

**Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee
(*Rautaki me Mahere*) Meeting of the
Southland Regional Council, held in Regional House,
corner North Road and Price Street, Invercargill, on
Thursday, 14 November 2019, at 9.00 am**



Present:	Cr E Roy	(Chair)
	Cr A Baird	
	Cr L Esler	
	Cr R Guyton	
	Cr L Ludlow	
	Cr L McCallum	
	Cr P McDonald	
	Cr B Mager	
	Cr D Stevens	
	Chairman N Horrell	(ex-officio)
In attendance:	Cr J McPhail	
Staff Present:	Mr R Phillips	(Chief Executive)
	Mr V Smith	(Director of Policy, Planning and Regulatory Services)
	Mr N Selman	(Director of Corporate Services)
	Mr K Swinney	(Acting Director Science & Information)
	Mrs L Hicks	(Policy & Planning Manager)
	Mr A Morgan	(Team Leader, Policy & Planning)
	Mrs B Lawrence	(Programme Manager – People, Water & Land)
	Mrs A Henderson	(Senior Communications Co-ordinator)
	Ms K Harper	(PA - <i>minutes</i>)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for November.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow that an apology be recorded on behalf of Jonathon Streat.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made to the meeting.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*) – 4 September 2019

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Stevens that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 4 September 2019 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

4.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

4.2 Other

No other items were raised for discussion.

7 Questions (*Patai*)

No questions were asked at this time.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports (*Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera*)

Cr Roy proposed that at each Strategy and Policy Committee meeting an Item dedicated to a science update be included on the agenda going forward. This would give the Committee an understanding of the science work being undertaken and apply it to Strategy and Policy. Councillors were invited to express topics of interest they would like to hear and learn more about. Potential topics would be discussed at the first Strategy and Policy Committee meeting in 2020.

Chairman Horrell reported on the Regional Sector meeting he had attended in Wellington, noting a presentation from the Commissioner of the Environment that highlighted information gaps in communicating science. He further noted that Cr Roy's addition of a science Item on the Strategy and Policy agenda was timely and

would be beneficial. Mr Phillips advised there would be a briefing and update around Regional Sector work at the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

9 Election of Deputy Chair to the Committee

This item had been provided to allow the meeting to appoint a Deputy Chairman.

Nomination:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Cr David Stevens be nominated to the position of Deputy Chairman of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

As there were no further nominations received, Cr Stevens was declared elected.

10 Director of Policy, Planning & Regulatory Services Report – 20/S&P/98

⇒ Item 1 – Action for Healthy Waterways and Highly Productive Land Submissions

Mr Smith advised the Committee that, as Mrs Hicks would take maternity leave for 6 months starting early in the new year, Mr Morgan had accepted the position of Acting Policy & Planning Manager for that duration.

The purpose of this item was to report on submissions made on central government's "Action for Healthy Waterways" package and the Draft National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, in accordance with s3.3.1 of Environment Southland's delegations manual.

Mr Morgan explained that staff, alongside councillors, had prepared submissions on the "Action for Healthy Waterways" (Essential Freshwater Proposals) policy documents, and a draft National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land. The lodgement of these submissions were now being reported to council, in accordance with the delegations manual.

Regarding the submission prepared for "Action for Healthy Waterways", Chairman Horrell noted staff had captured councillor input very well.

In response to a question around Environment Southland's involvement and representation in the Regional Council Group, Mr Phillips advised that Environment Southland had staff involved in the group. At the time staff were not in a position to share conversations as they were there as part of the Regional Sector Advisory Group to provide advice to government. Mr Smith explained that, with respect to the Regional Sector Water Group that was involved in the development of the Essential Freshwater Package, it was very much putting the Regional Sector's views forward around themes and concepts that central government were developing. Central government did not share in the actual drafting.

Mr Smith continued by advising that once the Essential Freshwater Package had landed, Environment Southland would be looking, as part of the Regional Forum work, at utilising the Economic Model to better understand impacts, and to be able to work with particular parts of the community on particular challenges.

In response to a question around Public Health South, Mr Smith also advised that Environment Southland's relationship with Public Health South had improved markedly over the years and there were a number of forums dealing directly with issues around nitrate nitrogen levels in groundwater, and surface water in particular. A focus of Essential Freshwater was moving beyond human health to ecological health as there were different thresholds that applied.

Brief discussion was held around providing clarity to the public and to stakeholders about what Environment Southland could or could not influence. Mr Morgan explained that Environment Southland had opportunity to influence for the better, through submissions such as the ones discussed under this Item.

There was no discussion around the submission made by Local Government New Zealand. Regarding the submission made by Environment Southland on the Draft National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, it was commented that it may be beneficial to seek some policy guidance around extending the scope of Highly Productive Land to include pastoral land. Mr Morgan noted there would be opportunity and more need going forward to engage comprehensively on other things, such as pastoral land.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum , seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note that the following submissions have been lodged with central government:

- **Environment Southland's submission on "Action for Healthy Waterways – A discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater";**
- **Local Government New Zealand's submission to the Government's consultation (the joint regional sector submission);**
- **Environment Southland's submission on Draft National Policy statement for Highly Productive Land.**

Carried

⇒ Item 2 – Policy and Planning Division Work Programme including External Agency Reports

The purpose of this item was for Council to note the Policy and Planning Division work programme, which was updated for each Strategy and Policy Committee meeting. The item also included a summary of recent reports and discussion papers received from external agencies that may be of interest to Councillors.

Mrs Hicks provided an update on the progress of several projects and work programmes. There were workshops scheduled to update Councillors on work programme details. Mrs Hicks highlighted the following:

- Environment Southland was still waiting for the Judge's interim decision on the appeals process for the Water and Land Plan and Environment Court Hearings. Additional work, that the Court had directed be undertaken by the Council's and

appellants technical specialists was ongoing and the deadline for this report was the end of November 2019;

- The Economics Project had been tested and the community interface was now in its final stages. The Regional Forum had been introduced to the model and how it will work and aid in limit setting;
- National Planning Standards – two papers would be circulated to councillors before the Christmas holiday period, one regarding the National Planning Standards and the work programme that that entailed, and one regarding climate change.

Cr Roy commented that, given that council has a resolution to have an action plan for climate change, and that the action plan had not been 'designated' a place. It may well fit into the Strategy and Policy Committee. Cr Roy noted that this was potentially something to discuss at the next council meeting on 11 December 2019. He was happy for the action plan to be included under the Strategy and Policy Committee's responsibilities if appropriate, either to manage or to provide support. Mrs Hicks advised that a draft action plan was being prepared for the 11 December 2019 council meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens , seconded Cr Baird, that Council note the Policy and Planning Division Work Programme including External Agency Reports.

Carried

11 Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

There were no items of extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business (*He hui Pakihi e hara mo te iwi*)

There was no public excluded business included on the agenda.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 am.