducing Policy for Healthy and Sustainable Homes’.**
- 2 Approve the Healthy Homes Policy Position as outlined in Tabled Document No.1 (attached) and that an additional amendment is made to paragraph 2 of the Policy Implementation to include the wording “with Rotorua as a priority” at the end of the sentence.**
- 3 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s strategic planning framework (Council’s Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

The motion was **PUT** and a show of hands requested.

Against the motion: **Nees, Noble, Eru, Whitaker**

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2.10 Update on Submissions to the Policy of Central Government and Others

The report provided an update on five Regional Council submissions lodged under delegated authority to the policy of Central Government and others.

Clarification was provided on Council’s submission to the Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and alignment with the Resource Management and Biosecurity Acts and the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, ‘Update on Submissions to the Policy of Central Government and Others’.**

**Sherry/Cronin
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.28 p.m.

TABLED DOCUMENT NO.1

1 Policy Position

A new policy position is required to clearly identify the Regional Councils role and direction in achieving healthy homes in the region. The Regional Council through decisions at the 14 June, Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee has already provided direction to staff that it wants an active not passive role i.e. support and assist with funding rather than just promote, advocate or facilitate.

Defining a healthy home

The intent of the Healthy Homes policy is to set out a clear and active role for the Regional Council to support and assist homes in the region to be healthy.

A healthy home is one which:

- Has a reduced load on resources and services
- Is insulated and well heated.

The outcomes for a healthy home are:

1. Energy use – 6,300 kilowatt hours per year (new houses) 7,300 kilowatt hours per year (existing houses)
2. Indoor environment quality
 - Living room evening in winter >18 degrees C
 - Bedroom overnight in winter >16 degrees C
 - Room humidity in winter 40-70%
 - Humidity all year round <80%.

Policy on Healthy homes in the Bay of Plenty region

Policies

- a. The Regional Council has a duty of care to the Bay of Plenty community across the four well beings. Healthy homes combine environment protection and enhancement outcomes with outcomes that promote economic, social and cultural well-being of the region's communities.
- b. The Regional Council will work to assist in the provision of healthy homes across the Region that are heated by means that reduce air pollution and increase energy efficiency.
- c. Over the long term, assisting with healthy homes will contribute to long term sustainability in the region such as:
 - Reduced air pollution
 - Increased energy efficiency

TABLED DOCUMENT NO.1

- Improved health and comfort of the community.
- d. The objectives of the policy are to:
- Reduce cold and damp housing
 - Assist in reduction of emissions of particulates
 - Reduce energy use in homes
 - Contribute towards improved health.
- e. Assisting the creation of healthy homes will occur across the region in an equitable and outcome oriented manner.
- f. Partnerships with relevant agencies will be established to help actively promote the design of healthy homes in the region to:
- Reduce the load on resources and services
 - Assist homes to be insulated and well heated.
- g. Awareness and public education is acknowledged as an important part of achieving outcomes for healthy homes.
- h. A range of implementation products and services could be provided over time to implement the policy with different approaches and cost structures.

Policy Implementation

The intent of introducing this policy is not to precipitate a rush to introduce several new programmes at once. However, it provides the broad policy framework to allow development of suitable programmes in the future, without the need to constantly reassess and change current policy.

The Committee has already articulated that its first priority will be to ensure that the region's homes are well insulated and warm, with Rotorua as a priority.

Ideally a policy implementation process would be undertaken to identify the overall design of delivery mechanisms, and the detailed design of services products, and implementation planning.