

Minutes of a Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2024 commencing at 9.20 am

Present

Clrs G A Hope (Chairperson), B A Faulls (Deputy), R J Innes, B J Minehan and T P Sowman, Mayor N P Taylor, Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative) and Mr R Smith (Iwi representative)

Present via Teams

Clr S J Arbuckle

also Present

Clrs S R W Adams (from 10.12 am) and J D N Croad

also Present via Teams

Clr J A Arbuckle

In Attendance

Ms G Ferguson (Consents and Compliance Group Manager) and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Clrs Hope/Minehan:

That the apology for absence from Clr A R Burgess be received and sustained and the apology for lateness from Clr S R W Adams be noted.

Carried

E&P-0724-15 Declaration of Interests

Mayor N P Taylor declared an interest in Item 9 – Appeals on the PMEP.

Clr J A Arbuckle declared an interest in Item 8 – Submission on Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill and Item 13 – Submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

ATTENDANCE: Claudia Mark, Council's Solicitor, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-16 Approval of Revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for Environment & Planning Committee L150-003-10

Ms Mark noted that the purpose of the report was to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Environment and Planning Committee, once approved they will be published on Council's website.

Members were advised that the Terms of Reference set out the purpose, scope and authority of each committee and comply with and are reflective of good governance.

Council's Legal Services have reviewed the committee ToRs and those revised and updated ToRs were attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Members had no additional amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Cirs Faulis/Innes:

That the Committee approve the attached Terms of Reference (refer Attachment 1) to accurately reflect the purpose, scope and authority of the Committee.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearson, Council's Strategic Planner and Martin Crundwell, GNS Scientist, GNS Science was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-17 Assessment of Naturally Hard- and Soft-Bottomed Rivers in the Wairau Plain E375-000-001

Ms Pearson noted that the purpose of the report was to present the report: "Assessment of naturally hard- and soft-bottomed rivers, Wairau Plain, Marlborough". To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24177446).

Mr Crundwell acknowledged Mr Paul White, fellow author of the report, who was present in the public gallery. The report had been separately attached to the agenda for members' information.

By way of introduction members were advised that the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) requires councils to determine whether river sites of interest to the community are naturally hard-bottomed, where naturally is the state of the river before the arrival of humans in New Zealand. The Council must then determine whether, having regard to the relevant long-term vision, it is appropriate to return a site that has been affected back to a hard-bottomed state. GNS scientists Martin Crundwell and Paul White utilized a geological model based on borehole data together with pre-human (relict) river channels derived from a digital elevation model to determine the location of the natural (pre-human) transition zone from hard-bottomed to soft-bottomed river channels within the Wairau Plain.

It was noted that significant modifications to the natural network of waterways to allow economic development of the Wairau Plain have resulted in changes to river flows, sediment supply and channel morphology. As a result, for some waterways the transition zone between a hard- and soft-bottomed riverbed has shifted. Examples are the Ōpaoa River and Wairau River but for other rivers the current transition zone is still within its natural bounds.

Members were advised that climate change and associated sea level rise will eventually shift the transition zone further inland which does mean that further work is required to determine the extent and timeframes for this shift.

Members asked a number of questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

Mr Smith/Clr Minehan: That the report be received.

mat the report

Carried

NB: The order of the agenda was altered at this point and the following Item 7 was heard ahead of Item 5.

ATTENDANCE: Alan Johnson, Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-18 Environment Court Direction-Regional Pest Management Plan E315-002-008-05

Mr Johnson noted the purpose of the report was to provide the committee with the Environmental Court's final decision and provide next steps relating to modifying the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) by inserting Site-led pest conifer provisions.

Members were advised that Council has received a decision from the Environment Court directing the inclusion of a pest conifer Site-led programme in the RPMP specially for Stronvar Retirement Area. The Environment Court Decision was included with the agenda item for members' information.

By way of background it was noted that Council notified a decision on an amended Regional Pest Management Plan, to insert a new programme for pest conifers in July 2020. A submitter through the plan making process made an application to the Environment Court on that decision. Council entered into mediation with the submitter to reach an agreed position. This was unsuccessful and as such a hearing with the Environment Court occurred in 2022.

The matter was focussed on the desire for specific content and provisions to be inserted into the RPMP programme for pest conifers to address a localised concern at a property level. This also extended to explicit responsibility and liability statements.

Mr Johnson reported that through that process the parties could not agree on the final wording for a pest conifer site-led programme so both parties submitted their respective responses to the Judge for a decision.

Members were advised that the Court decision is to direct Council to put a bespoke site-led management programme in the Pest Plan Conifer programme. This was programme was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Mr Johnson noted that the principal measure that the Court has directed of Council is a blend of proposed wording from both Council and the Applicant. A key aspect of the principal measure is that it only applies if control operations are proposed as part of a programme to implement the Objective, in other words the programme including the technical nature of operations must be agreed by both parties and achievement would also have to be 'feasible'.

It was reported that the other key aspect of the decision is the Court erred from imposing any liability on Council or the Applicant.

Members were advised on the next steps and these were also detailed in the agenda item.

Cirs Hope/Faulis:

- 1. That the report be received.
- 2. That Council proceed to make an amendment to the Regional Pest Management Plan to comply with the Environmental Court direction to modify the pest conifer programme to include Site led provisions for the Stronvar Retirement Area.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: CIr Adams joined the meeting at 10.12 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Steffi Henkel, Council's Environmental Scientist – Water Quality, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-19 Recreational Water Quality Update 2023-2024

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the annual Recreational Water Quality Report Card and provide information on the Power BI Dashboard.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24179192). Within the presentation screenshots of the online dashboard were displayed. Once the dashboard is finalised for online use it will be added to the MDC website.

Ms Henkel reported that the recreational water quality at nine coastal beaches and ten river swimming spots was monitored during the summer months of 2023/2024. Weekly samples were analysed for indicator bacteria concentrations to evaluate the health risk to swimmers from waterborne diseases.

It was noted that most samples taken had bacteria concentrations that indicated low health risks. Five sites consistently exhibited bacteria levels deemed safe for swimmers. Coastal sites had no or only one sample with bacteria concentrations indicating an increased health risk.

River sites had a slightly higher number of samples with elevated bacteria levels compared to the coastal sites. Rai Falls, the Ohinemahuta River at Domain and Taylor River at Henry Street had the highest number of samples with unsafe bacteria concentrations. The majority of samples at these sites showed a low health risk from waterborne diseases.

Most sites were graded as either "Good" or "Fair", meaning these sites are generally suitable for swimming except following rainfall.

Members were advised that a full report with detailed analysis of sampling results and analysis of changes over time will be released every three years. The last such report was published last year (2023) with the next report due in 2026. In the years between detailed reports, report cards and a dashboard on the Council website serve as data summaries that are updated every year.

Mr Harvey/Mr Smith:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Zeke Hoskins, Council's Environmental Science Technician, was present for the following item

E&P-0724-20 Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao Grant

Mr Hoskins noted that the purpose of the report was to inform Council of the decisions made by the Grant Sub-committee regarding successful applicants of the Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao 2024-2025 grant round and to provide an update on the 2023-2024 grant round which concluded on 1 June 2024. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24180273).

It was reported that the applications closed on the 30 April 2024 and the Grant Sub-committee assessed each application and formed a decision on which projects were to receive funding. Requested funding totalled \$258,981.36, surpassing the \$138,000 budget. The grant is split into three categories – Protecting Marlborough, Habitat Marlborough and Environmental Advocacy and the criteria for each was detailed in the agenda item.

Members were advised that 21 of the 28 applicants received either partial or full funding for their projects and have since agreed to the conditions of the grant. The successful applicants were listed in the agenda item for members' information.

Mr Hoskins advised that the next grant round closes on 1 June 2025, with invoicing and the accountability forms to be handed in by this date. Included in the accountability is evidence of expenditure, photographs and a description of the work undertaken. This will then be assessed against the application, ensuring funding has succeeded in accomplishing the goal of the project.

Applications will reopen in April 2025 for the Working for Nature 2025-26 grant round.

CIrs Minehan/Faulls:

- 1. That the report be received.
- 2. That the decisions made by the Grant Sub-Committee be approved by Council.

ATTENDANCE: Pere Hawes, Council's Manager Environmental Policy, was present for the following five items.

E&P-0724-21 Submission on Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill L150-019-R01

Mr Hawes noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee on Marlborough District Council's submission to the Select Committee on the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill (Bill). The submission was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

By way of background it was noted that the Mayor and Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee had approved the submission, and Council filed the submission on 14 June 2024. The Council presented its oral submission to the Select Committee on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

Mr Hawes provided members with a summary of the presentation and provided the following link to the verbal submissions https://vimeo.com/showcase/10758268 (The Marlborough District Council's submission is the video that is 2.22 minutes long)

Ms Ferguson advised that Council has been working with the industry for a number of years to address the issue of consents expiring at the end of 2024. At the time of presenting the submission there were only five applications outstanding that were due to expire at the end of 2024 and subsequently this has reduced to zero applications expiring at the end of this year.

Cirs Innes/Faulis:

That the Submission on the Bill be received.

Carried

Postscript: Following the meeting the report from the Primary Production Select Committee on the Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms was circulated to members.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 10.46 am at the conclusion of the above item and rejoined the meeting at 11.17 am during Item 13 – Submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 10.46 am and resumed at 11.03 am

E&P-0724-22 Appeals on the PMEP

M100-09-01

Mr Hawes noted the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of progress with resolving appeals made to the Environment Court on the PMEP.

51 notices of appeal on the PMEP were lodged with the Environment Court.

Scheduled Environment Court mediation on all topics has now been completed, although requests for further Court assisted mediation are being made when the parties consider that progress can be made.

Three consent memoranda have been approved by the Court since the last report to the Committee. A further consent memorandum is currently with the Court.

Mr Hawes noted there are two matters likely to go to Court unless there is settlement before the Court dates. Appeals on King Shag feeding habitat in the Marlborough Sounds is to be heard by the Court from 18 November 2024 and the appeals on Coastal Occupancy Charges are to be heard by the Court from 10 December 2024. Evidence for these two matters is already with the Court.

Members were advised that the final appeal points in Topic 15 Waste & Discharges to Land have been resolved and the consent documentation is currently being prepared and will go to Court in due course.

Cirs Innes/Minehan:

That the information be received.

E&P-0724-23 Appeals on PMEP Variation 1: Marine Farming

Mr Hawes noted that the purpose of the report was to update the Committee on progress with resolving appeals on PMEP Variation 1: Marine farming appeals.

It was noted that 32 notices of appeal on Variation 1 were lodged with the Environment Court. Formal mediation on Variation 1 appeals commenced on 12 March 2024.

Members were advised that following the conclusion of Court mediation earlier this year on the management framework appeals, there are 11 work streams that were a product of that mediation and staff have just started the process of considering all the feedback that was received.

Mr Hawes reported that the objective is to get the management framework beyond challenge. That means for those aquaculture management areas that have not been appealed, the provisions of Variation 1 can be treated as operative and therefore applied to the consenting process. There are however aquaculture management areas that have been appealed and these appeals will be addressed through spatial mediation later this year.

Cirs Hope/Sowman:

That the information be received.

Carried

E&P-0724-24 Decision on PMEP Variation 2: Ecologically Significant Marine Sites M100-11-007-06

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee that a decision on PMEP Variation 2: Ecologically Significant Marine Sites has been made and publicly notified and to recommend the withdrawal of a discrete component of the notified variation.

Mr Hawes noted that variation 2 proposed the addition of three king shag breeding sites: Squadron Rocks, Bottle Rock Point and Ruakaka Point. Bottle Rock Point and Ruakaka Point were already included in the existing PMEP provisions and the Hearings Panel found it unnecessary to confirm these two sites by way of Variation 2. These two sites have been removed by the decision.

It was reported that Squadron Rocks (ESMS 2.38) is not included in the PMEP provisions as the Hearings Panel understood the breeding of king shag had ceased at Squadron Rocks. On that basis, they considered the inclusion of ESMS 2.38 to be both inaccurate and unnecessary.

Members were advised that there were no submissions in opposition to the inclusion of Squadron Rocks, so the site was unable to be removed via the decision. For this reason, the Hearings Panel recommended that the Council withdraw ESMS 2.38 from Variation 2 in accordance with Clause 8D of the First Schedule of the RMA.

Cirs Faulis/Innes:

That the Council:

- 1. Notes the decision on PMEP Variation 2: Ecologically Significant Marine Sites.
- 2. Determines that ESMS site 2.38 be withdrawn from Variation 2.

E&P-0724-25 Variation 6 and 7 – Kerepi and Urban Residential Four Zone – Summary of Decisions M100-11-16, M100-11-17

Mr Hawes noted that the purpose of the report was to adopt a summary of decisions requested in submissions to Variations 6 and 7 and to approve the public notification of the summary of decisions requested.

It was noted that submissions on Variations 6 and 7 to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) closed on 14 May 2024.

Council has summarised the decisions being sought through submissions and is required to publicly notify the availability of the summary.

The public notification commences the period for further submissions to be made on submissions.

Members were advised that a hearing will be held to hear submissions on the variations and a report will be presented to a future committee meeting seeking the appointment of a hearing panel for this process.

Cirs Hope/Sowman:

- 1. That Council adopt the summary of decisions requested in submissions as noted in Attachment 1 and 2 of the agenda item.
- 2. That approval is given to publicly notify the summary of decisions, as soon as practicable.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor rejoined the meeting at 11.17 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearson, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-26 Submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the Council's staff submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Bill.

Ms Pearson advised that on 23 May 2024, the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Bill was introduced into the House and submissions on the Bill were due by the end of June 2024. This date fell between Committee meetings and given that a staff submission was made. The submission and a copy of the proposal was attached to the agenda for members' information.

It was noted the submission had two aspects, commentary on the wider resource management reforms of the RMA and secondary pieces of legislation, together with more specific aspects of the Bill which have implications for the Marlborough region.

CIrs Faulls/Minehan:

That the submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Bill be received.

ATTENDANCE: Karen Winter, Council's Manager Environmental Policy, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-27 Local Alcohol Policy Development E350-005-008-02

Ms Winter noted that the purpose of the report was to outline the process involved in development of a Local Alcohol Policy and reconfirm Council's decision to develop such a Policy under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Members were advised that in 2013, this Council began the process of developing a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP). In 2014 the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority requested that councils halt their development of these policies until such time as all appeals to these policies were heard.

It was noted that changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2023 came into effect on 31 August 2023, these removed the ability for parties to appeal provisional Local alcohol policies, as such limiting potential cost to councils in developing a LAP and possible court appeals.

Ms Winter noted that the current lack of a Local Alcohol Policy leaves both the community and licensees without clear information of what would be expected for a licensed premises. Adopting an LAP ensures that all licensees can clearly see if their proposed activity would meet the expectations of both Council and the Marlborough community.

It is anticipated that the costs of development would be absorbed within existing budget and use of current staff time. The Marlborough Alcohol Governance Group has advised they also have a budget to support the public consultation process.

Members were advised that further discussions with Police and Health will be undertaken with a draft LAP brought back to Committee for approval by the end of this year.

CIr Sowman/The Mayor:

That Council undertake to develop a Local Alcohol Policy.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Clrs S and J Arbuckle withdrew from the meeting at 11.28 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Tonia Stewart, Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was present for the following item.

E&P-0724-28 Dairy Shed Effluent and Stream Crossing Survey 2023/2024 E330-001-004, E330-001-005

Ms Stewart noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Council of the Compliance Group's monitoring of dairy shed effluent and stream crossings during the 2023/2024 dairy season. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24180275).

Members were advised that monitoring was carried out in November and December 2023 visiting 41 farms. All 41 of the farms were monitored against the PMEP or resource consent conditions. 32 of these were monitored against the activity standards within the PMEP that are treated as operative. The percentage of farms that were rated as compliant with the PMEP was 97% (31 farms), 1 farm was non-compliant and an infringement notice was issued, and 100% (9) of farms operating under resource consent were rated as compliant.

Stream crossing elimination is continuing to progress. There is only one farm with two stream crossings remaining during the 2023/24 inspections.

CIrs Minehan/Faulls:

That the information be received.

E&P-0724-29 Animal Control Sub-Committee

D050-001-A04

The minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 18 April 2024 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Cirs Faulis/Sowman:

That the minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 18 April 2024 be ratified.

Carried

E&P-0724-30 Information Package

CIrs Hope/Minehan:

That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 11 July 2024 be received and noted.

Carried

E&P-0724-31 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

Cirs Hope/Innes:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Sub-Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Minutes	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

Record No: 24180350

Attachment 1

Environment and Planning Committee

(Previously Environment Committee)

Chair	Gerald Hope
Deputy Chair	Barbara Faulls
Membership	Sally Arbuckle Allanah Burgess Raylene Innes Ben Minehan Thelma Sowman Mayor Nadine Taylor Simon Harvey (Rural Representative) Ruihana Smith (Iwi Representative)
Quorum	The quorum as per clause 11.2 of the Standing Orders 2022 for a meeting of the Committee is: (a) half of the members physically present, or present via audio visual link, where the number of members (including vacancies) is even; and (b) a majority of the members physically present, where the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.
Meeting Cycle	6 weekly
Reports to	Full Council

Responsibilities

Purpose

- To oversee the development, implementation, and review of Council's:
 - a) Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programs, and initiatives to address environmental issues in the region (including issues in the areas of land management, regional natural resources, compliance, monitoring, enforcement, coastal marine environment, maritime navigations and safety, biosecurity, and biodiversity).
 - b) Regulatory systems, processes, and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities.

Specific responsibilities

- 1. The Committee's environmental responsibilities include the areas of land management, regional natural resources, compliance, monitoring, enforcement, coastal marine environment, maritime navigation and safety, biosecurity, and biodiversity.
 - a. Oversee the development and review of Council's:
 - i. Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives
 - ii. Regional resilience priorities; and
 - b. Recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.
- 2. Review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's:
 - a) Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives; and

- b) Regional resilience priorities.
- 3. Consider regional, national, and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in the legislative frameworks for their implications for Council's:
 - a) Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives; and
 - b) Regulatory systems, processes, and tools.
- 4. Recommend to Council changes to improve the effectiveness of Council's:
 - a) Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives;
 - b) Regional resilience priorities; and
 - c) Regulatory systems, processes, and tools.
- 5. Ensure that the Committee's decision making:
 - a) Considers climate change-related risks (mitigation and adaptation)
- 6. The committee is responsible for appointing independent commissioners to carry out the council's functions or delegating the appointment power.
- 7. The committee is responsible for regulatory policy and bylaws. Where the committee's powers are recommendatory, the committee or the appointee will provide recommendations to the relevant decision-maker.
- 8. Recommending bylaws and charges to the Council for consultation and adoption

Activity areas:

- Environmental science and monitoring
- Enforcement and prosecution policies
- Animal control
- Noise Control
- Alcohol Licencing
- Food and health monitoring

- · Monitoring of consents
- Biosecurity
- Building control
- Resource consent processing
- Fencing of swimming pools
- Harbour management

Relevant legislation includes but is not limited to:

- All Marlborough District Council Bylaws
- Building Act 2004
- Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987
- Land Transport Act 1998
- Local Government Act 2002
- Psychoactive Substances Act 2013
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Health Act 1956
- Local Government Act 1974
- Maritime Transport Act 1994
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Powers

- 1. All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities, including:
 - a) approval of a submission to an external body
 - b) establishment of working parties or steering groups
- 2. **Associated decision:** If a matter relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Environment and Planning Committee, but aspects require additional decisions by the Animal Control Sub-Committee, or Climate Change Sub-Committee, or Hearing Sub-Committee, and/or Working for Nature Grants Sub-Committee, then the Environment and Planning Committee has the powers to make associated decisions on behalf of those other committee(s). For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of these committees for decisions.
- 3. **Referral of decisions:** The Committee may, from time to time, refer matters which it would ordinarily consider, to another Committee, if it considers the matter/project would be better dealt with by that other Committee.
- 4. **Referral for urgency:** The Committee Chair is authorised to refer urgent matters to the Council for decision, where this Committee would ordinarily have considered the matter. The Chairperson must make this referral in writing stating reasons for the referral.

Delegation Limits (if any)

The Environment and Planning Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers under the Local Government Act 2002, and its powers exclude powers that cannot be delegated to committees.

Procedure

The Chairperson will report back to Council with recommendations of Environment and Planning Committee at the next Council meeting following each committee meeting.