

**Minutes of the Regulatory Committee (*Whakaretea*)  
Meeting of the Southland Regional Council, held in  
Regional House, corner North Road and Price Street,  
Invercargill, on Wednesday, 30 June 2021, at 1.30 pm**

---



<b>Present:</b>	Cr N Cook	(Chair)
	Cr A Baird	
	Cr L Esler	
	Cr R Guyton	
	Cr L McCallum	
	Cr J McPhail	
	Cr D Stevens	
	Chairman N Horrell (ex-officio)	
<b>Also Present:</b>	Cr L Ludlow	
	Cr P McDonald	
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Mr D Rule	(Interim General Manager Integrated Catchment Management)
	Mr B Halligan	(Acting Consents Manager)
	Mr G McMurdo	(Acting Compliance Manager)
	Mr B Rickertsen	(Digital Media Co-ordinator)
	Miss A Takau	(PA – <i>minutes</i> )

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

The Chairman welcomed members to the Regulatory Committee meeting.

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

***Resolved:***

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr D Stevens, that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr B Mager.**

**Carried**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no Public Forum, Petitions or Deputations presented to the meeting.

## **5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakaū kōrero*)**

### ***Resolved:***

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Chairman Horrell, that the minutes of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 31 March 2021 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 considered by the meeting.

### **6.2 Other**

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

## **7 Questions (*Patai*)**

There were no questions asked by members.

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

Neither the Chairman nor any Councillors presented reports.

## **9 General Manager, Integrated Catchment Report – 21/RC/51**

### **Item 1 – Consents Team Activity and Performance – 1 March 2021 to 31 May 2021**

This item had been prepared for Council to be updated on the activity and performance and forecast activity of the Consents Division for the reporting period, and other current and topical matters.

Mr Halligan spoke to his report by firstly acknowledging that the Consents Division had come out of a reasonably busy period, with 117 applications lodged and the timeframes for processing were generally tracking well. He further elaborated on key matters from his report.

Cr Esler queried the declining of consent relating to the Fiordland Cruises application, as he noted that Milford was over 40 kms in length, and this seemed at odds with central Government's desire to promote and encourage domestic tourism. Mr Halligan reminded the meeting that this matter was under appeal, and it was not possible for him to discuss those matters in depth. However, the application had been assessed

under the current regulatory framework that exists under the Regional Coastal Plan, and because of the specific provisions around maximum trips, those trips were already at the current maximum allocation now. Cr Cook reminded the meeting that provision has been made in Council's LTP for a review of the Coastal Plan, which would cover those matters.

Cr Baird raised questions and concerns around potential delays with the Gore District Council's bridge consent which was currently under appeal, with the appellants making application for funding. Mr Halligan noted that Council was a respondent in this appeal and he could not discuss this in detail, but the time frames around such matters were less stringent than processing timeframes. Council could not influence those matters.

With regard to the AB Lime application, irrespective of the outcome of that consent application Cr Esler felt there was a need for the region to have a discussion around how it wishes to handle its waste going forward, and where waste comes from. Mr Halligan noted those matters were outside the ambit of the Commissioner. Cr Esler suggested Council workshop those matters once the decision has been released, but it was suggested by others that this should be a joint-Council discussion. The Chairman undertook to raise this as an agenda item with the Mayoral Forum initially, once the decision has been released.

**Resolved:**

**Moved, Cr McCallum, seconded by Cr McPhail that Council note the activity and performance of the Consents Division during the March to May 2021 reporting period.**

**Carried**

**Item 2 – Environmental Compliance Division Report – 13 March 2021 to 9 June 2021**

This item reported on the activities within the Environmental Compliance Division during the period 13 March to 9 June 2021. Glen McMurdo spoke to the report, highlighting in particular:

- for the first time in a number of years, staff had completed inspections on Stewart Island – covering 71 structures, with only two Abatement Notices being issued.
- monitoring undertaken in the Fiordland area
- monitoring of low rate water takes
- a new online reporting process to make it easier for customers to interact with Council,
- intensive winter grazing (IWG) – internal and external meetings occurring during this reporting period – with MPI, Dairy NZ, Federated Farmers and ES all working together in a transparent way and staying in close communication.

Chairman Horrell referred to the NES for plantation forestry, commenting that it was considered to be too weak, and asking if this was under review. Staff advised the reporting requirements and having the resources to effectively respond to it were issues for Council, with the current staff member working in that area also about to leave.

The meeting briefly discussed what constitutes significant non-compliance (as reported in five cases out of 351 dairy inspections) and how they were dealt with.

Cr McCallum raised concerns around the apparent miscommunication with the community about the move to electronic submission of information, and when this could be expected. Staff advised that the information had been circulated on 8 June 2021, but Cr McCallum advised he had not received this information himself. Staff were to follow-up outside of the meeting about this matter.

In response to questions about smokey chimneys, it was noted that complaints are able to be lodged with Council's 24-hour Pollution Response system. Information is relayed to staff, and it is assessed as to an appropriate response at that time. It was noted that of the 221 incidents reported, more than half were smoke related.

Cr Baird also referred to inspections being undertaken at short notice and enquired as to how much time elapses between a call being made about a visit and the actual inspection. Mr McMurdo advised that the normal practise was to call very shortly before arriving on the site. He was aware that some farmers wish to ensure that a call is lodged that suits them – this was an evolving matter as it was important to balance the efficient completion of the inspections in a particular area v speaking to the right people. Cr Cook noted that some councils provide prior notification and some do not – this Council's policy was that prior notification was not provided, but it appeared now that some adjustment was being made. He suggested if there was a request for this policy to be reviewed, the Committee would need to discuss that and make a recommendation to Council.

With regards to smokey chimney complaints, it was noted that the community appears to be less tolerant towards these matters and more aware there are rules in place. Staff are taking an education approach first, but for some people, the message does not appear to be getting through.

With regard to water take consents it was noted that electronic monitoring is now required on all new takes, such that over time all large scale consents will have telemetered information provided back to Council. The meeting noted it was still an issue with some consent holders not providing the information back to Council for takes that are not currently telemetered.

***Resolved:***

**Moved Cr Stevens, seconded by Cr McPhail that Council note the Consents Division report for the period.**

**Carried**

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

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

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

There was no public excluded business considered by the meeting.

**Termination**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:11pm.