

Minutes for deliberations of the Policy & Regulatory Committee on the Proposed Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **1 MAY 2023** commencing at **9:30am**.

Present:

Cr C Bevis (Chairperson)
Her Worship, the Mayor JA Church
Cr M Keir
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu (arrived at 9:39am)
Cr K Ngataki
Cr EM Patterson
Cr M Raumati
Cr V Reeve
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Ms M May (General Manager, Service Delivery)
Ms J Bell-Wymer (Corporate Planner)
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
M K Ridling (Senior Solicitor)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Manager)
Ms R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)

The Committee opened the deliberations with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee accepts the apologies from Cr Eyre, Cr Gibb and Cr L Thomson for non-attendance.

CARRIED

P&RHE2305/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Whyte/ Cr Reeve)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Policy and Regulatory Committee deliberations of the Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw held on Monday, 1 May 2023 be confirmed;
- b. all reports be received; and
- c. all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 5 which shall be considered with the public excluded if necessary.

CARRIED

P&RHE2305/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest

REPORTS

Deliberations Report on Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw
Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received under [P&R2305/02] and the following discussion was held:

- As a result of the Hearings changes were made to the bylaw. They were mostly grammatical changes. The report presented three options to Councillors on a way to move forward with the bylaw.
- It was noted that the preferred option of staff was Option 1 which adopts the bylaw but would make mortuary waste a prohibited waste but differ the enforcement date, which would enable staff time to work on the definition of mortuary waste and acceptable disposable methods. Option 2 was more prescriptive and based on the discussions held in the previous Hearing and Deliberations and Option 3 would remove mortuary waste definitions from the bylaw.
- A concern was raised that the definitions would be defined by staff rather than Councillors. It was noted the section on mortuary waste would be brought back to Council prior to being adopted.
- Staff met with Waikato Tainui to discuss how mortuary waste would be defined. Waikato Tainui were not comfortable in making that decision on behalf of mana whenua, therefore, further consultation was required.

- A concern was raised about the consultation process and community engagement with this bylaw. Staff explained that when the process started Gisborne was the only council that had a considered a mortuary waste exclusion.
- The initial consultation gauged the public opinion on if they wanted mortuary waste to be excluded from the reticulated system. During the Hearing, the submitter provided the idea of including mortuary waste in the casket. This option was not explored in Gisborne's bylaw, which only included land disposal.
- Staff reiterated that Option 1 would show that Council is putting in a concerted effort to not put mortuary waste into the reticulated system, without defining how that would occur to allow for further consultation.

ACTION: Councillors to discuss consultation process with staff.

- A concern was raised about the financial considerations involved with acquiring land for land disposal. It was suggested that if land was acquired for this purpose, it should have multi-use such as for planting trees.
- A concern was raised that there was a lack of understanding of tikanga in lawmaking.
- *What is the difference between blood that enters the reticulated system through menstruation and mortuary waste?* It was explained that birth and death are considered sacred under tikanga that the living must pay homage to. After birth, the placenta is buried in whenua and the same should be done after death with mortuary waste.
- It was noted that the primary objective of the bylaw was to protect the District's waterways through a cultural lense.
- *Could hospital's disposal methods help inform this bylaw?* Hospitals use a biohazard disposal system and have different disposal standards. The national health standards of hospitals, funeral homes do not have these same standards for disposing mortuary waste.
- A discussion was held around if a guideline document or schedule should be included in the bylaw.

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/ Cr Ngataki)

That the Policy and Regulatory Committee:

- notes the changes that have been made to the proposed Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw as a result of the first deliberations held on 22 February 2023.**
- recommends option one from section 5.1 of the report with amendments.**

CARRIED

P&RHE2305/03

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/ Cr P Thomson)

That the Policy and Regulatory Committee recommends that Council revoke the Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw 2016 and adopt the Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw 2023.

CARRIED

P&RHE2305/04

The deliberations closed at 10:38 am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

C Beavis
CHAIRPERSON