

Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato District Council held in the the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia on **TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2024** commencing at **9:30 AM**.

PRESENT

Present:

Cr C Eyre (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr C Beavis
Cr J Gibb
Cr M Keir
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu (*from 9.37am*)
Cr K Ngataki
Cr M Raumati
Cr V Reeve
Cr L Thomson
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner

Attending:

Mr R McCulloch (General Manager, Customer Support)
Ms S Kelly (Programme Manager, District Plan)
Ms S Chibnall (Senior Policy Planner)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Manager)
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
Mr W Hill (Consents Manager)

The meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Thomson)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. Cr E Patterson & Cr D Whyte for non-attendance.**

CARRIED

P&R20244/1

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Ngataki)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting, and**
- b. all reports be received; and**
- c. that in accordance with Standing Order 9.4 the order of business be changed with Agenda Item 6.5 being considered after the Actions Register.**

CARRIED

P&R20244/2

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interests.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Resolved: (Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church/Cr Reeve)

THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee confirms the minutes as a true and correct record for the meeting held on Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

CARRIED

P&R20244/3

Minutes for confirmation - Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

Resolved: (Crs Keir/Eyre)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 27 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

P&R20244/4

ACTIONS REGISTER

There was no current Actions on the Register for consideration.

REPORTS

6.5 Approval to correct minor error in Water Supply Bylaw 2023

The report was received and the following discussion was held:

- The Three Waters Reform Project Manager spoke to the report and no further discussion was held.

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Ngataki)

That the Policy and Regulatory Committee recommend to Council that the amended Water Supply Bylaw 2023 (Attachment 1) is adopted, noting the amendment to Schedule 2: Table 1 Compatibility Features.

CARRIED

P&R20244/7

6.1 Update on National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and the Proposed District Plan

The report was received and the following discussion was held:

- The Senior Policy Planner spoke to the report and a brief overview was provided for the Committee.
- A discussion was held in relation to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and the process that is followed to determine what an SNA is along with the steps required in order to remove an SNA.
- It was noted that as per the report this process will be the best way forward particularly as there are quite a few SNAs highlighted by the Waikato Regional Council. The process undertaken during the last District Plan review was provided along with a brief history of how the process was arrived at.
- It was noted that there are no SNA issues foreseen with the review of the 2070 Growth Strategy.
- An extensive discussion was held in relation to the processes and protocols in place for protecting SNA's around the district and ensuring Council are proactively checking the rules framework hasn't changed.
- It was noted that the intense layers of democracy when it comes to SNAs are affecting property owners and property value
- It was queried whether Council have the ability to respond and submit and the answer was yes.

6.2 Bylaw and Policy Update

The report was received and the following discussion was held:

- The Corporate Planning Team Leader spoke to the report and outlined the proposed tiered system along with the proposed approach for categorising policies.
- It was queried how are Council determining which policy or bylaw is workshopped before coming to the Committee? It was noted that to date workshops have been carried out on those policies and bylaws that sit in Tier 1 or 2 along with those that have a high public interest.
- Tier 1 has a high impact on present and future interests of the community. It was noted that Tier 1 is related to cultural values and ensuring the right conversations are happening with the right people.

It was further noted that there is no measure on what the impacts are but this could be looked at.

ACTION: Corporate Planning Team Leader to look at the impacts on community and how these can be measured.

- It was queried who does the rankings? It was noted that staff will do the initial rankings on the tiers.
- It was asked if all policies and bylaws are loaded on the Council website? Not all policies are loaded onto the website - just those that have a public impact.
- It was queried whether Council are we going to identify the tiers on the public website and it was advised that no, they will not be advertised on the public website however they will be public through Committee agendas.
- It was queried if Vaping products and the sale of them is something that Council could have a policy on? At the moment Council does not have a vaping policy but it is something that could be looked at.

ACTION: Corporate Planning Team Leader to go back to the Corporate Planning team and look at a Vaping Policy and the sale of Vapes and keep an eye on any legislation coming out of Central Government.

- It was noted that the Community Board and Community Committee Charters need to be discussed with the Democracy Manager in relation to each Board and Committee having their own.
- It was confirmed that the Local Alcohol Policy has been completed but it was noted that if an appeal against the Local Alcohol Policy is received it goes through to Alcohol Regulatory & Licensing Authority for them to look at and is subject to their timeframes and availability.
- It was confirmed that whilst a policy is being appealed the current policy remains in place and, from a risk perspective, a check would need to be done but there are no stand out risks at this stage.
- It was noted in the wording that it should be "Tikanga maaori" rather than maaori tikanga.
- A brief discussion was held in relation to the possibility of having a Council "steering group" in relation to policies and bylaws that need to be reviewed or workshopped. This conversation will be taken offline and looked at further.

6.3 Update on Appeals to the Proposed Waikato District Plan

The report was received and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that there are 42 live or active appeals still at this stage and this report is a high-level update rather than getting into the specifics and details.
- It was noted that the process for the District Plan Review is quite a bureaucratic mess that takes so much staff time and energy. It was noted that whilst it would be good to make the process easier this cannot be done as it is a directive from Central Government.

- It was noted that if a member of the public wants to appeal any section of the district they have a right to be heard however the Committee sympathises with the amount of time it takes to get a district plan through.
- The definition of a Consent Order was outlined by staff and an overview of the process was provided.
- It was noted that the District Planning team at Council have done a fantastic job to date and the Committee are looking forward to getting the report for the Operative plan later on down the track.

6.4 Resource Consent Forecasting

The report was received and the following discussion was held:

- The Consents Manager spoke to the report and provided the Committee with a brief overview of the consenting numbers received so far this year along with the other statistics in the table.
- A brief overview on the types of resource and subdivision consents coming in and being processed and it was noted that more complex developments are being processed by staff so workloads are still the same.
- It was queried whether there were any staff who are looking at any potential risks or issues with developments? It was noted that Council have a lot of issues right now with flooding in some areas so are Council ensuring that we are looking at these issues at the time of consent to ensure all issues are mitigated? The Customer Support General Manager provided a detailed overview of the Consenting Process and the steps taken to ensure all issues are looked at thoroughly throughout the consenting process if they are visible.
- A query was raised in relation to further information requests for consents and whether work stops on the consent until the information is received or if the consent continues to be processed? It was confirmed that during the s88 process (the initial receipt of a consent) and further information requests does stop the clock however during the consent life itself, Council staff work with agents where they can to ensure the relevant information is received and work can continue on the consent.
- It was queried whether the Central Government decision to drop out class 3 soils will effect Council? It was noted that this decision will effect Council in the sense that the Waikato District have a lot of class 3 soils.
- A concern was raised that Waikato District Council seem to have a reputation as the worst Council to deal with from a developers point of view and Council planners seem to take a very restrictive approach to processing consents. The Consent Manager responded that this is not the case and that Council planners work within a regulatory ringfence and cannot just approve all consents that are received. The Consent Planning team also work very hard to enable development within this regulatory framework and do a great job and it was further noted that Consent Planners make a recommendation on a consent - not a decision.

- It was queried whether different teams across Council are having conversations and working together when big development Consents are received to ensure the whole picture is being looked at? It was noted that there are many cross department processes in effect and it was further noted that the Community Growth Refocus Project is underway (a steering project group across Customer Support and Service Delivery) and the team are looking to land this project in September 2024.
- It was noted by the Consents Manager from a recruitment perspective that Council are near a full compliment in terms of consenting staff but it was noted that it is a struggle to recruit at the intermediate and senior planner level.
- It was confirmed that the e-plan go live date is set for early May 2024.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

CLOSE OF MEETING

The chairperson finished the meeting with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11.22am

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of
2024.

Cr C Eyre
CHAIRPERSON