

Minutes of the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee Meeting held in CR2, Rotorua District Council Civic Administration Building, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua on Friday, 21 May 2010 commencing at 10.05 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor N Oppatt (Environment Bay of Plenty)

Deputy Chairman: Councillor R Ford (Environment Bay of Plenty)

Appointees: Councillor G Kenny (Rotorua District Council), G Savage (Regional Manager, Toi Te Ora Public Health), Councillor J Wepa (Rotorua District Council), G Wigley (Manager National Environmental Standards, Ministry for the Environment)

In Attendance: R Miller & R Philpott (McDermott Miller Limited), J Ford-Robertson (Chairman, Rotorua Air Quality Working Party), N Wharton (Director Environmental Services, Rotorua District Council), and from Environment Bay of Plenty – M Henton (Planner), S Iremonger (Environmental Scientist), M Macleod (Group Manager Strategic Development), R McGarvie (Air Quality Liaison), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), K Parcell (Senior Planner), Y Rooney (Senior Communications Advisor), S Cubbon (Committee Administration)

1 Reports

1.1 Ministry for the Environment Update

Glenn Wigley from the Ministry for the Environment provided a verbal update on the progress of the National Environment Standard on Air Quality. He noted the review that had been called for by the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Nick Smith had led to a working party being set up, and their report was delivered in October 2009. The resulting discussion document was about to go to Cabinet and Mr Wigley considered Council should set aside time and resources for June 2010, as a proposed bylaw might need to take some of the issues into account. Mr Wigley undertook to send the document to the Joint Committee and Rotorua District Council as soon as it became available.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, 'Ministry for the Environment Update'.**

**Oppatt/Ford
CARRIED**

1.2 Market Segmentation and Incentive Development

Richard Miller, Managing Director, and Robert Philpott, Principal Economist, from McDermott Miller Limited were in attendance to present the results of research into Rotorua home heating market segmentation, and incentive development that would encourage homeowners and landlords to upgrade home heating to environmentally cleaner appliances. Mr Miller explained that the company had been commissioned in December 2009 by Environment Bay of Plenty with a brief that would:

- Identify and segment the household market, estimate households' interest and likely responses to air pollution in Rotorua,
- Identify and design a range of financial incentive packages, to evaluate costs to appeal to the market, and
- Devise social marketing strategy that would secure "take-up" of incentive packages to assist in achieving improved Rotorua air quality.

Members were invited by the Chair to comment and ask questions of the guests during their PowerPoint presentation, and there was extensive discussion on the range of options looked at, and particularly in regard to a suggested incentive loan programme. Staff noted that although discussions were underway with ECCA, the issue being addressed was clean heat, not insulation. Mr Philpott advised that results of the work done showed that incentives needed to be offered as a package, not just a loan.

District Councillors noted that Rotorua people did not see air as the issue it was made out to be and there had been several submitters to the Annual Plan who spoke strongly against getting rid of open fires, some of which had been installed at considerable cost. Concern was also expressed that there was no funding forthcoming from central government to address heating conversions in State housing.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, *'Market Segmentation and Incentive Development'*.**

**Ford/Wepa
CARRIED**

1.3 Draft Air Quality Control Bylaw

Rotorua District Council's Director Environmental Services presented the report updating members on the status of the Draft Air Quality Control Bylaw which had been made available for public consultation on 1 April 2010. Mr Wharton advised that 135 submissions had been received, 14 against the proposal, 30 in favour and the rest agreed in principle.

Kataraina Maki, Sustainable Development Manager, noted that staff from Environment Bay of Plenty had analysed all submissions and noted some really legitimate points which would be taken into account. Members of staff from both councils considered the submissions to be overwhelmingly positive.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report on the progress of the development of the Draft Air Quality Control Bylaw and notes the contents.**

**Oppatt/Ford
CARRIED**

1.4 Influencing the Supply of 'Dry Wood'

The report provided option analyses on interventions that would influence the supply of 'Dry Wood' in Rotorua. The purpose of doing so was to encourage the supply of dry wood, identify merchants who supplied it and, in turn, reduce wintertime particulate matter pollution levels.

Three options were presented to the Committee who indicated a preference for Option 3 that recommended a reputable laboratory be contracted to carry out independent moisture testing of firewood sold over winter in Rotorua. This would allow Environment Bay of Plenty to gauge the nature and scale of the problem and review the implementation of a 'Good Wood Scheme' in 2012.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Influencing the Supply of 'Dry Wood'*'.**
- 2 **Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and confirms that further identification and assessment of different options, consider community views or written record of the manner is not required.**
- 3 **Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee expressed a preference for Option 3 in the report and the implementation of a 'Good Wood' Scheme in 2012.**

**Oppatt/Ford
CARRIED**

1.5 Proposed Clean Heat Loan Package

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receive the report '*Proposed Clean Heat Loan Package*'.**

**Oppatt/Ford
CARRIED**

1.6 **Loan Campaign Update**

Rachael McGarvie provided a brief update of the activities she had been undertaking as Air Quality Liaison Officer in Rotorua, and she advised the Joint Committee there was a large group of people eagerly awaiting information on the incentives being offered so they could upgrade old heating to a clean heat appliance.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Air Quality Joint Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Loan Campaign Update*'.**

**Oppatt/Ford
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.