



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN COMMITTEE HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL AT 9.30AM ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT:

R. Williams (Chairman), J. Cleine (BDC), J. Howard (BDC alternate), P. Madgwick (Chair Ngāti Mahaki ki Makaawhio, via Zoom), A. Cassin (WDC, via Zoom), H. Lash (WDC, via Zoom), T. Gibson (GDC), A. Gibson (GDC), F. Dooley (WCRC alternate), F. Tumahai (Chair, Ngāti Waewae via Zoom) P. Haddock (WCRC Acting Chair, via Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Armstrong (Project Manager), H. Mabin (WCRC, via Zoom), P. Morris (GDC), S. Bastion (WDC, via Zoom), R. Townrow(BDC) B. McMahon (Media).

WELCOME

Chair Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting, and stated that the papers for the meeting were a little late coming out due to recent weather events, which delayed the interviews for the Chair of the Hearing Panel, also Lois (Easton) in Gisborne had been re-located a couple of times and there was a wait on her papers.

APOLOGIES:

Cr G Neylon, Cr A. Birchfield, Cr B. Cummings

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved (T. Gibson/A. Gibson) *that the minutes of the meeting 15 December 2022 are a true and correct record.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Dooley had asked for the LIDAR information for Westport at the December meeting. Chair Williams replied that the information was still being analysed, the information was in hand but the Planning staff had been doing a lot of work on submissions and would get to the LIDAR information in a few weeks. Ms Armstrong said that the updated research had arrived, but it was not a significant report, so it was difficult to analyse, staff were working on it at the moment to understand the information.

Cr Dooley also pointed out that he had asked for a robust analysis of the financial forecast at the last meeting and was yet to receive anything. He had also requested a full budget be done on the associated costs when the hearing panel was set up and asked if this had been done.

Mr Williams said this would be addressed later in the meeting.

Carried

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms Armstrong presented the financial report from December and took it as read.

Moved (Williams/T. Gibson) *that the Committee receive the December 2022 financial report;*

The Committee approve \$20,000 additional budget for Poutini Ngai Tahu involvement;

The Committee retrospectively approve going into contract with Pokeka Poutini Ngāi Tahu Limited for \$70,000, and delegate the Chief Executive West Coast Regional Council power to sign the contract on their behalf.

Carried

Ms Armstrong took the January financials as read and stated there was a variance in the budgeted income for January as provided by the WCRC, she said that the budget was on track with just \$5,000 variance.

Cr Dooley stated that the YTD figures and the resolution that was just passed for the December budget made the forecast out of date, he had questioned the forecast at the last meeting, asked for the figures to be updated and it hadn't been done as the exact same figures were there as at the last meeting. He felt the budget needed to be more robust as they head to the end of the financial year. Cr Dooley moved through some of the categories that needed work on. Ms Armstrong said she would work with the WCRC financial team to sort it out.

Chair Williams asked for any more questions on the January report.

Cr Haddock asked the meeting who was responsible for the budget.

Ms Mabin answered that Ms Armstrong as Project Manager overseeing finance was, the WCRC team produced the reports then Ms Armstrong reviewed them.

Moved (Haddock/A. Gibson) *that the Committee receive the January 2023 financial report*

Carried

SELECTION OF HEARING PANEL

Ms Armstrong took her report as read.

Members of the steering group and the Chairman had met to undertake the first part of the selection process for the Chair of the hearings panel. She provided background on the process and stated that the Panel had come back with a recommendation for Candidate #2.

Chair Williams said there were two parts of the discussion the first being the approval of the four panel members and the second part would be the approval of the Chairs role.

Cr Dooley said that he would abstain from voting on the selection of the four panel members as he was a submitter and had multiple objections, but he would like to acknowledge Westland District Council and the fact they took into account the issue of perceived bias brought up at the last meeting and had re-addressed their nominee.

Chair Williams said his abstention was noted, and asked for any other comments.

Members of the steering group were asked for comment around the selection of the Hearing Panel Chair. Mr Bastion through the chair highlighted the high calibre of all the candidates who put their hand up for the role of the Chair, it was a difficult decision, but a solid process was undertaken and a thorough critique of both the short-listed candidates and he was happy with the outcome. Chair Williams on behalf of the Committee thanked the CEs for their participation as they were very busy people, and had done very thorough work.

Before moving the recommendations Cr Dooley brought up # 4 of the resolutions and questioned if it was appropriate for the Project Manager to undertake contractual negotiations with the approved panel and Chair candidates. Cr Dooley understood that the administration was taken on by the WCRC and should it not be delegated to the CE of the WCRC for the negotiation phase. Cr Dooley thought it was a matter of correct process and he had looked at the deed of agreement and saw all the administration functions sat at the WCRC.

Chair Williams replied that all the process to date had been carried out by the steering committee which was one of the reasons it was set up and worked through since commencement of the plan, so all the negotiations were done through them and the signature as outlined in recommendation 5 is by the CEO. Chair Williams felt that precedent and involvement would be best for the steering group to have done that and taken it forward and he did not agree with Cr Dooley's question.

Cr Dooley asked for his disagreement of resolution #4 be recorded in the minutes.

Moved(T. Gibson/P. Haddock)

That the Committee receive the paper;

Discuss panel member nominations and approves four panel members for TTPP hearings;

Assesses the short-listed candidates for hearing panel Chair and approves selection of the preferred candidate;

Directs the Project Manager to undertake contractual negotiations with the approved panel and Chair candidates;

Delegates signing authority for these contracts to the Chief Executive, West Coast Regional Council

Carried

(abstained; F Dooley, F. Tumahai)

BUDGET INFORMATION

Chair Williams asked members to look at the budget paper which had been brought forward initially without any dollars involved, the information was available, and it was to discuss and look at the reasoning behind the calculations. The Project Manager would speak about the scale of the dollars and the final approval would not be until the April meeting.

Chair Williams asked for comments or questions. Cr Dooley pointed to #11 in respect of the date of 21 April – this date would not work for the WCRC, as the rating meeting is set for the 31 March so all of the information needed to be at the WCRC by 31st March so they could set the rates for the year.

Chair Williams stated that the CE of the WCRC had specifically asked for this timetable and provided background to the committee around this. Ms Mabin responded to this and gave detailed timelines and information around overheads and the process.

Cr Dooley said that he had asked for a completed work plan from the WCRC and that had been completed and he had wanted to strictly stick to the dates and apologised if there had been a lack of communication around this.

Mayor Cleine said he was confused as to why the TTPP budget is a matter for the WCRC to determine it was for the WCRC to rate for so this committee needed to approve a budget to go to WCRC to put into their Annual Plan but not for WCRC to table a budget for the committee to approve. Cr Dooley said Mayor Cleine had it correct, it was the dates he was worried about for the rating.

Chair Williams thought there had been a misunderstanding around timing and it could be that the budget is approved in a special meeting before 31 March.

Mayor Gibson asked if this would hold up process and cost more in the long run as the WCRC were mandated to provide the budget that the TTPP put forward, if this didn't get sorted.

Chair Williams' understanding was that if the principles were set at the meeting and the dollars were set out, it went to the WCRC and they do the collection of the funds, he also stated that the decision taken in 2020 was to treat the funds as "borrowings" the actual rating didn't need to change just the term of the loan would be affected.

If the term of the work is over a period of around 18 months any further delay would be continuing costs, so the important thing was to do this as promptly as the committee could then the revenue would come in to pay for those costs and that would be reflected on how the Regional Council continue with their borrowings.

Cr Dooley agreed that it was up to the WCRC how to fund it and it was a matter of having one rate to cover the deficit on what goes forward or whether they fund it over a longer term, they hadn't had that discussion yet.

P. Madgwick commented that three and a half years down the track he thought it was becoming apparent before this was finished it would cost more than \$5million for West Coast ratepayers, and thought it was appalling that they had only received \$250,000 from the Government, and the rest of it had to be shouldered by the ratepayers.

Cr Haddock strongly agreed with Mr Madgwick's comments, it all shouldn't have to be on the shoulders of the ratepayers and thought they should be trying to recover some of the money back, as did Mayor Lash.

Chair Williams reminded the committee that there had been two previous formal approaches to Central Government most recently about 3-4 months ago and to date there had been no response.

Mayor Lash thought there should be another approach instead of waiting for Government to respond.

Ms Mabin through the Chair said there had been a response noted to WCRC in December, it was a thank you very much from Minister Parker, but no they were not going to help.

Cr Dooley agreed as well with what Mr Madgwick had said and thought it was especially pertinent at this point in time and it was about affordability and noted the natural build environment submission done at the end of January, to follow that on and collectively make a submission to Central Government for funding.

Chair Williams asked Ms Mabin to circulate the response from Minister Parker to the committee.

Cr Dooley felt that there should be another approach for funding, but through the local Member of Parliament and get him to advocate for the committee.

P. Madgwick thought it was easy to dismiss a written approach with the stroke of a pen in a one sentence reply but thought it might not be as easy to dismiss a deputation of the Mayors from the

West Coast. He said the Coast was the guinea pig on combined District Plans, and it is beholden of the Government to come in and help, another letter would not cut it, but a face to face mayoral deputation might.

Chair Williams asked for comments on whether it be a committee approach or an approach from each of the District Councils, and the most effective way to do it.

Mayor Cleine thought the Mayors, Chairs and Iwi forum would be an appropriate platform to approach from, and Cr Dooley thought it should be collective submission and Iwi be involved, also reach out to Damian O'Connor and get his backing.

Mayor Gibson said this had already been tried before, but another approach wouldn't hurt.

Cr A Gibson stated that the committee had to do something – bottom line was that the ratepayers would be effected and it needed to be made public as it was a mandate from Government, they should pay for it.

Cr Howard thought a letter from the Mayors and Chairs under the broader context of unfunded mandate with the Plan being made as an example along with the costs.

Chair Williams suggested that the timing might be triggered by when the budget is agreed, the forecast to complete is agreed, and also with the Hearing stage approaching there might be a slightly clearer forecast. He thought that the April meeting would be a better time to take it forward to the politicians.

Cr Dooley said that they could provide a rating figure at the April meeting to provide more clarity.

Mayor Cleine thought the committee should invite Minister O'Connor to the next Mayors, Chairs and Iwi meeting in May and move from there.

Chair Williams asked for P. Madgwick if he agreed which he did, and then instructed the Project Manager to circulate actual dollar information this week and schedule a special meeting by Zoom in the next 2-3 weeks to discuss the actual detail of the budget and the forecast out until the end of the project.

Moved (F. Tumahai /J. Howard) *that the paper is received;
And that a special meeting be held on 21st March to agree the budget to go to the WCRC for their rating.*

Carried

Project Manager Update December and January

Ms Armstrong took her reports as read and had some updates on the submissions and spoke on the last of the submissions being worked on as these were taking a lot of time.

With Ms Eason's loss of connection due to the cyclone in Gisborne this had impacted on the last of the submissions being done and they might not hit the deadline of 21 March, so there may have to be another meeting to deal with them and it could be April before the committee get the summary of submissions.

Ms Armstrong summarised the Top 10 submissions topics and stated in amongst all the submissions there had been 185 applications for re-zoning requests. Ms Armstrong felt these requests were not unusual at all as the Plan deals with ratepayers properties and felt some of the individual requesters might be a good to have pre-hearings meetings with so they could see that the Planners are in total agreement and give them reassurance.

Mayor Cleine asked if the DIA had been a submitter on hazard rules, to which Ms Armstrong said they had been contacted and noted they hadn't put in a submission, but DOC had put in a submission.

Moved (Cleine/T. Gibson) *that the Project Manager Updates for December 2022 and January 2023 be received.*

Carried

Chair Williams talked about the meeting dates and about the scheduled time for the meeting on Tuesday 21st March on the budget matters and asked if it suited the committee. Cr Dooley asked for the information to be sent to him as he would be the alternate until 31st March.

Mayor Cleine said the Mayors, Chairs and Iwi meeting was 10th May.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am

