

WAIKATO PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE



Minutes of the Waikato Plan Joint Committee of the Waikato Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Waikato Regional Council Office, 401 Grey Street Hamilton East at 9.30 am on 21 April 2017.

Present:

Waikato Regional Council	Cr A Livingston
Hamilton City Council	Mayor A King (afternoon only) and Cr M Gallagher (alt)
Matamata Piako District Council	Mayor J Barnes
Otorohanga District Council	Mayor M Baxter and Cr R Klos (alt)
Waikato District Council	Mayor A Sanson
Waipa District Council	Mayor J Mylchreest (Deputy Chair) and Cr Claire St Pierre
Non-Local Government Members	Bev Gatenby S Wilson

Observers

New Zealand Transport Agency	Parekawhia McLean
Waikato District Health Board	Cr Bob Simcock

Staff

Waikato Plan Project Team	Bill Wasley – Governance Advisor Ken Tremaine – Project Advisor Rachael McMillan – Project Team Susan Henderson – Project Team
Waikato Regional Council	Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor

Apologies

Chair - Margaret Devlin

Waitomo District Council – Mayor Brian Hanna and Councillor Alan Goddard, Taupo District Council – Councillor Anna Park, South Waikato District Council – Mayor Jenny Shattock.

For lateness: Hamilton City Council – Mayor Andrew King, Otorohanga District Council – Mayor Max Baxter.

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

S Wilson moved/B Gatenby seconded.

WPJC17/9

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Waikato Plan Committee of 21 April 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried WPJC17/9

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

Steven Wilson (Non-Local Government Member) declared a conflict with Tainui Waikato Tourism in that he had previously contracted to the Chair of Tainui Waka Tourism in a separate endeavour and was trustee, along with the Chair, in a community development trust. He also declared a conflict with Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated in that he had previously contracted to Te Kauhanganui Inc (now Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Inc) and was a beneficiary of the tribe, registered on the beneficiary role.

Parekawahia McLean (Observer from New Zealand Transport Authority) declared a conflict with Waikato Tainui in that she was previously a Chief Executive Officer of Waikato Tainui.

In respect of any water quality matters that arise at the hearing of submissions, Bill Wasley outlined that whilst he had been the chair of the Waikato Regional Council Healthy Rivers Collaborative Stakeholder Group, he was at the hearing only in his capacity as Governance Advisor.

Hearings Report – Draft Waikato Plan

File: 03 04 32 (Agenda Item 4) Doc #10274081

Presented by Waikato Plan Project Advisor (Ken Tremaine) the report assisted the Waikato Plan Joint Committee to hear submissions and feedback received on the draft Waikato Plan (the plan).

Mayor J Barnes moved/Cr A Livingston seconded.

WPJC17/10

THAT the Waikato Plan Joint Committee:

- a) Note the 31 written submissions on the draft Waikato Plan contained in Appendix B that were received during the submission period of 10 March to 10 April 2017.

- b) Accept and note the two late submissions from Waipa District Council (submission number 32) and Cindy Kent (submission number 33).
- c) Note the feedback from the Waikato Chamber of Commerce Business Forum and the Joint Committee contained in Appendix A.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/10)

Hearing of submissions commenced at 9:55am. Each presenter was given approximately 10 minutes to present on their submission followed by approximately 5 minutes for questions from the Waikato Plan Committee.

Peter Buckley presented his submission on behalf of the Primary Land Users Group. (Doc #9809469).

There were no follow up questions on this submission.

Mayor John Tredgigda (together with Councillors Ross Harris and Phillip Buckthought) presented a submission on behalf of the Hauraki District Council. (Doc #10351154).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- In regards to economic development across the region, it was suggested that it would be useful to have one single agency that supports each individual council so that businesses know who to talk to when they approached the Waikato.
- While the plan modelled the 'one voice' approach, it was important to also acknowledge that there are several types of area within the Waikato Region with a different set of underlying conditions. Each area had its own boundaries to consider. Districts needed to have certainty that the plan would benefit them going forward.
- There was concern that the plan seemed 'Hamilton Centric'. Recognition needed to be given that, while Hamilton was the centre for business and activity in the region, how the plan would benefit the region as a whole.
- Consideration needed to be given to how Thames Coromandel District Council could be involved with the plan especially during the implementation phase.
- To manage growth in the region it was suggested that the major centres be capitalised while considering how they could be involved with communications services (fibre optic broadband) and transport services to rural and outlying areas.

Ken Tremaine presented a submission on behalf of the Waikato Plan Project Group. (Doc #10351150).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Regarding housing needs, an action could be included in the implementation plan that could include considerations of who would link into the action and how it could be funded.
- Housing solutions would differ in rural and metro areas. It was suggested that research be done into who/what organisations might already be considering/working within this space (such as Habitat for Humanity).

Ben Pick presented a submission on behalf of the Heritage New Zealand. (Doc #9809469).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- As this was not a 'resource consent plan' but a strategic document that gives guidance, inclusion of heritage aspects in the plan could be precedent.

- Protection and preservation of heritage structures and areas could only be enforced by legislation. It was suggested the plan itself could signify those areas and enhance public awareness.
- Heritage New Zealand was considering Central government involvement in regard to funding as some properties would need to be acquired to be protected.

Deputy Mayor James Thomas presented a submission on behalf of the Matamata Piako District Council. (Doc #10350051).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- The Waikato Plan Project Team was considering the cost and timing element of the Community Plan development action.
- Consultation with Iwi was an area of ongoing concern.
- Public passenger transport between rural and suburban towns needed to be a priority to ensure connectivity.
- The Committee be requested to provide regular updates on milestones and funding.

Thomas Gibbons presented a submission on behalf of the Property Council New Zealand. (Doc #10351822).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Property Council wanted to see more alignment/consistency of plans to ensure that similar conversations were not happening in various places.
- The Committee was advised that funding had been considered. The expectation was that Local Government would fund the first year while calling for funding from other sources and stakeholders in the second and third year. The plan's actions made it clear that funding would be sought externally.
- It was suggested that the actions needed to be clearly prioritised rather than taking on everything at once.

Craig and Leanne Muntz presented a submission on behalf of the Tainui Waka Tourism Incorporated (Doc #10357362).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- The Committee queried if local tourism was a consideration of Tainui Waka Tourism. The Committee was advised that Tainui Waka Tourism aimed at an International market as there were limits with local tourism.
- As the Waikato River was unique to the Waikato Region, Tainui Waka Tourism supported the plan for investment into the Ferry Bank.
- It was suggested that the Waikato Region needed attractions that would bring tourist to the area for more than simply a day trip. For example – Marae stays. The Committee was advised that this would involve collaboration with local iwi, training and development plans and back up plans where a Marae was being used for other purposes. This was seen as a good option to anchor visitation.

Rob Wakelin presented a submission on behalf of the Te Araroa New Zealand (Doc #10351894).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Te Araroa New Zealand operated independently from the Walking Access Commission with a Memorandum of Understanding between the two.

- While Te Araroa New Zealand was currently focused on their single route, it recognised there were opportunities to engage other areas.
- Currently Te Araroa New Zealand was investing at a more localised level aiming at community day walkers. The Waikato River walk was an opportunity in this area.

Kevin O'Shannessey and Tim Manukau presented a submission on behalf of the Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated. (Doc #10352473).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Te Whakakitenga o Waikato would ultimately like to have the plan reflect their aspirations of allocation of freshwater to Iwi. It was advised that water allocation was a national discussion.

John Lawson presented on his submission. (Doc #10352472).

There was no further discussion on this presentation.

William Durning presented a submission on behalf of the Waikato Chamber of Commerce. (Doc #10352471) together with Jason Dawson on behalf of Hamilton Waikato Tourism (Doc #10357360).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Implementing the accommodation and the cultural experience of 'Marae Stays' had not been discussed at a regional level. There would need to be identified sites or the ability to develop standalone spaces. This would likely be of international interest as opposed to local.
- It was suggested that the Tauranga/Waikato expressway could give better access to the Waikato and potentially shift the market to make the Waikato more desirable for overnight stays as opposed to a 'travel through'. This would also allow a better connection to the Hamilton Airport.
- It was suggested that the plan should articulate that Waikato has many different sectors that make up its economy. Vicinity is a strength of the Waikato in terms of living rurally with the ease to work inner-city.

Graeme Gleeson presented his submission (Doc #10350487) and a further submission on behalf of Beef + Lamb Waikato. (Doc #10351151).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- Discussion ensued regarding establishing a Waikato Focused Agricultural Centre of Excellence as Ag-Research was being disestablished at Ruakura. The Committee agreed, it did not want to see the knowledge of the Waikato leave with Ag-Research but understood for this to be successful it would require institutional buy in.

Sue Moroney (Labour MP) presented her submission (Doc #10350600).

During questions and discussion related to this presentation, the following was noted:

- It was suggested that the extension of the Waikato Expressway needed to be balanced with a good public transport system.
- While there appeared to be no congestion issues between Hamilton and Tauranga, it was suggested that the focus should be on passenger and freight rail from Hamilton to Auckland as opposed to the Kaimai Link.

- With the anticipated population growth, it was recommended that Hamilton get ahead with plans to consider population growth.

At the conclusion of the hearing Project Manager (Ken Tremaine) provided a brief overview to the Committee of the submissions where parties had indicated they did not want to appear.

Points to note were:

- There was still concern amongst the submissions that Iwi views were not yet represented in the plan.
- Regarding the Agricultural Centre of Excellence, conversations needed to take place with University of Waikato and NIWA prior to the deliberations meeting. It was suggested that conversations with Dairy NZ and Ag-Research also take place.
- It was noted that the action in regards to an Agricultural Centre of Excellence would be a commitment to explore options as opposed to confirmation of delivery.

Meeting closed at 3:10pm