

## Extraordinary Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, 13 August, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

**In Attendance**

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai  
(Chairperson)  
Cr Gavin Benney  
Cr Vince Cocurullo  
Cr Nicholas Connop  
Cr Ken Couper  
Cr Tricia Cutforth  
Cr Shelley Deeming  
Cr Jayne Golightly  
Cr Phil Halse  
Cr Greg Innes  
Cr Greg Martin  
Cr Anna Murphy  
Cr Carol Peters  
Cr Simon Reid

**Scribe** C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

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**1. Karakia/Prayer**

*Cr Golightly opened the meeting with a karakia/prayer.*

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**3. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**4. Decision Reports**

**4.1 2020 LGNZ Annual General Meeting Remits**

The motion was decided in parts.

**Moved By** Cr Shelley Deeming

**Seconded By** Cr Greg Innes

**1. Public transport support**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ:

- Acknowledges the Government for its recognition during COVID-19 of public transport as an essential service;
- Acknowledges the strong financial support provided by the Government through Waka Kotahi NZTA during the COVID-19 Alert Levels, that enabled councils to continue to provide public transport for people providing essential services and transport for the public to receive essential services up to 30 June 2020;
- Recognises that councils will continue to be under significant financial pressure to maintain the viability of public transport under current FAR rate settings for many months during the recovery phase from COVID-19; and
- Calls on the Government to work with councils to maintain the financial viability of public transport during the recovery phase of COVID-19.

**Carried**

## **2. Housing affordability**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ:

- Calls on the Government to introduce legislation that would fully enable councils to address housing affordability in their communities through a range of value uplift and capture tools, one such tool being 'inclusionary zoning'
- Seeks to establish a working group on affordable housing, comprising of relevant/affected councils, central government (MHUD, Kāinga Ora, MSD), iwi, and the community housing sector; and
- Advocates to central government for an affordable housing National Policy Statement to be developed.

**Carried**

*Crs Halse and Cocurullo requested their votes against be recorded.*

## **3. Returning GST on rates for councils to spend on infrastructure**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ request that the Government use the appropriate mechanisms to enable the 15 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) charged on rates be returned to councils to spend on local or regional infrastructure projects.

**Carried**

## **4. Natural hazards and climate change adaptation**

That Council support the remit that central government undertakes, in collaboration with all of local government, a comprehensive review of the current law relating to natural hazards and climate change

adaptation along New Zealand's coastlines, and coordinates the development of a coastline strategy for the whole of New Zealand which would cover: the roles and responsibilities of territorial authorities, regional councils and central government; greater direction on an integrated approach; and development of principles for “who pays”.

**Carried**

## **5. Annual regional balance of transfers**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ work with Treasury, Statistics New Zealand and other government agencies to develop an annual regional balance of transfers to show how much each region contributes in taxes and how much each region receives in government funding.

**Carried**

*Crs Couper, Deeming and Martin requested their votes against be recorded.*

## **6. Local Government electoral cycle**

That Council supports the remit that the local government electoral cycle be extended from three to four years.

**Carried**

## **7. Water bottling**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ works with the Government to:

- i. Place a moratorium on applications to take and/or use water for water bottling or bulk export;
- ii. Require and enable regional councils to review inactive water bottling consents, with a view to withdrawal of the consent and discourage consent ‘banking’;
- iii. Undertake an holistic assessment of the potential effects of the current industry, its future growth and the legislative settings that enable Councils to effectively manage those effects; and
- iv. Initiate a comprehensive nationwide discussion on the issue of water bottling and implement any changes to legislation and policy settings as required.

**Carried**

*Crs Halse, Martin and Reid requested their votes against be recorded.*

## **8. Quorum when attending local authority meetings**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ requests central government amend legislation to enable elected or appointed members, connecting remotely to a public council meeting, be included in the quorum. This would provide an option for local authority meetings to be held completely remotely, if required.

**Carried**

*Crs Cocurullo and Deeming requested their votes against be recorded.*

## **9. Use of macrons by local authorities**

That Council support the remit that LGNZ work with central government to put in place a simplified process for the addition of macrons to council names if requested by that council or its community.

**Carried**

*Crs Cocurullo, Halse and Martin requested their votes against be recorded.*

## **10. Rates rebates for low income property owners**

That Council support the remit that the Government lift the level of rates rebates available for low and fixed income property owners – with yearly increases taking into account the cost for inputs into local government services.

**Carried**

## **11. Local Government's CO2 emissions**

That Council support the remit that the Government implement an independent scheme, based on the United Kingdom model operated by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to measure and report on carbon emissions at a district level.

**Carried  
Casting vote**

## **Karakia/Prayer**

Her Worship closed the meeting with a karakia.

## **5. Closure of Meeting**

The meeting concluded at 1.27pm.

Confirmed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)