

Minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia on **TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023** commencing at **9.32am**.

Present:

Cr CA Eyre (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr C Beavis
Cr M Keir
Cr K Ngataki
Cr EM Patterson
Cr V Reeve
Cr LR Thomson
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operations Officer)
Mrs S O’Gormon (General Manager)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr J Ebonhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Ms K Rinaldi (Corporate Planner)
Ms E Wright McHardie (Corporate Planning Contractor) (*via audio-visual conference*)
Ms T O’Shannessey (Monitoring Team Leader)
Mrs LM Wainwright (Democracy Advisor)
Ms R Chisholm (Democracy Advisor)

The meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/Keir)

THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee:

- a. accepts the apology from Cr M Raumati for non-attendance.

CARRIED

P&R2307/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Beavis)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 be confirmed;
- b. all reports be received; and
- c. in accordance with Standing Order 9.9, Item 6.2 (*District Plan Forward Works Programme*) be withdrawn from the agenda.

CARRIED

P&R2307/02

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Monday, 29 May 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

P&R2307/03

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ACTIONS REGISTER

Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*P&R2307/02 refers*] and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the report. The following items were discussed:

Small Community Events requiring traffic management

Traffic management discussions had been held with Waikato District Alliance on the COPTTM (Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management) vs a risk-based approach. A question was raised on where Maaori Wardens sat with traffic management in the process. Councillors Patterson and Whyte would be attending a meeting on Friday, 21 July 2023 with Waikato District Council staff, and a member from Downers (Alliance partner) for a traffic management update and what, if any, progress had been made. If any councillors had questions they would like raised at the meeting, they could email the questions to either Councillor Patterson or Whyte to discuss at the meeting.

ACTION: This action to be removed from the register.

Traffic Management Plan discussion with Executive Leadership Team

ACTION: This action to be removed from the register.

Te Reo policy

The policy had been adopted at the Waikato District Council meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023.

ACTION: This action to be removed from the register.

REPORTS

Proposed new Freedom Camping Bylaw adoption for consultation
Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [P&R2307/02 refers] and the Corporate Planner and Monitoring Team Leader, supported by the Corporate Planning Contractor, spoke to the report. The following items were discussed:

- Seven (7) key changes had been made as outlined in the report.
- The report clarified and amended the district-wide restriction to apply a maximum number of nights a person can freedom camp in a particular area and what constituted a new area if campers were required to move to another area.
- Clarified the process and requirements for people who may wish to apply for an exception to a prohibition or restriction and changes to specific areas which were prohibited or restricted.
- Maps – reference numbers were not shown on the maps. This would be remedied to enable easy reference within the schedule document. It was noted that maps required correct location and place names eg. “Manu Bay Reserve” should show as Manu Bay Reserve, Raglan, Kopua Domain should read Papahua Domain and Maraetai Bay Road should read Maraetai Bay Road, Port Waikato.

ACTION: Staff to remedy the map reference numbers and ensure location and place names were correct.

- Camping on reserves would be covered under the Reserve Management Plans.
- It was noted that pages 73 and 84 were shown twice in the agenda document.
- All areas were assessed under the matrix which Councillors had received at the recent workshop. Legislation required Council to have a robust reason for having, or not having, restrictions.
- Rationale of non self-contained areas. These areas were a legacy from the 2015 engagement held with communities. Onewhero had received funds through Tourism Infrastructure to support the facilities onsite at the Onewhero Domain.

- Bans could not be placed wherever Council wanted and this was covered under legislation e.g. because there were no toilets in an area did not mean freedom campers could not camp there.
- A suggestion was made that there be a defined area for motorhomes at the St Stephens Road, Tuakau site. Trucks were a problem at this site during the night.
- There was a lack of toilet facilities at Mercer. This area would require a restriction for self-contained vehicles. The truck stop toilets were open 12 hours per day and were not available for freedom campers out of hours.

ACTION: Staff to carry out a spell check before the consultation documents go out to ensure there were no errors.

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Reeve)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee:

- determines it is necessary to make a bylaw under section 11(2) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 for one or more of the following purposes:**
 - to protect an area;**
 - to protect the health and safety of people who may visit an area; and**
 - to protect access to an area;**
- confirms that:**
 - the Draft Proposed New Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and**
 - the Draft Proposed New Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990;**
- approves the statement of proposal, which includes the Draft Proposed New Freedom Camping Bylaw for public consultation in Attachment I;**
- approves consultation to commence in accordance with s83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on the Draft Proposed New Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 for the period 13 July until 14 August 2023; and**
- authorises the Chief Executive to make any editorial or layout changes to the statement of proposal that may be necessary before it is made publicly available.**

CARRIED

P&R2307/04

District Plan Forward Works Programme
Agenda Item 6.2

This item was withdrawn from the agenda [P&R2307/02 refers].

The meeting closed with a Karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.15am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

Cr C Eyre
CHAIRPERSON