

**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  
Wednesday, 25 November 2020, at 9.00 am**

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<b>Present:</b>	Cr E Roy Chairman N Horrell Cr R Guyton Cr L Ludlow Cr L McCallum Cr B Mager Cr L Esler Cr A Baird Cr D Stevens	(Chair)
<b>Also Present:</b>	Mr S Bull	(Iwi)
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Mr R A Phillips Mrs L Hicks Mrs W Falconer Ms R Millar Mrs B Lawrence Mrs E Hendriks Mrs V Collard Mr O West Mrs A Henderson Mrs T McCann Ms K Harper	(Chief Executive) (Policy & Planning Manager) (GM Strategy and Engagement) (Strategy and Partnerships Advisor) (Programme Manager, People Water and Land) (Iwi Policy Officer) (Senior Policy Planner) (Team Leader Ecosystems Drivers) (Senior Communications Co-ordinator) (Communications Co-ordinator – Publications) (PA - minutes)

**1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for November including the wider public via livestream.

**2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)**

**Resolved:**

**Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Mager that an apology for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr P McDonald.**

**Carried**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

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

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

**5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*) – 14 October 2020**

*Resolved:*

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Ludlow that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 14 October 2020 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*)**

**6.1 Supplementary Reports**

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

**6.2 Other**

There were no other items of business raised for inclusion in the agenda.

**7 Questions (*Patai*)**

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

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

Neither the Chairman nor any Councillors presented a report to the meeting.

**9 General Manager, Policy, Planning & Regulatory Services Report – 20/S&P/101**

⇒ **Item 1 – People Water and Land Programme Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te whenua Values and Objectives Package**

This item was for Council to 'approve in principle' the outputs of the Values and Objectives package of the People, Water and Land Programme Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua. These outputs set the direction for the Regional Forum's work in Phase Three, to develop advice for Council and the Te Ao Marama Inc Board, on how to achieve the draft freshwater objectives for Murihiku Southland.

It was explained that the Values and Objectives package was a key step in the journey and set the scene to carry on to the next steps, one of which was an assessment of the new National Policy Statement. Councillors noted the innovation and huge steps forward in bringing this to the table today, and thanked all staff involved in bringing the community and Iwi workstreams together.

In response to a question ensuring the Regional Forum, Councillors and the community were at a place of understanding around the work of the Values and Objectives package of the People, Water and Land Programme, Mrs Lawrence explained that staff and Iwi had worked closely with the Regional Forum over the last 2 years to build their knowledge. She noted that knowledge sharing and learning for staff, the Regional Forum and Councillors was a priority. The same knowledge was shared amongst all groups, mostly through workshops.

It was expressed that it could be useful to bring the Land Sustainability, Consents and Compliance teams alongside the Regional Forum to help bring the Values and Objectives down to usable and workable solutions on farm. Regarding thorough and consistent communication with the community, Mrs Henderson advised an email would be sent to Councillors following the meeting that would assist in talking with their communities. A media release was being prepared. Subsequent media releases were planned and would be geared in providing the community with information.

***Resolved:***

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council receive the outputs of the Values and Objectives package and:**

- 1. direct the Regional Forum (supported by staff) to commence the assessment of the implications of achieving a state of hauora (well-being) for water across the region within a generation (25-30 years) and to inform the recommendations around potential interim targets within that period;**
- 2. note that a plan is being developed for the Regional Forum to test options for achieving the above in a staged way; to engage with the community; and to report regularly to Governance;**
- 3. acknowledge that the Values and Objectives package along with the new requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 will inform a future plan change to the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan;**
- 4. note that the Values and Objectives package will help inform Environment Southland strategy and programmes of work to achieve measurable outcomes for freshwater, and to inform an associated communication and engagement plan.**

**Carried**

**⇒ Item 2 – Update on the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan Appeals**

The purpose of this item is to inform the Council of the progress of the Environment Court appeals on the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP).

Mrs Collard reported that a fourth interim decision on the objectives had been issued by Judge Borthwick earlier in the month. Policies that were part of the Topic A hearings would be addressed alongside the Topic B rules. A further Section 32AA evaluation of the policies and rules would happen as part of the mediation process.

Staff were currently in the process of mediation planning in order to meet the timetable set by the Court, which mandated that all mediation is completed by 1 June 2021. Staff were also undertaking assessments of the provisions against National Environmental Standards and the new National Policy Statement 2020.

In response to a question it was advised staff had requested that Invercargill was the prime location for mediation where possible. People outside of Invercargill would be able to join via Zoom digital.

Regarding Objective 18, Mrs Hicks explained there had been discussion around Objective 18 over the last few months. The finalised version in front of Councillors at this meeting was an agreed version, further implications of this change would be covered in the Topic B discussions.

Responding to comments, Mrs Collard advised prior to mediation on topics including the one addressing the farming rules of the plan, the Consents and Compliance teams, as well as the Science team, would be consulted with to assist in reaching the best outcomes possible.

Councillors noted that at the end of this process, Council would have an excellent Plan that would strengthen policies, rules and set a strong basis for the limit setting to come.

***Resolved:***

**Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Baird, that Council:**

- 1. note the progress of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan in the Environment Court;**
- 2. note the process for resolving the remainder of the provisions through mediation and hearings.**

**Carried**

**⇒ Item 3 – Winter Air Quality Monitoring and Progress towards National Environmental Standards for Air Quality**

This item updated Council on the winter air quality monitoring results and airshed progress towards compliance with the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ). Mr West advised that the PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring for Invercargill and Gore for the winter 2020 season recorded exceedances above the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality

(NESAQ) limit of 50 micrograms per cubic meter over 24 hours. There were 13 exceedances in Invercargill and three in Gore, a slight increase on exceedance recordings in 2019. Although the average concentrations were decreasing slightly it was a slow process in reaching the desired PM<sub>10</sub> standard. Mr West further advised that the NESAQ were under review and according to MfE, the review was not likely to reach a gazetting stage until September 2021. The review would present a new target standard for air quality of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. With respect to this, Mr West advised that monitoring of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations was being conducted in Invercargill, Gore and Winton. Early monitoring results showed good results from Winton however Invercargill and Gore were unlikely to achieve the proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard at this stage. Future monitoring would include both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in Invercargill and Gore. PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring at Winton would continue for at least one more winter season.

Mr West noted that monitoring that had been done by another agency at Maitua showed that air quality was unlikely to achieve the proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. He advised that Council would be installing a monitoring site at Maitua for the 2021 winter season to undertake further investigations.

Regarding future work, Mr West highlighted key points as being continued monitoring, development of the Air Quality Strategy for the Long-term Plan, and better understanding of public perceptions of air quality along with the social aspects of good or bad air quality.

Responding to a question around good monitoring results at Winton, Mr West explained that the smaller population and potentially the types of heating used were factors. At Gore, types and uses of heating along with topography were contributing factors to the exceedances recorded there.

It was asked whether indoor air quality was currently being monitored by staff. Mr West advised that the focus was on ambient air quality. He explained that a working group had been formed involving researchers from GNS and NIWA who were looking into indoor air quality.

With regards to coal use and in response to a question, Mr West noted that a complete ban on coal use would result in a significant improvement in air quality in Southland. Discussion followed around the continual need for community education and assistance in using the right fuels in the right burners.

In response to a question Mr West highlighted that a new air quality position dedicated to education and community engagement would be the next most beneficial tool for the organisation. Other councils had made significant advancement and improvement in their air quality spaces by having a person in this type of role. Another aspect would be to look closely at regulations around coal use, the sooner the better as the phase out timeframe for burners that were still able to burn coal was 2034.

Mr West explained that staff had an indication of non-compliant burners that may be being used through the Emission Inventories, which was based on Invercargill City Council records and Census information. This was an estimate however as it would be difficult to ascertain a more definite number. Although the interest free loan system was in place through the City Council, it was noted that another system to encourage people to replace older burners might need to be considered. This could be financial, wood supply, or a

combination of both. Mr West noted that there was a wealth of information on Environment Southland's Breathe Easy website.

Discussion returned to the possibility of creating a new air quality role dedicated to community engagement and education. Councillors agreed this would be beneficial and that the time to do this was now as part of Long-term Plan discussions.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Mager, that Council note the results of winter air quality monitoring in 2020 and the planned next steps.**

**Carried**

⇒ **Item 4 – Policy and Planning Division Work Programme including External Agency Reports**

This item was prepared to allow the Policy and Planning Division work programme to be reviewed on a regular basis, and to receive reports and discussion papers from external agencies that may be of interest to Council.

Mrs Hicks took this opportunity to thank all staff involved in the preparation of the Section 32AA report.

Policy and Planning staff were heavily involved in the implications of the Essential Freshwater package and what it meant for Council and the People, Water and Land programme. This also fed into the Regional Forum.

The Coastal plan would be continued in the New Year. Updates would be provided to Council.

The draft Regional Land Transport plan had been edited to reduce some of the content with background information being included in the appendices. The programme section had been drafted and was to be presented at the combined Regional Transport Committee workshop later in the week.

Five kilometres of the Cycle Trail had been constructed with the next phase to commence in December, weather permitting.

The Cruise Ship negotiations were almost complete. One provider had signed the deed for the remainder of this season. It was expected that the remainder of the industry could sign the deed pre-Christmas.

**Resolved:**

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

**Carried**

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

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

**11 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 10.25 am.