

# REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.50AM ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Morgan (Chair), Mayor W Gray, Councillors T Blunt, J Diver, G Harmon, J Howden, C Mackle, D Millton.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** A Oosthuizen (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Committee Secretary), M Hoggard (District Planner).

## **1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

### **Resource Planning**

2 land use and 2 subdivision consents had been received during the reporting month. It was noted the number of consents did not reflect the difficult nature of some consents.

### **District & Environmental Planning**

#### Harbour Safety Improvements

The Cultural Impact Assessment workshop with the Runanga had been moved to early May. This was the last piece of work which needed to be undertaken prior to the application being lodged with Environment Canterbury.

#### Freedom Camping

A discussion was held regarding freedom camping and it was suggested a freedom camping workshop be held. It was noted Freedom Camping was on the agenda of the recent Zone 5 & 6 local government meeting with a remit to go to the Local Government Annual General Meeting regarding a national policy direction. The Mayoral Forum had also sent a letter to the Prime Minister. It was noted because there was so much variation in bylaws, where they were in place, it was difficult for people travelling through the country. Another issue was that identified freedom camping sites were unable to cope with the numbers of campers turning up.

It was suggested that Council staff identify land which Council did have control over, identify areas where there was an issue with non self-contained campers so that landowners could be approached about addressing the issues. It was also suggested an investigation of environmental impact of coastal areas over the last three months be undertaken. It was generally felt some background work should be undertaken so that when the tourism funding for infrastructure was announced officially by the Government Council was in a position to make an application straight away.

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Howden and resolved that the Environmental Services Reports be received.***

## **2. EARTHCHECK**

Included in the agenda was a report on Councils involvement with the Earthcheck programme. At the February meeting a request had been made

for a report justifying continuation with the programme considering the costs versus the benefits of participation. It was noted there were no submission against participation in the programme as part of the Long Term Plan consultation. Letters of support from businesses in the community had been provided. An enquiry was made regarding how much staff time was allocated to the programme.

A discussion was held regarding the programme and the following points were raised;

- It was a point of different for the district
- The position of being a sustainable destination had other benefits other than just tourism
- Kaikoura was the only Council in the country who had Earthcheck and if there was value then others would be involved
- Most Councils had some environmental benchmark standard in place
- There was a lot more work that could be undertaken in other areas that were not part of Earthcheck e.g. renewable energy
- Participation in the programme was of benefit when applying for funding
- A number of university groups visited Kaikoura because of its Earthcheck status.
- The programme aligned with marine protection legislation and recycling programmes.

***Moved by Councillor Diver seconded by Councillor Howden and resolved that the Earthcheck report be received.***

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.23am.***