



MINUTES

Environmental Services Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 27 August 2024

Ref: 1701962

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Environmental Services Committee Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at 10.00am**

Present: Clr Michelle Pye (Chairperson), Clr Owen Jackson (Deputy Chairperson), Sally Parker, Clr Gavin Oliver, Clr Stu Piddington, Clr Allan Booth, Clr Stacey Scott, Clr Scott Shannon, Mayor Nigel Bowen

In Attendance: **Officers:** Nigel Trainor (Chief Executive), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services), Samantha Molyneux (Operations Coordinator – Community Services – Minute Taker)

Community Board: Gaye Broker (Temuka Community Board), Ross Munro (Pleasant Point Community Board), Shane Minear (Geraldine Community Board)

1 Apologies

Apologies Received

Resolution 2024/21

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Scott Shannon

That the apology received from Clr Peter Burt be received and accepted.

Carried

2 Public Forum

There were no public forum items.

3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Clr Stacey Scott declared a conflict of interest for the District Plan Hearing Update Report.

6 Chairperson's Report

6.1 Presentation of Chairperson's Report

Resolution 2024/22

Moved: Chairperson Michelle Pye

Seconded: Clr Gavin Oliver

The Chairperson has attended several meetings including a field trip for OTOP to visit some sites for potential funding including a farm on the Ohapi Creek near Temuka and some areas around pig hunting creek and the lagoon. Further the Chairperson attended a workshop/strategy session for Elected Members, a workshop considering the role of Zone Committees and what leadership in fresh water looks like for our region, a workshop on the draft Ecan RPS, a workshop for the Pleasant Point Community board to prioritise the next projects under their strategic plan, an Akona webinar on funding infrastructure and a meeting of coastal land owners with our local MP, James Meager, and two Ecan Councillors on options for mitigation of coastal inundation. The Chair also attended a local and regional Council hui at the Arowhenua Marae, and the Temuka Community Board meeting however was an apology for the Pleasant Point Community Board.

Carried

7 Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 30 July 2024

Resolution 2024/23

Moved: Clr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 30 July 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

8 Reports

8.1 Scope of Climate Change Response Plan

The Draft Climate Change Response Action Plan (the Plan) is a non-statutory document intended to guide annual work plans and anticipate the next Long-Term Plan, focussed mostly on in-house operational activity and approaches taken to capital projects and procurement. It also relates to Local Government roles in providing services ranging from land use planning to emergency management, to social housing and recreational facilities – wherever there is opportunity to reduce (or mitigate) carbon emissions and to better adapt to a warming climate. It has been

compiled by the Climate Change Advisor with assistance from colleagues in eight different units of the Council. It does not specify capital expenditures

It was requested as a follow up to the Council adopting a Climate Change Response Policy in February 2024 and appears in the Long-Term Plan. Some aspects are a follow-up to discussion of strategic issues identified in the public engagement of 2022-23, especially where the issues relate to Council assets or responsibilities.

Climate Change Adaption Lead, Rhys Taylor, spoke to his scoping report. He was seeking guidance on the direction and the options being generated. Decision making on the plan would be at a subsequent session (report to Environmental Services on October 8) and this was simply to help officers with direction.

It was further discussed what had been previously outlined by Elected Members and the desire to look at activity over the next two years to be able to have material impact before the next Long Term Plan development. It was suggested conversations be had with other organisations during September to add value to the discussions.

The Elected Members discussed matters such as being proactive rather than reactive, the percentage of emissions within the Timaru District and the issue in voting or ranking options when the costings of them have not been scoped. The Climate Change Adaption Lead explained that to develop the policy and direction of activities, some guidance and the exercise would be helpful to identify this, rather than scoping and costing all possible options which isn't required. It was further clarified that this wasn't a decision-making process, simply an exercise in preferences and priorities of options moving forward.

Additional questions were raised regarding the inclusion of latest government planning, biodiversity targets, whether what we're already doing would be included in the report and if the Working Group who put together the draft strategy would be consulted with. It was explained that the 2022/2023 facilitator had a commitment to a community base for the work, but an advisory group had been set up for that purpose.

Elected Members also requested that any future actions be prepared with a description of timetable. Councillor Scott declared a conflict being involved in the Community Irrigation Scheme that did not go-ahead years ago, but that there was an opportunity to have a conversation with this group regarding water storage. Further, a suggestion had been made that having a forum and using our role as a collective body to make those arrangements as part of the consultation process.

The Chief Executive raised concerns about getting our affairs in order internally and how we influence the community. He suggested that SLT have a good discussion before the next Standing Committee and come back with a list of easy wins and where we think we should invest in. He suggested the paper be built up with further cost benefit analysis and brought back for consideration.

Further discussions were had regarding trade waster, water treatment plants and greenhouse emissions, solid waste versus liquid water, completing the form today with commentary and a steer on how to proceed, whether community consultation would be delivered in house or by a consultant and if a reworked version of the report would come back to Elected Members before community consultation.

The Group Manager of Environmental Services pointed out that we are limited in our resourcing for this already enormous work stream, some of which will take years to achieve, whilst other elements are slow burning in the background or low hanging fruit. Prioritising these actions would

be useful to provide direction, not decisions, to best understand where to apply these limited resources.

The Mayor also acknowledged that there may be a different council in a years' time and this report may inform their decisions, so we need to be conscious of what's occurring across the rest of the country.

Resolution 2024/24

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Stacey Scott

That the Environmental Services Committee:

1. Receives and notes the scope for Climate Change Response Action Plan; and
2. Provides direction on scope; and
3. authorises staff to commence relevant external consultation in advance of presenting an updated plan for adoption in October 2024.

Carried

8.2 Environmental Services Group Update

The Environmental Services Committee via the Chair has requested regular BAU updates from each unit of the Group. The following brief report will be tabled periodically by way of an update about BAU.

Elected members noted at 5.5 the number of resource consents and the interest in knowing how many are completed inhouse and how many are outsourced to consultants, the associated costs of consultants and what we're doing to bring the work back in house.

The Group Manager of Environmental Services explained that the cost is 30% higher on average for an outsourced consultant. Internal officers are approximately \$180 an hour and \$220-\$250 for similar consultants externally who do that work. Alex Wakefield shed more light on that. The current Team Leader, Alex Wakefield, also explained that approximately 80% of consents have been done in house this year at least. The consents being handled externally are mostly due to legal expertise required and through his experience this leads to efficiencies and lower costs long term which is why it's preferable they do these specific consents.

It was requested that the number of consultants, consents and what's being decided is included in the next iteration of the Group Managers Environmental Services Update Report.

Further discussions were had regarding feedback for the applications received and how successful they would be, extensions granted, reports on noise complaints and problem properties, the roles this group is currently recruiting for, the annual Dog Control Report, the movement of an FTE from Customer Services into the Dog Control unit and the enthusiasm of opportunities to move functions within teams in order to provide a higher level of service to the community.

Resolution 2024/25

Moved: Cllr Sally Parker

Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

1. That the Environmental Services Group Update report be received and noted.

Carried

9 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

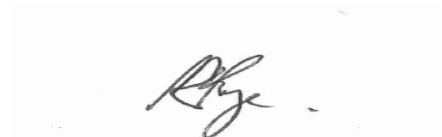
10 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

11 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration

There were no public forum items.

The Meeting closed at 10:55am.



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Clr Michelle Pye
Chairperson