

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES: of a meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee which commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Centreway Road, Orewa on Thursday, 22 July 2010.

PRESENT: Crs Grahame Powell (Chairperson)
Ross Craig
Michael Goudie
Gaye Harding
John Kirikiri
Dave Parker QSM
Zane Taylor
June Turner
Greville Walker
Wayne Walker
Suzanne Weld

IN ATTENDANCE: Director: Infrastructure (Murray Noone)
Executive Assistant (Kaye Davey)
Democracy Services Officer (Elaine Stephenson)

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9.00 a.m. Acting Chief Executive (Warren MacLennan), Group Manager: Transport Services (Barry George), Group Manager: Water Services (Jenny Warren), Manager: Transport Services Major Projects (Bill Horne), Manager: Transport Capital Works (Allan Roke), Manager: Transport Operations and Safety (Gareth Hughes), Senior Transport Operations and Capital Works Engineer (Simon Mann), Communications Officer (Mike Isle) and Consultant, Noel Hawkins in attendance.

437/07/10 APOLOGIES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Note: A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of Sir Gordon Mason, former Mayor of Rodney District Council.

G Walker/W Walker

That the apologies from the Mayor, Penny Webster, and Cr Delich (for absence) be received and sustained.

Carried

438/07/10 PUHOI TO WELLSFORD – ROAD OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

FILE REF RF/200/1

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Note: Wayne McDonald, Regional Director for the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) was present for this item.

Mr McDonald introduced a PowerPoint presentation (hard copy on file) informing the Committee of the New Zealand Transport Agency's Phase One consultation and its progress towards developing a proposal for improvements to the seven Roads of National Significance.

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9.12 a.m. Manager: Sustainability and Natural Heritage (Max Smitheram) and Senior Policy Planner (Ryan Bradley) in attendance.

Points in the presentation included:

- this was early level consultation to start the process (phase one)
- important issues were moving freight, increasing tourism and improving interregional connectivity
- the importance of the State Highway 1 corridor
- high freight movement was putting the Harbour Bridge under pressure
- the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy; future land use and key growth areas
- project funding
- the Puhoi to Wellsford project
- access points to the Highway
- the project programme
- the intention to fast-track consents for the project
- the consultation period would be extended
- the importance of defining problems to allow problem solving.

Mr McDonald was thanked for his informative presentation and discussion followed which included:

- the importance of the correct placement of on and off ramps to State Highway 1
- comments and submissions could be made on the NZTA website
- accessibility meant growth and the planned access supported the Auckland Growth Strategy
- support was required for the development of Silverdale
- a southern interchange would be favoured by Warkworth residents, a northern interchange would not encourage tourism
- some division existed between those residents wanting advancement and those wanting to maintain what existed
- strict guidelines and planning could protect heritage and character as well as giving access
- the potential of rail to compete with road transport
- interregional connectivity and the opportunity for the area to get an international grade freeway was important
- the benefit of early consultation
- it should not be assumed that Puhoi would be static, rather that constrained growth would take place
- it was important to remember the hinterland behind Puhoi
- a link at Puhoi could provide growth pressure as it would improve accessibility to Auckland, this needed to be thought through carefully.

W Walker/Craig

That the information concerning the New Zealand Transport Agency's current consultation process and preliminary proposals for improvements to the State Highway 1 between Puhoi and Wellsford be received.

Carried

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439/07/10 REVOCATION OF SECTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAY IN RODNEY DISTRICT**FILE REF** RF/200/1**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 3

10.00 a.m. Consultant, Geoff Ward in attendance
Senior Policy Planner (Ryan Bradley) retired from the meeting.

Manager: Transport Services Major Projects (Bill Horne) gave background information on this item, and pointed out that one of the delays in revocation had been the Council's requirement for financial assistance from the NZTA.

10.02 – 10.07 a.m. Cr Turner retired from the meeting.

10.05 a.m. Group Manager: Environmental Services (Dukessa Blackburn-Huettner), Manager: Parks and Coastal Operations (Chris Burgess), Energy Management and Environmental Officer (Damon Birchfield) and Transport Services Engineering Cadet (Sarah Burrows) in attendance.

Discussion followed which included:

- the economic viability of the revocation
- the focus of the Silverdale business community, who were awaiting information on the revocation
- the cost factor and any significant repair issues
- safety issues; footpaths and cycleways and speed limits
- that existing issues would not change, regardless of who owned the road
- the timeframe for the revocation.

The Director: Infrastructure (Murray Noone) informed the Committee that the reason for the delay was that, had revocation of the state highway been brought before the Council previously, it would have meant a 1% increase to the \$1.2 m put aside in the Annual Plan, which would have meant an increase in rates for Rodney residents.

10.15 a.m. Group Manager: Financial Services (Warren Stevens) in attendance.

Mr Noone said that by waiting, the Council was in a good position to proceed with revocation, ensuring that the cost would be an Auckland-wide expense. He said that the costs relating to the condition of the highway were real and that this would divert those costs from becoming legacy costs for Rodney and a further burden on its ratepayers.

Mr Noone said that ongoing reviews would need to be timed to suit the Council Corridor Management Agreement and issues would be addressed through this route, including safety issues, speed limits and signage on the Orewa Boulevard. He reiterated that the same process would have to be followed no matter who owned the road.

It was noted that councillors would have appreciated being made aware of the benefits of delaying the revocation earlier.

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G Walker/Kirikiri

- (a) That the information concerning the status of activities towards revocation of State Highway 17 through Dairy Flat (and parts of North Shore City) and what was State Highway 1 (Hibiscus Coast Highway) through Silverdale, Orewa and Waiwera be received.
- (b) That the Director: Infrastructure continue to negotiate with the New Zealand Transport Agency to obtain a satisfactory revocation agreement, addressing the Council's financial issues, with a target revocation date of 31 October 2010.
- (c) That the program towards meeting the target date be reported back to the Committee at its next meeting on 2 September 2010.

Carried

10.30 – 10.50 a.m. Morning tea adjournment.

440/07/10 REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**FILE REF** PA/13/1**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 4

Energy Management and Environmental Officer (Damon Birchfield) said that the Council had made some good achievements regarding pest management.

10.55 a.m. Crs Weld and Kirikiri present
Acting Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan), Manager: Waste Operations (Marcus Braithwaite) and Consultant, Geoff Ward in attendance.

Discussion took place, which included:

- the plant pest situation, the level of monitoring and how the issue was being managed
- concern regarding the lack of finance available due to substantial budget cuts
- privet/pampas problems at intersections and on rural roads
- the involvement of Council contractors in pest control
- successful weed control in urban areas
- the problem of tree roots on roadside berms and safety issues
- the use of independent arborists to assess tree danger
- funds had been reallocated since the report to cover identified gaps
- acknowledgement of the success of bushlot covenants and volunteer groups.

11.01 a.m. Cr Kirikiri retired from the meeting
Group Manager: Property Services (Mark Johannsen) in attendance.

Further discussion took place regarding budgets and maintaining levels of service; the possibility of making use of other resources, such as the Corrections Department; the understanding of weed status and clarification of the Council's stance on chemical weed spraying.

Parker/Turner

That the report be received.

Carried

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441/07/10 RESULTS FROM THE RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL CORPORATE CARBON FOOTPRINT INVENTORY**FILE REF** CT/1/3**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 5

Energy Management and Environmental Officer (Damon Birchfield) noted that there were minor alterations to some figures in the report due to feedback received.

Discussion took place on:

- the monitoring of methane emissions from closed landfills
- potential tax credits for forestry engagement and eligibility for the Forestry Trading Scheme
- wastewater treatment costs and the possible benefits of encouraging consumers to conserve water, thereby conserving waste
- possible opportunities for the planting of trees to capture carbon.

11.17 a.m. Cr Kirikiri present.

W Walker/Goudie

That the report be received.

Carried

11.18 a.m. Manager: Parks and Coastal Operations (Chris Burgess) and Energy Management and Environmental Officer (Damon Birchfield) retired from the meeting.

442/07/10 SOLID WASTE CONTRACTS TERM EXTENSIONS**FILE REF** RE/1/1**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 6

Manager: Waste Operations (Marcus Braithwaite) explained that the extension of these contracts was a recommendation and not a directive from the Auckland Transition Authority, to allow all of the contract terms to be aligned. He said that the new Council would review all of the contracts to determine the best methodology for the new Council.

11.21 – 11.25 a.m. Cr Weld retired from the meeting.

Concern was expressed at the current standard of waste collection at Snells Beach. Mr Braithwaite said that he was reasonably happy with the contractor's performance and that incidents should be reported to enable them to be dealt with properly.

It was pointed out that the key issue was that the new Auckland Council would need time to rationalise and that contract extras could be negotiated at roll-over times, which would provide the flexibility to ensure equity across the region.

Discussion on paper recycling followed, including:

- the perception (not actual) of a drop in the level of service on the introduction of new recycling trucks
- the need to maximise collection volumes
- the restrictions of being required to cover a large area
- that an educational campaign should have occurred prior to the introduction of the new trucks
- the number of recycling depots in the district
- the possibility of the extension of other contracts of benefit to the community.

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Taylor/G Walker

That the amended contract terms for the two Rodney District Council solid waste contracts:

- **C0702 Public Litter Bins Collection**
- **C0817 Kerbside Recycling**

be confirmed, as requested by the Auckland Transition Agency.

Carried

**443/07/10 QUARTERLY PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS UPDATE – JUNE 2010
 QUARTER**

FILE REF PK/1/1

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

Director: Infrastructure (Murray Noone) clarified that the requested Rodney Properties Ltd (RPL) complete list of Council properties for sale would be distributed upon the return of the Council's Chief Executive (Rodger Kerr-Newell), who would provide a covering memo for distribution with the list. He said the reason for the delay in the provision of this list, which had been released five days previously, was that it had been populated with confidential negotiation information by RPL.

Discussion followed on the impending sale of the Mad Butcher site in Orewa, which included:

- concern regarding the estate agent's flyer, which incorrectly included the New World car park (not Council owned) in the Mad Butcher site
- clarification that the sale would involve three separate sites, the Mad Butcher block, the toilets at the rear of the block and the car park in front of the block
- that all three sites were included on RPL's list of Council properties for sale
- the lack of discussion before the site was marketed
- concern regarding the professionalism of the marketing.

Group Manager: Property Services (Mark Johannsen) answered questions on properties included in the June Quarter Update and on imminent property sales. It was pointed out that the Council's debt had been reduced by \$17.1m (\$25m in the last two financial years).

11.50 a.m. Project Manager - Western Sector (Gavin Flynn) and Senior Policy Planner (Ryan Bradley) in attendance.

Weld/Goudie

That the Quarterly Property Transactions Update for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010, as shown in the schedule attached as Appendix 1 to the agenda report, be received.

Carried

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444/07/10 DRAFT SUBMISSION ON ROADS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – PUHOI TO WELLSFORD**FILE REF** RF1200/1**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 8

Copies of the draft submission, a report on Roads of National Significance, the NZTA newsletter 02 and clarification of the recommendation (all previously distributed to councillors) were tabled (hard copies on file).

Manager: Transport Services Major Projects (Bill Horne) emphasised that this was a very early stage of consultation. Mr Horne pointed out significant issues in the submission, reiterating that comments were general at this stage.

Discussion included matters that had been previously brought up regarding agenda item 2.

Weld/Goudie

- (a) That the draft submission on Roads of National significance – Puhoi to Wellsford for presentation to the New Zealand Transport Agency be received.
- (b) That the Director: Infrastructure finalise the submission to the New Zealand Transport Agency, to include matters raised by the Committee and/or those that the Committee considers relevant, to be later approved by the Mayor and the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Chairperson.

Carried

12.15 p.m. Acting Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan) retired from the meeting, Group Manager: Financial Services (Warren Stevens) in attendance.

445/07/10 PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS**FILE REF** CF/1/1**AGENDA ITEM NO.** 9

A request was made that details of publicity and a date be provided for the opening of the Springs Road ramp, with assurances that a tidy up take place on the road reserve for cars and trailers, prior to the event.

Taylor/G Walker

That the information be received.

Carried**Powell/Goudie**

That Geoff Ward, Consultant, be permitted to remain for the consideration of the next confidential item, because his knowledge of the subject matter may aid the decision-making process.

Carried

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446/07/10 PUBLIC EXCLUDED
AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Powell/Goudie

Recommendation:

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

Minute No(s) 447/07/10 and 448/07/10

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	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead Special Wastewater Fund (Historic)	The disclosure of information would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (section 7(2)(a) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987).	That the public conduct of the whole or 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 would exist, under section 6 or section 7 (except section 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act). (section 48(1)(a) Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.)
Progress report on implementation of confidential committee decisions	As per the reasons given for excluding the public at the meeting(s) when these decisions were made	As per the grounds given for excluding the public at the meeting(s) when these decisions were made.

Carried

Note: The following decision was made with the public excluded and then brought back into open meeting (with the exception of Confidential Appendix 2).

449/07/10 KUMEU, HUAPAI AND RIVERHEAD SPECIAL WASTEWATER RATES FUND (HISTORIC)

FILE REF DD/80/1; P506

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

Weld/G Walker

- (a) That property owners in the Kumeu/Huapai/Riverhead urban areas be advised by letter of the 18 December 2008 decision of the Council to apply any Special Wastewater Rate credit, including interest, towards the individual connection charges due when a property connects to the wastewater system.
- (b) That the 16 properties which paid the Special Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead Wastewater Rate, but are outside the Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead wastewater area of benefit and are thus unable to connect to the wastewater network, be advised that the accumulated rates credit amounting to \$21,852 (30/6/2009) will be contributed towards the 2010/2011 Kumeu Floodway Project Riparian Planting Programme. These properties are located beside or near the Kumeu

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River and can expect to benefit from this Programme through reduced flood risk.

- (c) That for the 65 properties within the wastewater area of benefit for which land titles have altered, the accumulated Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead wastewater rate credit of \$169,586 be allocated towards the construction costs of the Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead wastewater scheme as the original properties no longer exist.
- (d) That for the twelve properties which paid the Special Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead Wastewater Rate and later connected to the retrofitted Huapai Pressure Wastewater Collection network after the Council took it over, the accumulated rates credit amounting to \$8,060 (30/6/2009), be allocated towards the construction costs of the Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead wastewater scheme.
- (e) That the \$88,478 previously resolved by the Council to be charged to the Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead Sewerage Capital Funding Reserve in 1999 and 2000 on the understanding that construction was about to start, be reimbursed to the Kumeu, Huapai and Riverhead Rates Reserve Fund from the Wastewater General Rate 2010/11 and charged to the Council's General Rate.
- (f) That the issue be clearly set out on the Council's Issues Register for the new entities.
- (g) That this report, with the exception of Confidential Appendix 2, be brought into open meeting.

Carried

The meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THIS 19TH DAY OF AUGUST 2010

MAYOR

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22 July 2010

CONFIDENTIAL