

**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, 19 May 2021, at 10.00 am**

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**Present:**

Cr E Roy	(Chair)
Cr A Baird	
Cr L Esler	
Cr R Guyton	
Chairman N Horrell	
Cr L Ludlow	
Cr B Mager	
Cr L McCallum	
Cr J McPhail	
Cr D Stevens	

**Staff Present:**

Ms W Falconer	(General Manager Strategy, Planning & Engagement)
Mr R Phillips	(Chief Executive)
Ms L Hicks	(Policy & Planning Manager)
Mr R Hawkes	(Lead Transport Planner)
Mrs E Moriarty	(Science, Strategy & Investigations Manager)
Ms A Raymond	(Policy Planner)
Miss R Bangi	(Policy Planner)
Mr G Gilder	(Senior Policy Planner)
Ms N Carter	(Senior Policy Planner)
Mr S West	(Principal Consents Officer)
Mrs A Henderson	(Senior Communications Coordinator)
Miss M Scott	(Personal Assistant - <i>Minutes</i> )

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome (<i>Haere mai</i>)</b>
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for May including the wider public via livestream.

<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies (<i>Nga Pa Pouri</i>)</b>
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**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Stevens 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*) – 31 March 2021**

**Resolved:**

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Chairman Horrell that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy 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 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/37**

#### **⇒ Item 1 – Land Transport Rule Setting of Speed Limits 2021**

This item was prepared to update Council on the financial and resourcing implications for Environment Southland resulting from the proposed Land Transport – Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2021 currently being consulted on by Waka Kotahi, the NZ Transport Agency.

Mr Hawkes summarised his report and highlighted that it would be the Regional Transport Committee that would prepare and consult on the plan and that there would be no requirement for Council sign-off.

To questions asked, Mr Hawkes clarified the following:

- the extent of detail for the rule was unclear and the guidelines had not been released;
- whilst the committee would be reporting to council, it would be a report for the Council's information only;
- there were two proposed systems that would run concurrently.

Concern was expressed over the possible cost to Council to implement the new rules. Mr Hawkes noted that regional councils would incur no additional cost other than the planning factor, as the implementation would be funded by other sources.

Mr Hawkes spoke in regard to the timeline of the rule. He advised that work would begin on the Regional Speed Management Process Plan in early 2022 and that it would have to be signed off by 2024 to be in line with the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Baird, seconded Cr Mager, that Council note the report.**

**Carried**

## ⇒ **Item 2 – Consultation document on Phasing out of Fossil Fuels in Process Heat**

This item had been prepared to inform Council of the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and New Zealand Government's consultation document: *Phasing out fossil fuels in process heat: national direction on industrial greenhouse gas emissions*.

Ms Raymond advised that through this document, the Government would be progressing its pre-election and global commitments to tackle climate change. The document included recommendations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by requiring and incentivising industry into decarbonisation of process heat. She recommended that Council focus on the tools and resources needed to assist staff in formulating a submission.

A discussion took place on the current industry that relied on large fossil fuels to run and what the implications would be to operations if these were to be phased out. Ms Raymond noted that there were 34 large scale emission consents at the time of the meeting and that a process would need to be put in place to review the implications.

Concern was expressed that no cohesive plan had been communicated from the Government on what the alternative methods of fuel would be. A brief discussion took place where some Councillors believed electricity may not be the only alternate option.

Ms Hicks advised the committee to read through a draft submission after the meeting and to send any feedback through to herself, to allow it to be finalised and submitted.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council:**

- (1) note the report;**
- (2) note that staff will prepare a submission on the consultation document, which would be circulated for feedback and final submission.**

**Carried**

⇒ **Item 3 – New Zealand’s Environmental Reporting Series – Our land 2021**

This item was prepared to inform the Council of the report: *New Zealand’s Environmental Reporting Series: Our land 2021* released by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Statistics New Zealand on 15 April 2021.

Miss Bangi summarised the report for the committee. The report focused on the consequences of land use now and into the future, including how climate change may affect it in the future. She clarified this report was for the Council’s information only.

In response to questions, Ms Hicks advised that information and mapping of highly productive land (HPL) will be progressed and in line with the National Policy Statement that relates to HPL, which is due to be gazetted this year.

Concern was expressed that some figures did not reflect the wider picture and it was noted that a set of global figures to use for comparison would be helpful.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council note the Our land 2021 report.**

**Carried**

#### ⇒ **Item 4 – 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 the following points:

- the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) appeals would be divided into two parts at the Environment Court hearings;
- stage one on the Coastal Plan Review had been completed, including the adoption of the Strategic Direction. The next workshop would be held on 29 June 2021.

Concern was expressed that the pSWLP had been overridden so much by the new NES and NPS that it no longer seemed as effective as it once was. Ms Hicks acknowledged that it was a matter many had considered, however, she believed that significant elements of the pSWLP were still crucial and relevant.

In responding to questions raised, Ms Hicks advised that the Air Plan Stage Two work had been deferred and would be considered in the next Long-term Plan cycle i.e. from July onwards.

Questions were asked on whether the LiDAR planes had still been collecting data. Ms Hicks advised that they have been flying. They require windows of clear weather and that it would be another six to eight months before they would have any real data to share.

#### **Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Ludlow, 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 11:33 am.