

Minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.30AM**.

Present:

Cr L Thomson (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr C Beavis – arrived at 9.49am
Cr C Eyre
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu
Cr K Ngataki – arrived at 11.02am
Cr M Raumati
C V Reeve – arrived at 11.02am
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr K Abbott (Executive Manager – Projects & Innovation)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships Manager)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Manager)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager) – *via audio visual conference*
Ms D Tracey (Strategic Planning Team Leader)
Mr J Fuller (Senior Environmental Planner)
Mr R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

Guests

Ms N Greenwell (Hamilton & Waikato Tourism)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Whyte/P Thomson)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. Crs Gibb, Patterson, Keir for non-attendance; and**
- b. Crs Beavis, Ngataki for lateness.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Whyte)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 be confirmed; and
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting, with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 7, which shall be considered with the public excluded; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

S&W2304/02

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, noting an amendment to remove the 's' from 'marae' and 'hui'.

CARRIED

S&W2304/03

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ACTIONS REGISTER

- Noted that staff had circulated an email to Councillors on 10 March 2023 outlining differentiation of red, yellow, and white stickered properties (affected by recent weather events). Confirmed that information was also publicly available on the WAIDC website.

REPORTS

Three Waters Reform Better off Funding Special Project Update April 2023
Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The report writer attended a hui with Crown Infrastructure partners. Report writer was expecting to receive a reporting template; however, it turned out to be a portal and which would request a description of activities undertaken.

- Legal Team would be consulted to review the portal and Crown Infrastructure partners would work through reporting expectations.
- Questions were raised regarding individual applications, staff responded and provided brief answers as where applicable.
- Councillors requested a list of Better Off Funding applicants. Staff to action this.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a current list of Better Off Funding applicants.

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. notes that the project management for the three waters reform better off funding is ongoing; and**
- b. acknowledges that the initial 10% instalment can be claimed by Council; and**
- c. accepts that staff are undertaking a legal review of the reporting awaiting the reporting template/porta; from Crown Infrastructure Partners before claiming the fund to minimize the financial risk to Council and the community.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/04

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Six Monthly Report
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- During the first six months of the financial year, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism saw a strong return of visitation across the region.
- Hamilton & Waikato Tourism aimed to provide ‘real experiences’ and was actively working towards this vision.
- Labour shortages across the sector continued to impact deliverability and availability of some experiences and services, and the weather impacts during January and February had been devastating in parts of the region and across neighbouring regions.
- Waikato Stadium will host five matches between 20 July – 20 August 2023 and it’s estimated the region will see 12,500 unique international visitors spend \$13.7 million in the region. In addition, these matches will see many domestic visitors, who will contribute \$3.9 million into the region economy.
- Domestic visitation contributed \$738.5m per annum to the regional economy, an increase of 17.9% on 2021.

- Domestic visitation contributed \$82.2m per annum to the Waikato district, an increase of 39.3% from December 2021. International visitation contributed \$6.9m per annum, an increase of 184.1% from December 2021.
- Cr Lisa Thomson noted that Raglan’s visitor numbers had appeared to increase significantly in the last six (6) months.
- Councillors noted that we are a rural council, and queried if it was missing an opportunity in agri-tourism. The Report Writer noted that there were several projects underway in this space.
- Noted that all Raglan accommodation (including Air BnB) was frequently booked out.
- Committee queried if Waikato & Hamilton Tourism should reconsider its funding reduction for the ‘Mighty Local’ campaign.
- Discussion was held regarding Hamilton & Waikato Tourism’s relationship with Waikato Tainui. For example, does it take advantage of waka ama events hosted at Lake Karapiro? Suggested that the Maori economy is growing at pace and was internationally attractive. Also queried if marae are viewed as alternative accommodation. The Report Writer confirmed it has acknowledged and identified iwi relationships and had been working with Waikato Tainui to help Waikato & Hamilton Tourism communicate that narrative.
- Noted that Council does not always communicate/market tourism opportunities in the district very well. Queried how Council could improve its communications in this space.
- Queried if Council could build and strengthen relationships with Maori to build capacity in the tourism space. Noted this should be for all Councillors to lead, not just Maori ward Councillors.

ACTION: Staff and Councillors to investigate inclusion of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (Nicola Greenwell) in a Mana Whenua forum to form authentic relationships and progress Maori perspectives in the local tourism space. Relevant Crs and staff to strategise what this might look like.

Updates to the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its Terms of Reference

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC), at its meeting held on 9 March 2023, resolved to approve the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement. The Agreement was required to be signed by all Future Proof partners. FPIC also approved the associated Terms of Agreement that governs the Committee’s meeting with the recommendation that that all partners endorse and sign the document.
- The proposed Agreement and Terms of Reference enable a more consistent approach to the operation of FPIC, whilst still enabling all partners to have input on Future Proof matters.

- Councillors held a general discussion regarding the terms of reference.
- The Report Writer responded to queries regarding representation of Waikato Tainui and Waka Alliance.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a copy of the original Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement.

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. recommends to Council the approval, and execution, of the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its associated Terms of Reference.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/05

Amendment to Council's Governance Structure Delegations
Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The purpose of the report was to enable a tidy-up amendment to be made to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to reflect the name of the sub-committee approved by the Future Proof Implementation Committee on 9 March 2023 to provide governance oversight on sub-regional public transport matters.
- The report also sought to re-confirm the appointment of Council's representative and alternate representative to this sub-committee.

Resolved: (Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church/Cr Eyre)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee recommends to Council:

- a. that a tidy-up amendment be made to its Governance Structure Delegations by changing the name of the Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee to the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee; and by consequence; and**
- b. by consequence, confirms the appointment of Cr Eugene Patterson as the Council member and Cr David Whyte as the alternative Council member on the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/06

Approval for Appointment of a Deliberations Panel for the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy
Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [S&W2304/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Waikato District Council had reviewed its Conservation Strategy and Esplanade Strategy and combined both documents to develop the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy.
- The draft Strategy provides a long-term plan to achieve the Council's vision to build liveable, thriving, and connected communities while helping to maintain, protect and restore indigenous biodiversity throughout the district. The approach outlined in the draft document allows it to be more relevant and implementation-orientated than the previous document.
- Discussion was held regarding the distribution of Councillors appointed to the Panel, querying if consideration had been given to an indigenous lens.
- Some Councillors did not believe that the Panel distribution was inequitable and did not adequately cater for the Maori voice. Suggested that the Committee reconsider the Panel's composition.
- Suggested it was culturally inappropriate to appoint only one Maori Councillor to the Panel.
- Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Tilly Turner as an additional Maori Councillor to the panel.

ACTION: Staff and Councillors to consider inequitable distribution of Maori Councillors on all panels and subcommittees moving forward.

Resolved: (Her Worship the Mayor/Mrs JA Church/Cr Eyre)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. appoints a deliberations panel consisting of Cr Gibb (Chairperson), Councillors Eyre, Beavis, Keir and Ngataki, and Turner to consider submissions on the Taiao Strategy; noting a majority quorum would be four of the six appointed; and**
- b. notes that the deliberations panel will make decisions on responding to submissions and recommend back to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the proposed changes to the Strategy for adoption; and**
- c. accepts a late submission from Waikato Tainui.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/07

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 12.01pm

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

Cr L Thomson
CHAIRPERSON