

## Planning & Regulatory Working Party Meeting Notes

Meeting held via Zoom video and teleconferencing  
on Wednesday 29 April 2020, commencing at 9.30am

<b>Present   Tuhinga:</b>	Cr Joce Yeoman (Chair)
	Cr Amy Macdonald
	Cr Colin Kitchen
	Cr Justin Blaikie
	Cr Penny Smart (Ex-Officio)
	Mira Norris Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust
	Rowan Tautari Te Whakapiko Hapū
<b>In Attendance   I Tae Mai:</b>	GM – Strategy, Governance & Engagement
	GM – Regulatory Services
	Strategy, Policy & Planning Manager
	Compliance Monitoring Manager
	Natural Resources Policy Manager
	Policy Specialist – Water
	Kaiawhina Kaupapa Māori
	Strategy, Planning & Policy Administrator (minutes)

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The Chair opened the meeting at 9.35am with a mihi.

### 1.0 APOLOGIES | NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ

Juliane Chetham, Malcolm Nicolson

### 2.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA

It was advised that members should make any declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

### 3.0 REPORTS | NGĀ RIPOATA

#### 3.1 Receipt of Meeting Notes

- Taken as read

#### 3.2 Planning & Policy Work Programme

**Presented by:** Ben Lee - Strategy, Policy & Planning Manager

- Main area of focus is Regional Plan finalisation
- Hearings on appeals were due to start April, but start date now unsure due to COVID-19
- Other main focus is Freshwater Quality Plan change and rolling out obligations
- NES Air Quality standards deadline has been extended to 31 July
- RMA amendments are due to head to their second reading

***Agreed Action:***

- Briefing on NES Air Quality Standards to be provided to the June meeting

**3.3 Unconsented Grids**

**Presented by:** Michael Day - Natural Resources Policy Manager

- The number of grids is not so much an issue as the fact that as no-one takes ownership for them - there is no control over the way they are used, allowing for contamination of water and spread of marine pests
- Consented grids have conditions which state what you can and can't do on the grid
- Previously communities have been offered the option to take ownership and have them consented – this approach has not been successful to date
- A lot of the grids are historic, which pre-date the coastal plan (ie. 40 – 50 years old)
- Have so far taken a more lenient approach to allowing unconsented grids to remain in some areas where there are limited boat facilities
- Now attempting to reduce / eliminate unconsented grids, which can be removed if deemed to be abandoned
- No set timeframe – currently addressing those which are more problematic
- Marine Biosecurity team are looking at a policy being introduced (not necessarily RMA) to allow phasing out of unconsented grids in order to address the issues that they are creating within the marine environment
- Council is only able to deal with environmental incidents with the information provided, which is sometimes inadequate to identify offenders

***Agreed Action:***

- Provide status on Marine Biosecurity team progress to next WP meeting

**3.4 Plan change to implement the water quality planning requirements in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Manager 2017**

**Presented by:** Ben Tait - Policy Specialist (Water)

- Initial stages of the project are underway - NIWA and Land & Water Science have been commissioned to provide modelling to allow an understanding of baseline water quality
- Developing a model to make predictions about future water quality – expected to be delivered in June / July
- Due to COVID-19 it is now unclear what the new NPS will look like and the timing of the release
- Met with MTAG on 16 April to discuss way forward liaising with tangata whenua and other key stakeholders – strawman being developed and will be presented to next MTAG meeting for discussion
- Understanding sediment transport is extremely difficult – traditionally deal with long term medians and averages
- Draft NPS has two – deposited sediment and suspended sediment – based on annual medians, not episodic rainfall events such as heavy rainfall following logging of a forestry area
- More monitoring will be required if NPS proceeds

- Consideration needs to be given to the fact that water allocation affects quality - allocation is addressed in the Proposed Regional Plan
- A separate piece of work is being undertaken looking at a review of allocation levels and quality
- Discussion took place re engagement with communities and ensuring that the approach is consistent across the organisation and taking opportunities to combine engagement where possible / suitable
- As far as is possible to ascertain, the budget to complete the project is adequate, however, due to budget constraints may be a risk it will not be enough should extra consultancy work be required
- Timeframes may need to be pushed out to July council meeting – milestones need to be updated in the project plan
- Following engagement, will work through with full council – WP feel that due to the significance of the NPS, it needs to be full council rather than just worked through at WP level
- Anticipated that engagement will follow roughly the same process as PRP

**Agreed Action:**

- Provide an update to each Working Party meeting

### **3.5 Climate Change Related Provisions within Regional Planning Documents**

**Presented by:** Michael Day - Natural Resources Policy Manager

- Focuses on provisions that specifically refer to climate change in both plans
- Important to note that the document has been future-proofed, by referring to “the latest national guidance” rather than a specific point in time
- Discussion re liaison with district councils and implementation and capacity and capability of the organisation to address this
- Reviewing the RPS will start next year
- Discussion took place re hard protection structures

**Agreed Action**

- Ben L to circulate wording from RPS relating to precautionary policy approach

*11.29am - Amy Macdonald, Penny Smart, Tess Dace & Jonathan Gibbard left the meeting*

### **3.6 New Regional Plan Implementation Plan**

**Presented by:** Colin Dall - GM, Regulatory Services

- Has been tasked to set up a staff working group to set up plan
- Little progress has been made to date due to COVID-19
- Now that we are operating under Level 3, will be able to progress the matter
- Draft plan will be presented to the Working Party later in the year

### **3.7 NRC Forestry Monitoring Programmes**

**Agreed Action:**

- Defer item to next meeting

### **3.8 Outstanding Marine Farm Bonds Protocol**

**Presented by:** Colin Dall - GM, Regulatory Services

- Timing is unfortunate due to COVID-19, however, this issue has been going on for over ten years
- It was agreed to proceed with the proposed protocol and deal with hardship issues on a case-by-case basis

### **3.9 Drought Update**

**Presented by:** Colin Dall - GM, Regulatory Services

- Although there appears to have been a reasonable amount of rainfall this month, YTD Whangārei is still 40% below average, with the rest of the region around 45 – 50% below average
- The area is still in drought with fluctuating rainfall patterns expected
- Level 4 restrictions are still in place in some areas – working with CDEM and arranging tanker deliveries to communities - 200+ deliveries since 13 March
- Availability of stock feed is now becoming an issue – MPI working on this
- Discussion regarding increased use of household water tanks and whether this would alleviate the issue

*11.48am - Penny Smart re-joined the meeting*

### **3.10 Draft Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement Strategy**

**Presented by:** Colin Dall - GM, Regulatory Services

- The challenge has been keeping the document short and concise
- Costs associated with CME - where we can recover those from applicants it should be taken into account and noted in the strategy
- Discussion took place regarding decision making and enforcement and a clear structure to move forward
- Strategy well written and clear
- Next steps are to take the strategy to ELT, and then on to Council for endorsement

***Agreed Action:***

- Email any further comments through to Colin Dall

**The meeting closed at 11.59am**