

Minutes for the meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee of the Waikato District Council held via Audio Visual Conference on **WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2021** commencing at **9.30am**.

**Present:**

Cr NMD Smith (Deputy Chairperson)  
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson  
Cr AD Bech  
Cr JA Church  
Cr C Eyre  
Cr JM Gibb  
Cr SL Henderson  
Cr SD Lynch  
Cr RC McGuire  
Cr FM McNally  
Ms M Moana-Tuwhangai  
Cr EM Patterson  
Cr LR Thomson (from 9.35am, Item 2)  
Cr CT Woolerton

**Attending:**

Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive) (left at 10.00am, end of Item 6.4)  
Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)  
Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Service Delivery)  
Mr J Ebenhoh (Policy & Planning Manager)  
Mr S Bourke (Regulatory Manager)  
Ms K Ridling (Senior Solicitor RMA)  
Mrs S Flay (Senior Communications Advisor)  
Mrs T Oakes (Animal Control Team Leader)  
Ms M Russo (Corporate Planning Team Leader)  
Ms A Sayer (Corporate Planner)  
Ms H Beaven (Corporate Planner)  
Ms J Wymer-Bell (Corporate Planner)  
Ms B Clarke (Junior Corporate Planner)  
Mrs GJ Kanawa (Democracy Team Leader)  
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)

## **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Resolved: (Crs Lynch/Patterson)**

**THAT The Policy & Regulatory Committee accepts the:**

- a) apology for non-attendance from Cr Sedgwick; and
- b) apology from for lateness from Cr Thomson.

**CARRIED**

**P&R2110/01**

## **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Resolved: (Crs Smith/Gibb)**

**THAT:**

- a) the agenda for the meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 be confirmed, and
- b) all reports be received
- c) in accordance with Standing Order 9.4 the order of business be changed with agenda item 6.4 [Chief Executive's Business Plan] being considered after agenda item 5 [Action Register].

**CARRIED**

**P&R2110/02**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved: (Crs Patterson/McInally)**

**THAT the minutes of the meeting for the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Wednesday, 1 September 2021 be confirmed as true and correct.**

**CARRIED**

**P&R2110/03**

## **ACTIONS REGISTER**

### Agenda Item 5

The report was received [*P&R21/10/02 refers*] and the following matters were noted:

- External facing policies – work in progress and will remain on register
- Adoption of the 2021 Proposed Amendments to the Waikato District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2014 and the Proposed Water Leak Relief Policy – will now be removed from the register as it has been adopted.

## **REPORTS**

### Chief Executive's Business Plan

#### Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*P&R21/10/02 refers*] and the following matters were noted:

- Slightly behind progress with capital work programme due to lockdowns and supply chain issues.
- Council position on the future of Local Government – work was being done for Council consideration in November.
- Three Waters – expecting to get summary or feedback report on submissions from DIA, along with notification from the government regarding whether they will proceed with reform.
- Strengthened relationships at regional and national level due to Covid briefings.
- Discussions have been held with Minister of Housing around Waikato Housing initiative and opportunities for funding.
- Appointed a climate action coordinator who started on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to make further progress in this area.
- Update provided on work being undertaken regarding the Huntly Resource Recovery Centre, however it was noted that this entails negotiations which Cr Patterson is aware of and will update the local councillors as it is progressed.
- Sleepyhead development negotiations also needed to be discussed in confidence – Cr Smith will contact Cr Lynch to provide an update.
- Waikato Housing Initiative – councils working together on their various programmes to advance housing within the Waikato region.
- Infrastructure development fund work has an impact on this which the Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive are working through issues.
- Solid waste and recycling issues – noted that these were commercially sensitive issues and were being addressed by Cr Patterson.
- New construction season not proceeding with full force with covid and supply chain issues – This was a concern and regular updates will be given on implications as they arrive.

- Vaccinations for front facing staff that have hit the paper recently – concern for both staff and the public.

Challenging space, we have not engaged with unions around vaccination but essentially what we need to do is undertake risk assessment.

Closer to home given decisions by government around health and education and differing legal opinions.

Haste was required here with libraries and front counters opening in Late October 2021.

Work with other councils in the region to progress this issue more quickly as a joint effort.

- Looks like a fair bit of movement with staff, questions raised regarding the percentage of staff roles are currently filled – noted that we are currently around 90% and the ideal would be more around 95%.
- Where is the land referred to that we are working with Department of Conservation - Te Paina (Mercer reserve).

**Actions:** Updates requested on resource recovery centres in both Huntly and North to all councillors. Staff to provide report in early November around Local Government Reform.

### Update on Policy and Bylaw Review Programme – October 2021

#### Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*P&R21 10/02 refers*] and the following matters were noted:

- Speed Limit Bylaw and Dog Control Bylaw open for consultation in November 2021.
- Gambling Venues/Easter trading policies have workshops scheduled this month and will also go out for consultation in November 2021.
- Number of overdue policy and bylaw reviews – what work are we doing to prioritise - Working to develop criteria to prioritise, heavily focused on legislative requirements and teams are working on a staggered approach for the review of policies.
- Cellular network (Franklin District Council) policy only, do we not have a Waikato district policy – Network leases aren't an issue in Waikato district – haven't had discussion whether this is useful moving forward, a number of these historic policies are likely to be revoked as conditions are imbedded within leases.
- A number of reference around halls – timeframe for adopting district wide hall policy, workshop occurring next week

**ACTION:** Ensure we bring stakeholders along with the review of this policy as we need to learn from our previous errors. Staff to provide advice on whether the Rural road lighting availability based assessment is a funding or infrastructure capacity issue.

- Note that at the time when revoking policies that more details will be provided around the rationale.
- Keeping of animals bylaw – complaint against adoption of bylaw – specifically 7.1 and 7.3 keeping of poultry. It is likely we may do a limited notification under s82 of the Local Government Act. Four matters to discuss – two do not need to be reviewed and two that we will consider for review but have not met with the complainant as yet.

### Extension of Consultation Dates for Livestock Movement Bylaw 2021

#### Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*P&R21/10/02 refers*] and the following matters were noted:

- Seeking to extend consultation time to end on 29 November instead of 29 October as requested by Federated Farmers.
- Statement of Proposal has been slightly amended to enable easier reading and interactive version of maps on the Shape Waikato as well as how to navigate the bylaw.
- Council highlighted that if parts of districts still in 3 or 4 going forward there would be no further extensions.

**Resolved: (His Worship the Mayor/Cr Woolerton)**

**THAT, as required under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Policy & Regulatory Committee:**

- a) approves the amendment of public consultation on the proposed Waikato District Council Livestock Movement Bylaw 2021 to be undertaken between Monday, 20 September 2021 to Monday, 29 November 2021;**
- b) agrees that the submissions on the Bylaw will be considered, and if requested by submitters be heard, by the Policy & Regulatory Committee in February 2022;**
- c) adopt the amended Statement of Proposal (Attachment 1 to the report), proposed Livestock Movement Bylaw 2022 (Attachment 2 to the report) and amended Submission Form (Attachment 2 to the report); and**
- d) confirms that in the event that the consultation period is affected by the COVID pandemic, alternative means of consultation and hearing of submitters, including audio visual, may be used as required to meet the timeframe for consultation with communities.**

**CARRIED**

**P&R21/10/04**

2020/2021 Annual Dog Control Report  
Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [P&R21/10/02 refers] and the following matters were noted:

- Interested in significant number of additional dogs in the district – are we seeing an increase in more nuisance or dangerous dogs – This is a combination of growth in district and some to do with unregistered dog process along with staff not visiting to catch up with people due to lockdown.  
A few more serious cases which we have dealt with quickly. Challenge in Levels 3 and 4 as dogs react to masks negatively but not necessarily an increase in violence toward staff during Covid. However, staff were coming across more difficult customers due to the serious nature of these complaints.
- Percentage would be more helpful in report – specific issues we need to report on in the IOA report, but we can review staff cover report and how we present it.
- Event planning difficult with lockdowns – pink walks easier to cancel or postpone – Dirty Dog we were able to hold this year but does incur costs when we do cancel like 2020.

**ACTION:** Staff to collate specific numbers for Pokeno and forward to Cr Church.

Staff to consider percentage values in report not just number values.

**Resolved: (Crs Bech/Patterson)**

**THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee recommends that Council approves the 2020/21 Annual Dog Control report (as attached to the staff report) for release to the community.**

**CARRIED**

**P&R21/10/05**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.33am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

Cr NMD Smith  
**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**