

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 8 April, 2021
Time: 10:30 a.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 Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

Her Worship the Mayor convened the briefing at 10:30.

2. Reports

2.1 Review of Trade Waste Bylaw

Mr Simon Charles (Manager – Waste and Drainage) and Ms Vita Strohush (Strategic Planner – Bylaws) commenced the presentation. Mr Charles said the bylaw was first introduced in 2008, reviewed in 2012 and is due for its next review by 2022. Three other bylaws and policies are due for review by mid-2022 and therefore it has been proposed to bring forward the review of the Trade Waste Bylaw to 2021.

Ms Strohush said the table of options in the report provided an assessment to determine if the bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem. Option D was recommended for the reasons provided in the table.

Mr Simon said a couple of options has been identified as part of the review and he explained why the conclusion was to go with Option 2.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- It was felt that Option 2 was the most logical way to go as there were advantages in being able to resolve and amend appendices without having to amend the bylaw.
- The narrative will need to show that options have been considered.

2.2 Whangarei Wastewater Treatment Plant - Consent renewal Adaptive Pathways

Mr Charles said the purpose of the briefing was to update Elected Members on the status of the project to renew the Whangarei Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent which is due to expire in April 2022 and he took Elected Members through the presentation.

The final report has been received and the current plant has been operating to compliance standards.

Ms Sarah Irwin (Team Leader – Infrastructure Planning) took Elected Members through the next steps.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Mr Charles was asked what happened in the treatment plant with the heavy rains last year and whether it resulted in any effluent discharge. He responded that a lot of the processes were overloaded and it affected the way bugs work in the process which took a long while to knock out. He said all effluent was sterilised.
- *If the projections on climate change are wrong and there is substantial sea level rise, how would it affect the current plant?* Ms Irwin responded that they have looked at climate change and at Northland Regional Council's analysis of flood risk. The actual plant itself is safe as are the wetlands which are outside the flooding. She said if there are major changes they would need to be looking at these and really long term options, including whether this is the right place for the WWTP. What is known about climate change has been built in.

Mr Weston added that if we were to see significant sea level change, we would see a significant change in the requirements for the city and it would be a completely different plan, but for the next 100 years this plan is okay.

- *Would it be suitable to have a mixture of both – increasing the plant and have some storage as an alternative.* Mr Charles responded having disposal to land would be something to consider.
- *In this adaptive management approach is it more effective to meet the standards for water quality for harbour and ocean for biodiversity?* Mr Charles responded that the way they have focused has been on unknown discharge requirements so they have put an indication of what the requirements might be. He was confident the existing plant can be adapted and intensified to give the improved quality outcomes.
- When asked about working with public health for picking up illicit drug use and Covid traces, Mr Charles said they worked with partners such as the police. He said there was a question around resources capacity for testing but no specific changes were required to facilitate this.
- Mr Charles was confident they can handle any spills and overflows.

2.3 City Centre Cycle Plan

Mr Nick Marshall (Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Engineer – NTA) said the purpose of this briefing was to outline the options for how to integrate the existing and planned shared paths through and into the city core. He said the review by industry experts led to the proposals in his presentation which he went through for Elected Members.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- The overall concept was good but there is a massive industrial area down Port Road and it was queried if Council should be funding bikes in schools.
- Unlike the urban area, coastal rural cycle trails have to be community led but they need support to get them off the ground. The best approach is a partnership between the community and Council.
- There was support for secure parking for bikes.
- There are two very different groups and needs with e-bikes and bikes.
- It was agreed there was a disjointed network for bikes with no clear connections for users.
- Although called the City Centre Cycle Plan, there is no clear way through the city for bicycles.

Mr Marshall responded there are quiet streets which allow for cycling on the road instead of on a trail. He said to make it safe some vehicle lanes would have to be removed but that would be a huge cost so they are not seeing it as an option.

- There was concern that shared pathways are not safe for children. Speed limits and traffic calming work simultaneously for safety, along with building up children's cycling skills and confidence at schools.

- Mr Marshall was asked how to get cyclists off the roads so as not to interfere with the traffic. He responded that there won't be a full uptake of shared paths until they connect with the network and that the travel plan will encourage the uptake of cycling.

2.4 Environmental Engineering Standards Update - April

Item 2.4 was taken after Item 2.5

2.4 Environmental Engineering Standards Update - April 2021

Ms Alison Thompson (Manager – Infrastructure Development) went through the presentation and said they expected to have the review completed by the end of April. She took Elected Members through a few items of interest.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

There was support from Elected Members for the crucially important review which had a level of flexibility.

2.5 Innovating Streets

Ms Tracey Moore (Matatau Landscape Architect – Infrastructure Planning and Capital Works) took elected members through the presentation which provided an update on the Innovating Streets for People project which is a pilot programme funded by Waka Kotahi.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- There was discussion around parking in Cameron Street and Ms Moore said they had spoken to restaurants and businesses on both sides of the streets who were supportive of the changes.
- The businesses are happy to use the loading zone which has been used by private vehicles and this will be policed more.
- Ms Moore confirmed that the disabled access will not be changed as there is currently no mobility parking on the side they are looking at changing.

3. Closure of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 12:29.

Cr Halse left the meeting at 10:50.

Cr Couper left the meeting at 11:52.