

**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, 30 June 2021, at 10.00 am**



Present:	Cr E Roy (Chair) Cr A Baird Cr L Esler Cr R Guyton Cr P McDonald Chairman Horrell Cr L Ludlow Cr L McCallum Cr D Stevens
In Attendance:	Cr J McPhail
Staff Present:	Ms W Falconer (General Manager Strategy, Planning & Engagement) Ms L Hicks (Policy & Planning Manager) Mrs A Henderson (Senior Communications Coordinator) Ms E Moran (Principal Policy Planner – Economist) Ms N Carter (Senior Policy Planner) Ms A Raymond (Policy Planner) Miss M Scott (Personal Assistant - <i>Minutes</i>)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

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

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Stevens that an apology for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr B Mager.

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*) – 19 May 2021

In considering the minutes, it was noted Cr McPhail was to be added as “Also Present”.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Guyton that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 19 May 2021, be taken as read as amended 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, Strategy Planning & Engagement Report – 21/S&P/50**⇒ Item 1 – Intensive Winter Grazing Update 2021**

This item was prepared to provide Council with an update on Intensive Winter Grazing actions underway; as well as to outline the approach staff were taking to meet the Minister's requirements, as outlined in his letter of 16 March 2021. These efforts included:

- an increased number of cultivation and monitoring flights;
- proactive communication and support provided to the community; and
- a pilot of a Southland Decision-Making tool being launched to assist farmers with making good decisions regarding IWG Placement.

Ms Hicks advised that an item of the NES they were yet to address was how to measure the extent of winter grazing. She noted staff would be repeating a study undertaken in 2017 involving satellite imagery to provide a baseline for monitoring. After a lengthy discussion the following matters were clarified:

- the requirement was to monitor the land used for intensive winter grazing and not the cropped land;
- staff would not be proposing to make the same use of the satellite imagery that they would from cultivation and monitoring flights;
- the specific dates from the 2017 study were not known, however the intention was to move quickly so as to cover the same timeframe in both studies.

It was noted that there was a disconnect between the farming community and the rules and that ease of consenting should be a priority. Ms Hicks explained that this has been a focus and draft forms for the process were ready to be 'rolled out'. She added that there was also a programme that would allow farmers to highlight an area of their farm on a map and they would be notified whether a consent would be needed for that area.

An extensive conversation took place on the lack of understanding other regions had on Southland farming and how social media had been causing negativity in the community.

The question was raised on how recognition could be given to those that were making a positive shift in their practices. It was acknowledged that this was a question for the committee to consider.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council notes the content of the report.

Carried

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

This item was prepared for Council to be updated on the Policy and Planning Division's work programme, a copy of which had been attached to the agenda. In speaking to the report, Ms Hicks highlighted that mediation had not been completed, as weather had prevented key people from attending. She noted that they were waiting for this to be rescheduled.

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 10:37 am.