

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Long Term Plan Hearings conducted via audio-visual link
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 7 May 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford

Councillors:

John Blackwell
Peter-Lucas Jones
Amy Macdonald
Marty Robinson
Tui Shortland
Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM - Biosecurity
Corporate Strategy Manager
Management Accountant
Corporate Planning Specialist
Digital and Design Manager
Planning and Policy Administrator
On-line Support Specialist
Governance Specialist

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the Long Term Plan Hearings open at 10.20am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Jones.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

Moved (Macdonald/Robinson)

That the apologies from Councillors Carr and Craw for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

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

Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 - Hearings on public feedback (Item 5.1)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Macdonald/Robinson)

1. That the report 'Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 - Hearings on public feedback' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 4 April 2024, be received.
2. Receive, and where appropriate, hear feedback relating to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation Document and Supporting Information Document, and draft User Fees and Charges.
3. That council does not receive late feedback received after 10am, 23 April 2024 as per council's submissions policy.

Carried

Summary of Hearings

Submitter 1: Asha Anderson (Flora and Fauna Inc. Society)

- Trustee of the Flora and Fauna Inc. Society, which raised the awareness of the use of chemical toxins.
- Lived in a 'forest sanctuary' near the Puketi forest with an abundance of wildlife and placed great value on the 'beautiful and taonga species' and 'protective of the water that flows through our land'.
- Viewed the Long Term Plan as an opportunity to do things better and 'be genuine'.
- Had previously shared the People's Enquiry Submissions Catalogue which was a collection of stories demonstrating the harms from chemical exposure.
- Concern was raised regarding the unintended consequences of pesticide use on non-target species. Particular reference was made to Brodifacoum, which was readily available and broadly used.
- Reference was also made to a Poisons Register dating back as early as the 1950s.
- Attention was drawn to a number of studies undertaken on hawks, owls, Kiwi, possums, Tuatara, pigs and rats which demonstrated the transfer of toxins through the food chain.
- It was stressed that NRC had a role to play and needed to adopt a holistic approach.

Submitter 2: Mr Chris Biddles

- Noted the lengthy process it had taken for the regional council to establish the Regional Sporting Facilities Rate and raised concern that it may cease.
- Stressed that 'we need people to come, live and stay in Northland' and sporting facilities assisted with this (not just in the main centres).
- The economic and social benefits generated from the Regional Sporting Facilities Rate were described as 'tremendous' and the council's contribution helped leverage funding from other providers.

- Concern was raised that the Regional Sporting Facilities Rate had been presented alongside the Emergency Services Rate in the consultation material and the proposal had been poorly articulated to the public.
- The regional approach to rating with projects being generated through the Northland Sports Facilities plan and the funding collected from a district spent in the same area was considered a successful model.
- While it was acknowledged that Central Government should take responsibility for emergency services it was stressed that they needed to be funded. Mr Biddles was a 'walking example' with the rescue helicopter service potentially saving his life after an accident.

Secretarial Note: Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Annette Hall (Far North Radio and Sea Rescue Inc) for non-attendance. Apologies were also received following the conclusion of proceedings from Grace Le Gros (Naumai Marae) and Dean Baigent-Mercer (Forest & Bird) for non-attendance.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The Long Term Plan Hearings were adjourned at 10.58am (scheduled to reconvene 10.15am Wednesday 8 May 2024).

Unconfirmed Minutes