



Minutes of a meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 20 March 2024 commencing at 1:00pm.

1. Present

Cr K A Sutherland (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Mr D Watson	- Manager – Special Projects
Mr P Wimsett	- 3-Waters Transition Manager
Mr R Earp	- 3-Waters Manager
Mr M Dunn	- Manager – Programmes and Projects
Mr D Erard	- Delivery Manager - Transport
Ms S Morris	- Land Development Engineer
Mr D Cameron	- Recovery Manager
Mrs J Neilson	- Solid Waste Manager
Ms A Rule	- Policy and Planning Advisor
Ms M Brensell	- Executive Assistant to Group Manager - Infrastructure
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis	- Democracy Support Officer

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Chairperson opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Apologies

That the apology from Councillor M F Long be accepted and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Sutherland/Peeti-Webber

Carried

4. Public Forum

Linda Manning was in attendance, and spoke to the committee on behalf of fluoride free Tararua in regards to the impending fluoridation of the Dannevirke/Tararua water supply. She requested the Committee respond to an email regarding an extension of the fluoridation project to 31 December 2024, citing delay extensions in other areas, including Nelson City Council. She responded to comments made by councillors in previous meetings, taking umbrage with disparaging remarks surrounding her group, and with offensive language used regarding disabled children. She commended Councillor M Long on his defence of fluoridation concerns, notably regarding the effects of excessive fluoride on infants via use in formula.

She pushed back on Council's claim that fluoridation was compulsory, reiterating that a delay to 31 December was possible, and that there was a clear conflict between the legal obligations and government direction.

She advocated for more community-based initiatives to educate children and families on brushing teeth, including to prompt children to brush their teeth during the school day, and also made note of the serendipity of the date – World Oral Health Day.

In closing, she invited a council presence at a public meeting she would be organising to generate further discussion within the community on the matter, and stated the intention to send a speaker for a future public forum to provide further details upon finalisation of the event plans.

In response, Chairperson K A Sutherland requested a list of questions sent via email, which he could answer in further detail following the meeting. He stated that he was keeping a close eye on fluoridation extensions, and that there may be conversations between other local Councils surrounding this. He apologised for the offensive comments attributed to councillors made in Council Chambers.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Councillor S M Wards – Ākitio water supply as a Ākitio houseowner.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

8. NZTA - Waka Kotahi Update

Representatives from the New Zealand Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi, were in attendance to give a presentation and to provide an update on work done regarding the old Manawatu Gorge road. They updated the Committee on the formation of a business case and prospective management plan arising from an initial Geotech assessment of cliff face stability, as well as gorge road asset status. From this assessment, they determined the gorge road to be unsafe for public access, as well as for contractors providing regular maintenance - with heat maps highlighting areas of especial concern. They outlined the purpose of the management plan; the intent being to decommission the road, to revoke the state highway denomination of both accessible ends of the gorge road, and to involve both associated Councils and iwi in this process. They stated that works would be undertaken on each end of the gorge to ensure the assets were in a fit enough state for a hand over to their respective local Councils. They noted that fit-for-purpose models had been proposed to outline what that would look like and estimate total cost, with the intent to work with each Council to ascertain what would work best. In regards to the bridge listed as a heritage site on the Woodville end, there would be negotiations for a bespoke arrangement to retain the bridge.

In discussion, it was queried whether the road would be restored to its former state, and whether the gorge would be used for leisure activity - walking and cycling - in lieu of vehicle use. It was argued that traversal of the gorge could be likened to some prominent trail hikes, wherein the individual would determine the level of risk they would be willing to subject themselves to. It was responded that once revocation had taken place, the land would be under the responsibility of Land Information New Zealand to then open discussions with both DOC and the Council in regards to its use going forwards.

With regard to the heritage bridge site, there was some discussion over whether the Council would be amenable to maintaining a bridge with little functional use, and it was advised to have conversations with DOC due to the necessity of access points requiring bridge use.

9. Reports

9.1 Infrastructure Management Report

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Group Manager – Infrastructure dated 11 March 2024 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 10 February to 11 March 2024.

Concerns were expressed regarding compliance with bylaws surrounding water use and tanks at Ākitio, and the lack of data ascertaining the true number of compliant individuals.

That the report from the Group Manager - Infrastructure dated 11 March 2024 concerning the Infrastructure Management Report be received.

Wallace/Collis

Carried

9.2 **Cyclone Gabrielle Roothing Recovery Update**

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Transport Manager dated 10 March 2024 that provided an update on the roading recovery, funding audit and funding implications for the Cyclone Gabrielle roading recovery.

That the report from the Transport Manager dated 10 March 2024 concerning the Cyclone Gabrielle Roothing Recovery Update be received.

Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

9.3 **Cyclone Gabrielle General Recovery Update**

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Recovery Manager dated 12 March 2024 that provided a general update on the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery.

In discussion concerns were brought up in regards to use of funding beyond the immediate recovery phase, notably within the next 6 months. It was noted that funding would most likely prioritise farm and business recovery.

That the report from the Recovery Manager dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Cyclone Gabrielle General Recovery Update be received.

Johns/Wards

Carried

9.4 **Capital Portfolio Report**

The Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee considered the report of the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 7 March 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses.

That the report from the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 07 March 2024 concerning the Capital Portfolio Report be received.

Wallace/Collis

Carried

10. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 2:36pm.

Chairperson