

# MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz (Chair), Josh Wharehinga (Deputy Chair), Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop

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## MINUTES of the SUSTAINABLE TAIRĀWHITI Committee

**Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 2 June 2022 at 9:00AM.**

### PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Director of Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Director Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery, Strategic Planning Manager Charlotte Knight, Planning & Performance Manager Tim Breese, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Penny Lilburn.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Kerry Worsnop, Cr Tony Robinson, Director of Lifelines David Wilson and Director of Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery attended via audio link.

### 1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Akuhata-Brown

That the apologies from Cr Dowsing, Cr Faulkner and Cr Hughes be sustained. **CARRIED**

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

### **3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes**

#### **3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 28 April 2022**

MOVED by Cr Burdett, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Minutes of 28 April 2022 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **3.2 Action Sheet**

Noted.

#### **3.3 Governance Work Plan**

Noted.

### **4. Leave of Absence**

There were no leaves of absence.

### **5. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

### **6. Public Input and Petitions**

Dr Nicki Jackson, Director of Alcohol Health Watch presented via audio link a public deputation around a new private member's bill to change New Zealand's pro-drinking environment by supporting New Zealanders to drink less.

Questions of Clarification included:

- The Bill removes the appeals process from Local Alcohol Policies and strengthens criteria for licensing committee decisions on license applications.
- The Bill seeks to end alcohol sponsorship of broadcast sport.
- Tairāwhiti has the highest level of hazardous drinking in New Zealand.
- The use of advertising is ubiquitous and uniquely targeted to people and increases harm to both youth and older people.
- The more mechanisms that Council can use in their network to let communities know they want liquor changes the greater the result will be.
- The Bill will make changes to Section 105 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, to make it harder to receive a license for liquor stores.
- Currently 8 Ministers of the Green Party have signed the Bill, and there remains to be a long way to go. Council should do their best to get their Ministers on board to sign the bill.

### **7. Extraordinary Business**

There was no extraordinary business.

### **8. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

### **9. Adjourned Business**

There was no adjourned business.

## 10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

### 10.1 22-112 Gisborne District Council Draft Submission on the National Adaptation Plan Consultation

- Item 3.7 doesn't intend for Central Government to be taking care of insurance. Instead, it will take a regulatory approach to ensure that incentives are created for insurance companies. It is not a standalone policy but a mix of different policies.
- Insurance premiums are getting higher particularly in higher risk properties and locations. Staff's recommendation is that Government should create a system where progress will have regulatory opportunities and cancel consultive processes to incentivise people who are building infrastructure in high-risk locations. People in low-risk locations can already be encouraged as they have access to lower insurance with lower premiums.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Wharehinga

That the Sustainable Tairawhiti Committee:

1. Endorses the submission to the Ministry for the Environment, subject to suggested edits.

**CARRIED**

### 10.2. 22-110 Navigation and Safety Bylaw Review

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Burdett

That the Sustainable Tairawhiti Committee:

1. Approves the review of the Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2012.
2. Determines that the Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2012 should be amended, and that a bylaw is the most appropriate way of regulating navigational safety.

**CARRIED**

## 11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

### 11.1. 22-111 Climate Change Update

- The action plan will come back in November that outlines what it's going to cost to achieve zero emissions by 2030. There is underpinning science and risk assessments that need to be better understood before continuing.
- The community needs to be attuned with Council as there will be a series of disruptive changes in the way that they live.
- It will require significant cost to be able to transition.
- Need to keep momentum on the curbside and waste separation strategies.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Akuhata-Brown

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

## 11.2. 22-123 Overview of Local Government Reform

Questions of clarification included:

- The central focus regarding the 3-Waters Reform is to ensure that staff is supported on the ground as the changes are made.
- 3-Waters is a government driven initiative but for Council it should be about ensuring the best outcome for the Tairāwhiti community. Government is intent that the reforms will be largely irreversible by 2023 elections.
- Council is on the receiving end of the reform and is trying to push it back as much as possible.
- Council wants to attempt to have more frequent meetings with the East Coast Ministers to highlight that the current resistance towards the reform is an attempt to make change, rather than seem like outright disagreement. It is much easier to establish these ideas face-to-face and it would be beneficial to have a focused session with the Ministers in terms of the impact on a unitary authority.
- The impact of the RMA reforms will significantly reshape the form of local government. The 1991 Resource Management Act will be replaced by three new statutes: The Natural Built Environment Act, Climate Change Adaptation Act, and the Strategic Planning Act.
- Engaging as a pilot in the new RMA reforms is a great way to ensure that Tairāwhiti can fit into these new policies and remain accountable to the community. Regarding 3-Waters, Council should remain to take the pragmatic approach that is presently being used.
- There is a centralisation framework for the nation regarding 3-Waters and that makes it frustrating for both Council and ratepayers who are constantly being told what to do, instead of being asked to do it alongside Central Government. It is taking away the distinct structure of Local Government that Tairāwhiti stands for.
- Staff are very conscious of the amount of time that has been spent on the information requests from Central Government, particularly around 3-Waters and the parties that have been set up. However, without these Tairāwhiti would not have a voice around the table and there is a wider strategic lens at play to ensure there remains a voice in these new reforms.
- Cr Robinson believes that the new reforms are significantly overdue and have been ignored by Government for decades. Unfortunately, with short timeframes does come short starts and these changes should have been made years ago. Local government has never been fast at indicating change, and Council needs to embrace it rather than turn away from it. Council needs this financial service and should see it as facilitating positive change in the community.
- There are a number of different reactions from staff, with a lot of trepidation due to the lack of understanding of what the work is going to amount too. Some staff are looking at opportunities for their careers but there remains a mixed bag of emotions, and most are incredibly nervous about what the next steps are. Roughly affects about 29 staff, and indirectly it will impact on several other support services.

- The rationale behind the change remains unclear. These changes will eventually happen, but in most cases there seems no real justification. It relies on the staff's shoulders to work through this and as Councillors need to support the Chief Executive through the tough times ahead.

MOVED by Cr Akuhata-Brown, seconded by Cr Seymour

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of the report.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 10.21am and reconvened at 10.40am.

### **11.3. 22-125 Summary of BERL Report on Impact of PGF on Tairāwhiti**

Questions of clarification included:

- Overall, a very positive initiative in terms of our economics and building up capacity of our people, but the challenge now is to keep it sustainable.
- There is an opportunity to look at a focus on high wealth opportunities that might be able to help diversify the economy beyond the primary and primary industry focus. It seems quite clear that government has been able to de-risk investment sufficiently to bring about some growth and some new areas that otherwise wouldn't have been able to start up without this input. Council should engage with Trust Tairāwhiti on how to leverage these gains and get continuous support from central government.
- Forestry did an exceptional job on Mata Road with almost a million dollars spent getting that refined.
- On page 137, while forestry can be a significant contributor to GDP, it doesn't directly relate to an FTE.
- The government investment of \$299 million has meant that Gisborne has become one of the highest performing regions. The future is incredibly exciting with 1500 more jobs and an \$176 million increase in GDP.
- The remaining money will mainly sit with Waka Kotahi funding - \$48m on State Highway improvements, with about \$10m from Council that will predominantly go towards the East Cape Road.
- We are going into a high inflation period and there is much uncertainty regarding Local Government. Council needs to start focusing on the balances, debts and tightening up on all details, as Council cannot rely on central government's investment anymore.
- This paper is shared with Ministry of Social Development and a number of other Ministries. The Mayor is also sending thank you letters to the ministries who supported Council in this report.
- There is an opportunity for Council to share the data from this report to stakeholders such as Trust Tairāwhiti not only for economic development and opportunities, but also for wider and socially minded agents in the district to continue to help all people in the district, particularly young people.

- The usefulness of the report cannot be undermined. To be able to take away the key point of where in the district affordability is an issue is a great advantage for Council. It shows by targeting funding in provisional New Zealand, growth can be achieved and demonstrates the collective impact that comes from central government working alongside communities, local government, and iwi.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Cranston

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of the report.

**CARRIED**

#### **11.4. 22-136 Final Paper to Ministers - Potential Napier to Gisborne Rail Re-instatement**

Jade Lister-Baty and the Chief Executive spoke to the report. Questions of clarification included:

- Regarding the political nature and in a time of Climate Change, there is a lot of support and thanks to Council for sticking behind getting the railway open.
- The report was written by a number of project managers and consultants overseen by Chris McKenzie. It includes a variety of technical experts and engineers previously employed by KiwiRail.
- The exporting of the produce and domestic rail will not be enough to cover the finances and it will require logging to cover the cost.
- Due to KiwiRail having interests and with the expansion of the Port, Tairāwhiti will become a huge producing region and Council needs to really look at how they are going to get this produce out.
- Trucking companies have stated they don't want any more trucks due to emission problems and lack of drivers, so this seems to be the best way forward.
- As leaders, it is the Councillors job to advocate for all the transport networks as they are fragile networks. Need to make sure that all network bases are covered to ensure there are always options to get produce in and out of the region and particularly with climate change it is a good step forward.

MOVED by Cr Akuhata-Brown, seconded by Cr Seymour

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

## **12. Public Excluded Business**

**Secretarial Note:** These Minutes include a public excluded section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 12 Public Excluded Business of Sustainable Tairāwhiti.

**13. READMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

MOVED by Cr Stolz, seconded by Cr Akuhata-Brown

That the Committee:

1. Re-admits the public.

**CARRIED**

**14. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:23am.

Rehette Stoltz

**MAYOR**