

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 11 October, 2017
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson) Cr Stu Bell Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Shelley Deeming Cr Sue Glen Cr Phil Halse Cr Cherry Hermon Cr Greg Innes Cr Greg Martin Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy
Not in Attendance	Cr Crichton Christie

1. Apologies - Whangarei District Council

Cr Chrichton Christie

Present - Whangarei District Council

Simon Weston (General Manager Infrastructure), Andrew Carvell (Manager Waste and Drainage), Jason Marris (Governance Manager), Andrew Grant (Operations Engineer, Waste and Drainage), Nicolene Pestana (Democracy Adviser).

Present - Northland Regional Council

Cr Bill Shepherd, Cr Paul Dimery, Cr David Sinclair, Cr Rick Stolwerk, Cr Penny Smart, Colin Dall (General Manager Regulatory Services), Don McKenzie (Biosecurity Manager), Joe Camuso (Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager).

Apologies - Northland Regional Council

Cr Mike Finlayson, Cr Joce Yoeman.

Her Worship the Mayor convened the briefing at 13.00pm and welcomed staff from Northland Regional Council.

2. Reports

2.1 NRC presentation on the 2018-28 LTP

- Freshwater Management

- This is a large part of NRC's work. Actions constantly being undertaken to improve land water quality.
- Priority projects are the Northern Wairoa River and Whangarei Harbour Catchment Plan.
- NRC would like WDC to keep its projects in mind.

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Are there any issues with sediment on unsealed roads?* Yes, in times of heavy rain but there has been some improvement to design. In terms of significance, it's hard to quantify.
- *NRC has a huge challenge to manage fresh water.*

- Pest Management

- Key areas for collaboration between WDC and NRC are Pest Free Northland and Urban Pest Control.

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Are there tangible ways to provide support to the NRC on the ground?* An environmental hub in the city where different environmental groups can have a facility to share knowledge and ideas, share services and get materials.
- *Shared services would require funding.*
- *How can more capacity be built to collaborate?* From a local point of view, funding is needed for capacity to be sustained. There are opportunities to build capacity. The best plan is to have a collaborative effort with a drive to obtain external funding. Consistent funding and support is key.
- *What does "pest free" Northland mean?* There are a lot of different viewpoints as to what is classified as pests. Some pests are being introduced to remove other pests.

- *There needs to be a funding plan as ratepayers feel they are being overcharged. Pest management must be a Northland rate, not a WDC targeted rate. At NRC's LTP meetings, targeted rates were discussed.*
- *Who is going to drive and lead this? NRC provides leadership in terms of planning. As landowners, WDC and the Crown has the responsibility for their land.*
- *Does NRC have challenges with resources to fix this problem? In terms of resources, half of noxious weeds are in Northland. There is a problem with ownership on private land and WDC's reserves.*

- Flood Control

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Is there still a need to do work in Commerce Street when there is so much work that needs to be done in other areas? Models show that the first breakout point is Commerce Street.*

- Water Consumer Survey 2017

- WDC has recently invested heavily in upgrading water treatment plants.

- Water

- Ruakaka, Waipu have grown extensively in terms of capacity, will have to give consideration to those areas.

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Havelock North was as much an infrastructure failure as anything else. Legislation is going to be a key factor.*

- Wastewater

- In Hikurangi, there are issues with stormwater getting into the waste water network. There has been investment into getting into the system to establish the age of the system.

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Heavy investment needed in cities wastewater system.*
- *Is there an increase in the level of service for odour mitigation? In NRC's LTP, they are trying to limit discharge. In general there are not a lot of complaints.*

- Stormwater

- NRC has requested WDC to assist with grills, there has been some work done on this but not enough although it is acknowledged that this comes with an operating cost.

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Should septic tank inspections be done in coastal areas? In some districts, there are bylaws to address this issue. Forty percent of Northland is unreticulated so there are a lot of tanks.*

2.2 2018 -28 Long Term Plan - Community Outcomes

Jill McPherson reviewed the presentation.

- At the last briefing, the options given to the Elected Members were to keep the current outcomes, revise the current set or develop a new set of community outcomes.
- The new set provides a more useful basis to work on and is easy to track.
- The new set contains four outcomes, each outcome has a statement with a measure and has already been used at high level for prioritisation,

Elected member's comments and questions

- *Is there not an opportunity here for council to go further?*
- *These are community outcomes but could include a statement as to how these outcomes will be achieved.*
- *The outcomes should also include something to celebrate diversity.*
- *Is there a theme that should come through?*
- *General overall experience of community satisfaction should be recognised in the outcomes.*
- *Should core services not be placed at the top of the list of outcomes?*
- *Changing the words in the outcomes is not going to change the actions, the actions must back up the words.*

The Elected Members indicated their support to move to a new set of outcomes.

3. Closure of Meeting

Her Worship the Mayor adjourned the briefing at 14.25pm.