



Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Tuesday 18 May 2021 commencing at 10.30am.

## **1. Present**

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), A K Franklin, S A Hull, C J Isaacson, P A Johns, K A Sutherland, R A Treder and S M Wards.

### **In Attendance**

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Taylor	- Manager - Democracy Services
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager - Corporate
Mr C Chapman	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms T Love	- Group Manager - Operations
Mr D Watson	- Manager - Special Projects
Mr P Wimsett	- Manager Strategy and Climate Change
Mr M Alben	- Projects Manager
Ms L Jenkins	- Committee Secretary
Mr A Williams	- Tararua IT Alliance Desktop Support
Mr P Kalarikkal	- Tararua IT Alliance Desktop Support

Submitters to the Long Term Plan, members of the community and speakers on the Maori Ward option for the 2022 election as outlined

## **2. Apologies**

2.1 Nil

## **3. Hearing of Submissions on Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031**

3.1 The Council proceeded to hear the following submitters speak in support of their written submission on the Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031.

### **Submission Number    Name**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | Duncan Elliot for Bush Multisport Trust   |
|   | - Requests carparking be provided at Kauri Place in Pahiatua and Huxley Street drain is enclosed.             |
|   | - Requests the Bush Multisport stadium roof in Pahiatua is insulated before they seek funding for heat pumps. |

- Requests angle parking in Princess Street which could provide further car parks for the Bush Aquatic Trust facility and further parks for sports at the turf.
- 8                      Manager - Democracy Services Richard Taylor on behalf of Brent Barrett
- Requests Council work with Horizons Regional Council and other stakeholder entities to begin planning the feasibility of a coast to coast path-based tourism route connecting the two coasts in the Horizons region.
- 30                      Tony Rhodes
- Requests funding be included in the Long Term Plan over three financial years to support consideration and development of the future envisioned for Tararua communities.
- 17                      Lee-anne Tait / Ross Terry and Kendra Crafer for Eketāhuna Health Centre (attending remotely through audio-visual link)
- Requests funding of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per annum for Eketāhuna Health Centre to continue providing primary health care services in the southern part of the district and carrying on preceptor training to UCOL student nurses.
- 19                      Ben Luders
- Requests Rotary Park in Pahiatua is developed into a dog park funded from private sponsorship.
- 20                      Brad Cassidy for Sport Manawatu
- Acknowledges the value of the strategic partnership between Sport Manawatu and Council.
  - Supports the enhancement and improvement of existing recreational assets including pools, parks and reserves, walking and cycling infrastructure to provide opportunities for the community to engage in physical activity.
  - Supports investment into major recreation infrastructure developments through a network approach and hub-based model.

- 29 Phil Teal for Fish and Game New Zealand (attending remotely through audio-visual link)
- Promotes sustainable land management to reduce land use effects on river water quality.
  - Supports placing greater investment into improvements for stormwater discharges.
  - Promotes wetland enhancement to reduce land use effects on river water quality.
- 31 Mark Wheeler
- Supports preferred option 2 to introduce a staged approach to kerbside recycling.
  - Supports option 1 to meet the community development objectives from existing budgets, but considers there is no advantage in creating two new positions at this stage.
  - Supports the initiative to reduce debt through preferred option 2 at a rate of 2% of rates each year, but this must be part of a wider non-essential cost management exercise.
  - Supports option 3 to increase rates funding by \$100,000 per year and add this to existing road financial reserves (more would be preferable.)
  - Supports the idea of combining Council Service Centres into one building rather than supporting separate sites in the same town if this offers convenience for users of these services and it would reduce overheads.
  - Questions the impacts of Government's three waters reform on the future delivery of Council providing these services to communities as the alternative model being proposed may remove that function in relation to the management and operation of this infrastructure.
  - Supports long-term thinking to understand the impacts of forever forests planted for carbon farming in respect of the lifecycle and environment.
- 34 Susan Lyford for Dannevirke Host Lions Club
- Requests a location is made available for some community exercise equipment in Dannevirke with a partial funding contribution provided toward the cost involved.

3.2 The meeting adjourned at 12.06pm and resumed at 1.00pm, and proceeded to hear the following submitters speak in support of their written submission on the Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031.

**Submission Number    Name**

35                      Ray Richards

- Expresses concern about the condition of Carnival Park in Pahiatua, and offers his assistance to improve and enhance that area.

40                      Ed Kight

- Supports option 1 to meet the community development objectives from existing budgets.
- Supports option 1 for debt repayment at a rate of 1% of rates each year.
- Supports preferred option 2 to maintain the current rates funding to existing road financial reserves.
- Objects to the significant rates increase on his properties.
- Questions the justification for proposing Council consider a targeted rate on forestry.
- Requests Council implement the option of providing rate assessments by email.

51                      Brent Stewart, Marian Holdaway and Philamena Beale for Tararua Aquatic Community Trust

- Acknowledges Council's funding to support the Tararua Aquatic Community Trust, and outlines its intentions to maintain and develop this facility as a community hub for healthy activity, happiness and wellbeing.

59                      Louise Powick for Pahiatua On Track

- Supports preferred option 2 to invest in two new roles with a community development focus.
- Requests the Pahiatua bridge to the brewery cycle/walkway be undertaken.
- Seeks Council review its support/investment for the new Pahiatua community swimming pool to take into account funders may require a greater capital contribution towards the project.

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Charlotte Almond and Cr Allan Benbow for Horizons Regional Council

- Acknowledges the resourcing committed by Council to improving the district's three waters infrastructure, and notes Government reform will have significant impacts in the future.
- Commends Council on recognising climate change is a key challenge for its communities.
- Agrees to provide further information on the Enviroschools programme in the district.
- Values the relationship with Council and working collaboratively together.

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Kerry Hocquard for Cancer Society Manawatu

- Supports an equity lens is used in planning recreational spaces.
- Requests Council to actively promote smoke free, to grow a reputation that cares for the health and wellbeing of its communities.
- Requests consideration is given to looking at how a smoke free commitment could be made to de-normalise smoking and vaping, and through development of such a policy to include community events, outdoor dining, outdoor environments, Council owned buildings and outdoor spaces.
- Requests Council adopt a sun smart policy incorporating a sun smart role for the employment of outdoor workers, shade planning, managing community events and as a consent authority, acknowledging the need to address this issue as a result of the impacts caused by climate change.
- Requests Council conduct a shade audit of parks and playgroups, and incorporate shade planning into all future playground and outdoor gym development.

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Sally Dryland and Coralee Matena for Tararua Federated Farmers

- Opposes the reduction to the level of the uniform annual general charge from 29% to 25% of total rates income.
- Requests the establishment of a new rating category for lifestyle properties.
- Expresses concern little progress is being made to undertake seal extension work in the district.

- Supports a 1.5 times roading differential for forestry related properties.
- Supports planning for growth be self-sufficient.
- Supports long-term thinking to understand the impacts resulting from land use change relating to forestry carbon farming.
- Expresses concern about Old Man's Beard.
- Supports the introduction of a development contributions policy.

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Dan Ramsden

- Objects to the significant rates increase on his properties.
- Expresses concern about the social and economic impacts resulting from land use change relating to forestry carbon farming.
- Expresses concern about leaks in the Akitio water supply.

3.3 The meeting adjourned at 2.35pm, and resumed at 3.12pm.

#### **4. Option of a Maori Ward for the 2022 Election**

4.1 Mayor Tracey Collis welcomed the large number of representatives from Council's iwi partners Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-a-Rua , Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua and members of the community to the meeting for this item of business.

4.2 Jo Hayes of Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, and Tuia representative Jordan Bennett joined the meeting through attending remotely by audio-visual link.

4.3 Manager - Democracy Services Richard Taylor read a letter from Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-a-Rua Chair, Mavis Mullins urging Council to positively consider the implementation of a Maori Ward.

4.4 A public forum was then held with the following speakers addressing Council and expressing support to establish a Maori Ward:

- Matua Dr Manahi Paewai for Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-a-Rua referred to the three P's in the Treaty of Waitangi - partnership, participation and protection.
- Jo Hayes for Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust referred to making the partnership relationship so much stronger and meaningful.
- Lorraine Stephenson referred to her experience trying to get elected on the general roll.
- Everlyne Chase (via a video) referred to giving the mokopuna hope.
- Jordan Bennett in the presence of Tararua College students referred to a Maori Ward representative as a role model.

- James Kendrick referred to the benefits and value of having a Maori world view through reflecting on his experiences in that capacity regarding emergency management community services and St John Ambulance.

(Manager - Democracy Services Richard Taylor read a letter from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Board Chairman Hayden Hape requesting Council establish a Maori Ward)

- Hayden Hape for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua with one-year old grandson Riley Charles Kani-Hape referred to providing hope for the future, and reflected on the difficult time when his grandson was born last year during the Covid-19 lockdown. During that time iwi worked with the community to supply everything from food to emotional support, and he asked for the same unity and partnership from Council in its decision today that will affect the future for mokopuna as they grow. He pointed to a toki on the desk saying it represented the opportunity to cut wood for houses or cut down people's hopes.

4.5 Manager - Democracy Services Richard Taylor outlined the steps Council must take to provide a Maori Ward as part of the district's representation structure. This is subject to the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, and undertaking a representation review this year on the basis of the proposed ward arrangements with a Maori Ward able to elect one representative to Council as part of its composition of members also elected from the North and South Tararua Wards.

4.6 Mayor Tracey Collis spoke on the key decision for Council to make today is whether to proceed with the option of establishing a Maori Ward for the 2022 election.

4.7 In deciding its intentions concerning the direction to take regarding that matter Mayor Collis put forward three options for Council's consideration:

- Option 1 - To establish a Maori Ward for the Tararua District for the 2022 election, and this be included as part of this year's representation review for consultation with the community.
- Option 2 - To provide the opportunity for wider community consultation by deferring the decision until the 2025 election.
- Option 3 - Do nothing and the status quo remains as the basis of the representation structure proposed for this year's representation review and the 2022 election.

4.8 ***That Council propose the option to establish a Maori Ward for the Tararua District for the 2022 election, and this course of action be included in this year's representation review for consultation with the community.***

***Mayor Collis/Cr Peeti-Webber***

4.9 Mayor Tracey Collis invited each Councillor to speak with regard to the motion proposed for consideration regarding this item of business.

- 4.10 Councillors proceeded to express their opinions on this matter that indicated they supported the motion to provide the option of a Maori Ward for the district's 2022 election, with a contrary view conveyed by Cr Peter Johns.
- 4.11 Cr Johns expressed reservations about the process to establish Maori Wards being rushed due to short timelines imposed by Government legislation, and that only Maori on the Maori electoral roll could vote for a Maori Ward representative. This could result in them having no say or continuing to vote on the general roll for members elected from the North or South Tararua Wards.
- 4.12 Cr Johns indicated he supported greater Maori representation and involvement with Council through enabling its iwi partners representatives to attend and participate in workshops that shaped the direction of Council's discussions leading to decision-making at formal meetings.
- 4.13 Mayor Tracey Collis requested the vote on the motion be taken by way of division, with the outcome being as follows:
- | <b>For</b>                           | <b>Against</b> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mayor - Tracey Collis                | Cr Peter Johns |
| Deputy Mayor - Cr Erana Peeti-Webber |                |
| Cr Alison Franklin                   |                |
| Cr Shirley Hull                      |                |
| Cr Carole Isaacson                   |                |
| Cr Kerry Sutherland                  |                |
| Cr Raylene Treder                    |                |
| Cr Sharon Wards                      |                |
- 4.14 Mayor Tracey Collis declared the motion is **carried**, which was received with much jubilation and acclamation from representatives of Council's iwi partners and members of the community in attendance at the meeting.
- 4.15 This included a haka and waiata ensuing from the public gallery to celebrate the Council's decision to provide a Maori Ward for the district, thereby creating history to affirm Maori representation at the Council table.
- 4.16 Manager - Democracy Services Richard Taylor explained the process going forward from today's decision that requires Council to undertake the following:
- Council would consider the proposed structure of the ward arrangements for the district in accordance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, and provide the option of a Maori Ward able to elect one representative to Council as part of its composition of members also elected from the North and South Tararua Wards.
  - The proposed structure would then be presented to Council at its June meeting for consideration and confirmation as the initial representation arrangement open to consultation and submissions.
  - Council then considers and determines its response to submissions received through the consultation process, and agrees on the final basis of the representation arrangements that would apply for the 2022 and 2025 elections.



- Any person who made a submission to that consultation process and is opposed to the final basis of the representation arrangements determined by Council can lodge an objection to the parts they disagree with.
- If no objections are received the final basis of the representation arrangements are confirmed for the 2022 and 2025 elections.
- Any objections received by Council are referred to the Local Government Commission for their decision to determine the basis of the representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 elections.

4.17 Mayor Tracey Collis closed the meeting with a karakia to acknowledge the completion of the forum, and the purpose of the gathering resting for now with the vitality of today's discussions replenishing and fulfilling hearts and minds bonded in our common goal and unity.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm.

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Mayor