

Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato District Council (to hear the submission on the 2023/24 Annual Plan) held in the Council Chambers, 15 Gallileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **THURSDAY, 8 JUNE 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

Present:

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis
Cr CA Eyre (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Keir
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu
Cr K Ngataki
Cr EM Patterson
Cr M Raumati
Cr L Thomson
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Ms M May (General Manager Service Delivery)
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
Ms M Rinaldi (Corporate Planner)
Mr T McIntyre (Policy Advisor)
Mrs GJ Kanawa (Democracy Manager)

Councillors opened with a joint karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/L Thomson)

That the apology from Cr Gibb for non-attendance be accepted.

CARRIED

WDC2306/15

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Crs P Thomson/Ngataki)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Waikato District Council to hear submissions on the 2023/24 Annual Plan held on Thursday, 8 June 2023 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda items 6, which shall be considered with the public excluded;
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

WDC2306/16

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 3

Cr Beavis noted the first presenter was her husband and would step back from his submission.

At the end of the meeting Cr Keir advised when conflicts of interest were discussed at the end of the meeting that he lived on the edge of the gully.

REPORTS

Hearings for the proposed targeted rate for Tamahere gully network restoration

Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received [WDC2306/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- The Corporate Planner advised the process for the hearings, along with an update of submitters who had withdrawn from speaking.

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Keir)

THAT the Waikato District Council:

- a. pursuant to section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, considers all submissions and, where requested, hears submissions on the proposed targeted rate for Tamahere gully network restoration.

CARRIED

WDC2306/17

**Godfrey Bridger (Submission ID 6363) (via Audio Visual Conference)
Attachment 4.1A**

Mr Bridger provided a presentation in support of their submission and noted he was in support of the targeted rate, with the following key points:

- He was Cr Beavis's husband.
- Was not a member of the TMR Trust.
- Council needs to change the way of thinking as a healthy ecology is the basis for a healthy economy.
- Greenway submission put in 2020 to support gully restoration to HCC, Waipa and WDC so would be good to finally get some traction on these projects.
- Believed Council needed to lift targeted rate to \$104 per year rather than \$52 per year.
- Should be for a longer term than three (3) years.
- Query if there had been a contribution from Hamilton or Waipa – it was noted that Hamilton has their Nature in the City which covers multiple projects but could not confirm whether Waipa had similar.

Grace Margaret Wilcock (Submission ID 6383)

Mrs Wilcock spoke to her written submission and noted she was in support of the targeted rate, with the following additional points:

- Work has only been commenced due to the passion of local volunteers and the targeted rate would enable the Trust to employ
- Council needed to consider this is also the third targeted rate in the Tamahere area, and they should not be set up in perpetuity and should be reviewed following a set period of time as those on fixed incomes struggled with the additional rates.
- It was important to have discussions with local residents around their knowledge of the properties as we do not want to see them getting annoyed and putting up fences, particularly on flood prone areas.

Bryce Cooper (Submission ID 6391) (via Audio Visual Conference)

Mr Cooper did not attend the hearing.

Cr Turner left 10.02am and returned at 10.15am so was absent for the following submission.

Amanda Banks and Robyn Richardson, Predator Free Tamahere (Submission ID 6350)

Ms Banks spoke to their written submission and noted they were in support of the targeted rate, with some reservations as indicated below:

- The Trust had recently celebrated their first birthday, but noted in a short time had already eradicated 1400 pests in the area.
- Their initial success has been a collective impact of people taking action together (100 volunteers signed up to assist with trapping) and creating relationships with Ngati Haua.
- Concerns with targeted rate going to Trust is there was insufficient detail around governance and transparency in reporting back to the community.
- Discussions need to be held with the Trust, community and Council in regard to succession planning.
- Ecological aspects of restoration work – predator control is another aspect of this.
- Bats in the gully system – what sort of controls and provisions are there to support this habitat.
- Supportive of restoring nature in Tamahere, but imperative the Trust develop and understand the relationship with mana whenua in the restoration projects.
- The Council noted that the targeted rate was to provide restoration work above the level of service provided from the general rate.

Chris Hendy (Submission ID 6516) Attachment 4.1B

Mr Hendy provided a powerpoint presentation and noted he was generally in support of the targeted rate.

- Mangaouna gully is the largest in the area and all tributaries connect to our key awa.
- Vegetation has changed in the gully system.
- WDC area largely occupied by lifestyle properties.
- Continuity of esplanade strips – HCC have been quietly acquiring esplanade strips – urge WDC to acquire esplanade strips as the opportunities arise.

Grant Henderson (Submission ID 6390) (via Audio Visual Conference)

Mr Henderson spoke to his written submission and noted he was against the targeted rate, with the following comments:

- Self responsibility of the owners of those properties not Council or the wider community, as the wider community should not need to contribute to maintaining and improving the outlook of private properties.
- Some really nice gullies in the Tamahere area – the targeted rate is focussed on one of those which older people could not get down to or enjoy.
- Any projects should come from general rates as cost/benefit ratio does not balance.
- HCC charging for the gardens – more people that could enjoy the gardens than utilise our gully and implementing walkways.

The Council closed the hearings with a Karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.46am

Minutes approved and confirmed this day 2023.

JA Church
CHAIRPERSON