

Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato District Council (to deliberate on the 2023/24 Annual Plan submissions) held in the Council Chambers, 15 Gallileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

**Present:**

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church (Chairperson)  
Cr C Beavis  
Cr CA Eyre (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr J Gibb (*from 9.34am*)  
Cr M Keir  
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu (*from 9.35am*)  
Cr K Ngataki  
Cr EM Patterson  
Cr V Reeve (*via audio-visual conference*)  
Cr M Raumati  
Cr L Thomson  
Cr T Turner  
Cr D Whyte

**Attending:**

Ms M May (General Manager Service Delivery)  
Mr TG Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)  
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)  
Ms M Rinaldi (Corporate Planner)  
Ms K Ridling (Acting Legal Counsel)  
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)  
Mr T McIntyre (Policy Advisor)  
Mrs GJ Kanawa (Democracy Manager)

Mr Leo Koppens  
Mr Russell Gibbs

Councillors opened with a joint karakia.

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Resolved: (Crs L Thomson/Ngataki)**

**That the apologies:**

- a. from Cr P Thomson for non-attendance be accepted; and**
- b. from Cr Gibb and Cr Matatahi-Poutapu for lateness be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2306/18**

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

Agenda Item 2

**Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Whyte)**

**THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Waikato District Council to deliberate on the submissions on the 2023/24 Annual Plan held on Tuesday, 13 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; and**
- b. **all reports be received.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2306/19**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item 3

Cr Beavis and Cr Keir noted they lived in the area of the proposed targeted rate.

## **REPORTS**

*Deliberations report 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:

- Corporate Planning Team Leader provided an overview of the submissions and noted staff had not made a recommendation due to the submissions being balanced between for and against the targeted rate.
- It was noted that whilst some submissions were listed as anonymous on the hearings agenda it was noted that names and addresses were provided but requested to keep confidential.
- Queries raised about Trust involvement with mana whenua. The Trustees present advised that the video on the website had been done in conjunction with Ngati Haua and would continue to connect with Iwi but would appreciate assistance from the Council in this regard.
- Council are about to adopt Taiao Strategy and need to support bio-diversity work as it was a great trial for the rest of the district.
- Concern raised regarding transparency for ratepayers, need to incorporate some type of reporting mechanism back to Council and the community.

- Query raised on impact to staff resourcing as many teams already stretched – it was noted additional resource would be required at implementation, however this was not a significant increase above current involvement.
- Whilst Council received 230 submissions it was not a true reflection in terms of the rating base and there was wide support in the community for gully improvement, noting the Trust had achieved a lot already but need funding support to continue this work which was in line with Council's Taiao Strategy.
- Concern from some submitters were around the number of targeted rates and they have not been reviewed since implementation. We need to review targeted rates regularly rather than having them in place for perpetuity.
- Blueprint and community outcomes indicate support for environmental outcomes, therefore support this.
- Agreed additional support for restoration was required in the area to align with consents and implementation of pathways/walking tracks, but also need to ensure work is done in a safe way.
- Concern with the lack of risk treatments, particularly regarding succession planning and future proofing. It was noted by the Trustees present that many did not want to be involved in the administrative/governance side of things but were happy to volunteer to do projects.
- There are other ways to fund these strategies, i.e. business sponsorship and other grants, with the current economic status cannot support another targeted rate.

Cr Raumati left the meeting at 10.36am and returned at 10.38am.

- This project provides a public/private partnership experiment for Council and leveraging the use of volunteers, if we do not take this opportunity we could lose it for another generation to resurrect.
- It would provide a platform for other communities to come in and we have a template for them to work to we should go for it and Council step back.
- Will the workload add to the already undeliverable list of projects? No as this will provide the resource to the Trust and volunteers to get more done.
- Robust deliberation process and we will not please everyone when adding another targeted rate however there was wider support in the community for this rate, including the Community Committee and it was a top priority in the Tamahere Blueprint.

