
Waikato Plan Committee OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Waikato Plan Committee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 30 May 2017 at 10:00am.

Present:

Council

Hamilton City Council

Mayor A King (until 10-20am)

Cr M Gallagher

Hauraki District Council

Cr T Adams

Matamata Piako District Council

Mayor J Barnes

Otorohanga District Council

Mayor M Baxter

Waikato District Council

Mayor A Sanson

Waitomo District Council

Cr A Goddard

Non-Local Government Members

B Gatenby

S Wilson

M Ingle

In attendance

Cr B Quayle (Waikato Regional Council)

Staff

Waikato Plan Project Team

Ken Tremaine - Project Advisor

Bill Wasley - Governance Advisor

Rachael McMillan – Project Team

Susan Henderson – Project Team

Waikato Regional Council

Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor

Urlwyn Trebilco – Principal Strategic Advisor

Waikato District Council

Gavin Ion – Chief Executive

Hamilton City Council

Blair Bowcott – Executive Director Special Projects

In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting, Governance Advisor (Bill Wasley) assumed the chair and called for nomination of Chair for the meeting.

Mayor Jan Barnes nominated Mayor Alan Sanson. This was uncontested.

Mayor J Barnes moved/Mark Ingle seconded

WPJC17/11 THAT Mayor Alan Sanson assume the Chair for the meeting held 30 May 2017.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/11)

Apologies

Apologies for attendance were received from Margaret Devlin, Cr A Livingston, Cr B Simcock, Mayor J Mylchreest, Mayor J Tregidga, Mayor J Shattock, Mayor D Trewavas and Mayor B Hanna.

Apologies for leaving early were received from Mayor A King, Mark Ingle and Mayor Max Baxter.

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Mayor A Sanson moved/Mayor M Baxter seconded.

WPJC17/12 THAT the agenda of the deliberations meeting of the Waikato Plan Committee of 30 May 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/12)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

File: 03 04 32 (Agenda Item #4) Doc #10352182

The Committee was provided with the minutes of the Waikato Plan Hearings meeting held on 21 April 2017.

Project Advisor (Ken Tremaine) advised the Committee that following the hearings, and upon guidance received the deliberations report had been prepared. All submissions had been considered and discussed.

Mayor A Sanson moved/Mayor M Baxter seconded.

WPJC17/13 THAT the Minutes of the Waikato Plan Committee meeting of 21 April 2017 be received.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/13)

Deliberations Report

File: 03 04 32 (Agenda Item #5) Doc #10532882 and #10523780

Presented by Project Team member (Rachael McMillan) the report assisted the Committee to deliberate on changes made to the Waikato Plan (plan) in response to submission and feedback received on the draft plan.

The presentation was broken into five parts, these were:

- Submission analysis
- Recommended changes
- Changes not support and why they were not supported
- Direction from the Joint Committee
- Discussion

The report specifically sought direction from the Committee in regards to Hamilton to Auckland Passenger Rail and the draft Sustainable Agriculture action.

The Committee commenced discussions on action 2.2.1(d), which specifically mentions extension of passenger rail from Auckland to Hamilton. During this discussion, the following points were noted:

- There is a working group consisting of the Waikato Regional Council Chair (Cr A Livingston), Waikato District Mayor, Auckland Mayor, Hamilton City Mayor and representatives from New Zealand Transport Agency and Watercare that discuss cross boundary issues between Waikato and Auckland. The working group is considering the options for Passenger Rail from Waikato to Auckland and advocating for a park and ride at Mercer into Pukekohe as a first stage.
- The Committee agreed that they needed to start with what was achievable (passenger rail from Mercer to Pukekohe) in the near future while working towards more aspirational options. The Committee agreed that aspirational considerations needed to be included in the action so it was made clear that this would be an evolutionary journey and would be complete when – ideally – regular trains were available in Hamilton central locations, to Auckland central locations. Electrification of the Pukekohe line and the re-opening of Pukekohe to Tuakau line are also important.
- The Committee suggested that there should be alignment in this space with the ‘Auckland Transport Alignment Project’.

The Committee commenced discussions on the draft action 4.2.2 - ‘Sustainable Agriculture’. The Committee was made aware that there was work being completed in this space. During discussion the following points were noted:

- The Committee agreed to include the action in the Waikato Plan as agriculture related directly to the economy of the Waikato. The Committee suggested that the action be framed in such a way that made it clear that an agricultural centre of excellence for sustainability was imperative to the Waikato, without committing to who would complete the action.
- The Committee noted that there were many entities and businesses that worked in the agriculture field but these were often not linked up and should be encouraged to work together to achieve collaborative outcomes. It was suggested that the following entities should be listed as potential key partners: Waikato Federated Farmers, Innovation Park, Field Days Society or Waikato Chamber of Commerce, Regional Council and Iwi/Maori.
- In regards to an ‘agrihub’ or an ‘agricultural centre of excellence’ the Committee agreed the actions should outline ‘success is when: we know what is happening in

the Waikato'. It was important to understand the work already being completed in this space.

- The Committee acknowledged that the knowledge and expertise in the Waikato of the agricultural industry made the Waikato 'global experts' in this space. Internationally industries learned from the Waikato and there might be option there for local funding. The Committee agreed it was imperative to keep the 'Waikato knowledge' in the Waikato.

The Committee commenced discussion on general points in the plan. The following points were noted:

- Iwi/Maori would be engaged further in understanding and supporting the plan during the implementation phase. The Committee acknowledged there were residual issues in the space of Iwi/Maori engagement.
- Local government would fund the plan for the first year. This will transition through to other funding partners in the second year onwards.
- It was suggested that a Mihi from the Chair be included as part of the forward of the plan.
- Concern was raised that 'Waikato Tainui' was noted as a key partner for action 3.1. It was suggested that this be a generic term, or all iwi are named.
- Action 3.1.5 referred to Waikato Tainui's Environmental Management Plan. It was noted that other iwi have environmental management plans. It was suggested that it would be more inclusive and appropriate to note these plans in a more generic manner. It was suggested that the outcome statement for priority 3 be rephrased as "Iwi/Maori are supported to achieve their aspirations, live, work and invest in their own Rohe". The Committee was advised that there were other agencies working in this space. It was suggested that the Waikato Plan should be the overarching reference document that could be referred to by all Maori entities
- Concern was noted that Section 1.4 Enabling housing choice of the plan noted percentages in house pricing that were now out of date and not inclusive of all areas within the Waikato. The Committee queried whether there would be capacity to amend this to more generic wording.
- The Committee queried whether there was capacity for the Waikato Plan to be a leader in the area of affordable housing having general oversight and making available results from monitoring for future policies.
- The project advisor noted that the implementation action table needs to be populated with key partners and this will be amended for the final Plan
- The Committee discussed the Waters Centre of Excellence action and would like it noted that rural councils have expertise in water and would like to share expertise.

The Committee was advised that next steps going forward were:

- The final plan would be presented to the Committee for approval on 19 June 2017.
- Following approval, the plan would need to be ratified by each partner Council.
- Relevant recommendations would be put to each of the partner councils to approve regarding the establishment of the new Joint Committee.
- The plan would be launched 21 August 2017.

Staff were thanked for the significant amount of work that had been completed in regards to the plan.

B Gatenby moved/Mayor J Barnes seconded.

- a. Subject to changes as per discussions and suggested modifications raise in the meeting, approve the:
- recommendations detailed in Appendix B;
 - the proposed changes made to the Waikato Plan as shown in the tracked change version of the Plan attached as Appendix C;
 - note the subsequent amendments to the Waikato Plan arising from the deliberations meeting discussion which will be reflected in a further track change version of the Plan being recommended for consideration by the Waikato Plan Joint Committee at its meeting on 19 June 2017.

In response to submission and feedback received on the draft Waikato Plan.

- b. Determine, that in relation to the extension of the passenger rail network between Auckland and Hamilton, to:
- modify the commentary and the action as per discussion.
- c. Determine, in relation to the new action ‘Sustainable Agriculture’ to:
- modify the commentary and the action as per discussion.

The motion was put and carried (WPJC17/14)

Meeting concluded at 11:40am