



# MINUTES

## Extraordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Ref: 1449027

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Extraordinary Council Meeting  
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Tuesday, 28 September 2021 at 3.00pm**

**Present:** Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Cr Allan Booth, Cr Peter Burt, Cr Barbara Gilchrist via Zoom, Cr Richard Lyon, Cr Gavin Oliver, Cr Paddy O'Reilly, Cr Sally Parker, Cr Stu Piddington, Cr Steve Wills

**In Attendance:** Anne Lemmens (Pleasant Point Community Board), Ashley Harper (Three Waters Stimulus Advisor), Wayne O'Donnell (Geraldine Community Board), Jan Finlayson (Geraldine Community Board via Zoom), Andrew Dixon (Group Manager Infrastructure), Hannah Goddard-Coles (Director Engagement & Culture), Stephen Doran (Communications Manager); Erik Barnes (Acting Group Manager Commercial & Strategy), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services), Bede Carran (Chief Executive), Mark Low (Strategy & Corporate Planning Manager), Symon Leggett (Group Manager Recreational & Cultural Services)

## 1 Apologies

### Apology

#### Resolution 2021/127

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cr Paddy O'Reilly

That the apology received from Geraldine Community Board Member Janene Adams be accepted.

**Carried**

## 2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest.

## 3 Matters of Urgent Business

### 3.1 Timaru District Holdings Limited Constitution - Appointment of Chair & Deputy Chair

Cr Stu Piddington requested clarification on a matter tabled in the Council meeting of 21 September 2021 where the issue of shareholder appointing only the Chair of Timaru District Holdings Limited (TDHL) was raised. TDHL's constitution provides for the shareholder to appoint both the Chair and Deputy Chair. The matter tabled is to be discussed at the next Council meeting on 26 October 2021.

### 3.2 Membership to Local Government New Zealand

Mayor Nigel Bowen raised concern regarding Council's current membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) due to LGNZ's position and lack of advocacy on the 3 Waters reforms as

proposed by the Government. It was noted that LGNZ had not consulted Council on the Heads of Agreement it reached with the Government, and Council formed the view LGNZ had not advocated sufficiently by a significant margin to fairly represent Council's views as to the reforms.

The general consensus was to support cancellation of Council's membership of LGNZ. The Chief Executive outlined possible ramifications regarding Council's cancellation. However, Council is hopeful that LGNZ will enter into dialogue to address the issues.

Council also considered requesting a paper on the options available, written correspondence in the form of a Letter of Concern to LGNZ and/or a vote of no confidence in the LGNZ leadership. It was decided not to pursue these options.

### **Resolution 2021/128**

Moved: Cr Richard Lyon

Seconded: Cr Steve Wills

That the Timaru District Council withdraws its membership to Local Government New Zealand with details of the withdrawal is delegated to the Mayor to negotiate and finalise.

**Carried**

## **5 Reports**

### **5.1 Three Waters Submission**

The Water Stimulus Advisor & Acting Group Manager Commercial and Strategy spoke this report on the Government's Three Waters Proposal.

Consideration was given to specific information forming the supporting evidence to the Government's Three Waters Reform. Independent analysis had identified concerns with the Government's evidence.

All correspondence from their constituents to their Elected Members was overwhelmingly against the Government's proposals, with some correspondence raising the requirement of a referendum. The issue of a referendum had been raised in the past but was deemed not feasible due to the time constraints imposed on Councils to complete their submissions.

There was agreement that the Central Government proposal of setting up a Water Authority – Taumata Arowai – was supported in determining water standards and accountability but issues were raised as to water infrastructure and Governance.

### **Resolution 2021/129**

Moved: Cr Peter Burt

Seconded: Cr Sally Parker

1. That Council notes the information outlined in the report on the background and progress of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.
2. That Council provides feedback on issues of concern regarding the Three Waters Reform Proposal to enable the development of Council's submission to the Government.
3. That Council resolves that Timaru District Council opposes the New Zealand Government's proposal to establish four water entities and removal of three waters assets and services from local Councils; and that following engagement with the Three Waters Review and the

more recent reform proposals, Council has identified three primary concerns that will form the basis of the submission to the Department of Internal Affairs:

- (a) Loss of local voice, decision-making, and ability to meet local needs and aspirations;
- (b) The evidence on which the proposal is based is flawed; and
- (c) Three water service delivery reform should not take place in the absence of clear regulatory standards, and the framework for financial regulation.

**Carried**

### **Resolution 2021/130**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cr Steve Wills

4. That Council resolves that Timaru District Council agrees that the Three Waters sector faces many challenges and that the status quo may not be sustainable at a national level, but believes that changes should be aligned and integrated with other local government reforms (Future for Local Government and Resource Management Act Reform); and supports the establishment of Taumata Arowai and the economic regulator, but believes these entities should be given time to become established and clear regulations identified before any reforms, as proposed by Government, are undertaken.
5. That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to amend and approve the Submission to Government on the Three Waters Reform Proposal.

**Carried**

**The meeting closed at 1605.**

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**Mayor Nigel Bowen**  
**Chairperson**