

Minutes for a hearing of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations on the Proposed Waikato District Council Easter Trading Policy 2022) held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at **9.01am**.

**Present:**

Cr JD Sedgwick (Chairperson)  
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson  
Cr AD Bech  
Cr C Eyre  
Cr JM Gibb  
Cr SL Henderson  
Cr SD Lynch  
Cr RC McGuire  
Cr FM McNally  
Cr EM Patterson  
Cr NMD Smith  
Cr LR Thomson  
Cr CT Woolerton

**Attending:**

Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)  
Ms M Russo (Corporate Planning Team Leader)  
Ms L Hood (Corporate Planner)  
Ms A Sayer (Policy Advisor)  
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Team Leader)  
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Thomson)**

**THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee accepts the apology from Cr Church.**

**CARRIED**

**P&R2022/01**

## **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Resolved: (Crs) Henderson & Eyre**

**THAT** the agenda for the hearing of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 (to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations on the Proposed Waikato District Council Easter Trading Policy 2022) be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting.

**CARRIED**

**P&R2022/02**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **REPORTS**

Submissions on the Proposed Waikato District Council Easter Trading Policy 2022

4.1.1

The Policy & Planning Manager gave an overview of the proposed policy.

**Resolved: (His Worship the Mayor/Cr Thomsen)**

**THAT** That the Policy and Regulatory Committee:

- a. consider all submissions and, where requested, hear and consider submissions on the notified Proposed Easter Trading Policy pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2022; and
- b. recommend to Council any amendments to the Easter Trading Policy 2022 as a result of submissions received.

**CARRIED**

**P&R2022/03**

## Hearing of Submissions

The Chairperson summarised the process for the hearing.

The following submissions were presented, and submitters responded to questions from the Committee:

### **Ms Sonja Maree (Submission 2760 - Page No. 19)**

Ms Sonja Maree advised that she would not be in attendance at the hearing, but noted her submission would still be considered in the deliberations section of the meeting.

### **Mr David Whyte (Submission 2870, Page No. 23)**

Tabled Item: Presentation (Attachment 4.1)

Mr Whyte noted he was in attendance as a resident and on behalf of his family. He presented the attached powerpoint presentation and the following matters were discussed:

- Definition of 'option 3' required clarity. It was clarified that option 3 would enable Easter trading to take place across part or parts of the Waikato district. It was determined that Mr Whyte supports option 2.
- Mr Whyte's support for option 2 was focussed around employee/employer mental health, the value of rest, time with whanau and improved productivity.
- Mr Whyte raised the issue of burnout and self-harm amongst shop owners/employees who do not receive the opportunity for adequate time off.
- Cr Bech raised the point that this matter is a national issue, and should be decided on at a central Government level to ensure consistency across regions.
- Mayor Sanson suggested that the proposed by-law would support small business in communities such as Raglan, who have been struggling since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cr Thomson suggested that business owners were fearful they would be prosecuted for being open under option 2.
- Many businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 closures and are struggling, therefore would benefit from Easter trading.

