

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.33AM ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (District Planners), S Syme (Committee Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Mayor W Gray.
Moved by Councillor Harmon, seconded by Councillor Mackle and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BE RAISED AS URGENT BUSINESS

1. Latest Block Offer for 2016 – Pegasus Basin (Councillor Blunt)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) District & Environmental Planning

Broadband

Kaikoura had been included on the long list of towns for potential UFB2 upgrade. It was noted that not all eligible towns on the list would receive funding.

Work would continue with Enterprise North Canterbury on a Digital Enablement Plan for North Canterbury. This had to be submitted to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment by the 18th of September 2015.

Natural Resource Regional Plan – Air Section

The hearing of submissions would commence on 27 October 2015. The Officer's report recommenced Kaikoura continue to be outside the "clean air zone" which was positive and showed Kaikoura had good air quality. If the recommendations were adopted outdoor burning for community and cultural events would be permitted year round.

Ohau Stream

Staff had attended a hui regarding options for the Ohau Stream area. The area had become a popular tourist destination due to increased Fur Seal numbers. A more detailed report would be provided in October. A discussion was held regarding the potential for locating toilets in the area and it was suggested trailered facilities could potentially be the best option.

3. FREEDOM CAMPING

The District Planner had reviewed the file regarding work undertaken on freedom camping to date. An extensive amount of work had been undertaken including a survey. Previously Council had resolved to set up a working group and it was recommended another group be formed to review the work undertaken to date and to move forward on the issue of freedom camping.

Moved by Councillor Blunt, seconded by Councillor Howden that Council;

- 1. Receive the Freedom Camping Report.***
- 2. Re-form the Freedom Camping Working Group with the ability to appoint others to the working group as deemed appropriate to:***
 - Make a decision on how freedom camping could be controlled through non-regulatory means***
 - Formulate a clear brochure and web material showing areas where freedom camping was welcomed and outline the environmental standards expected of campers***
 - Identify unacceptable locations for freedom camping and then notification of a bylaw be considered***
 - Identify acceptable locations for freedom camping.***

Discussion:

An enquiry was made regarding whether the previous working group had achieved anything. It was noted the issue was extremely complex and consultation needed to be undertaken widely with various parties from either end of the spectrum.

The motion was put and carried.

Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Harmon and resolved that Councillor Blunt, Councillor Diver, Councillor Howden and Councillor Millton make up the Freedom Camping Working Group.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

1. Block Offer 2016

Councillor Blunt advised the 2016 Block Offer had extended considerably towards Kaikoura. The block was not only closer to Kaikoura but closer to the newly formed Whale Sanctuary. He suggested a submission be lodged. He was concerned regarding the effect of seismic testing on whales, given there had been very little research regarding the effect of testing on marine mammals, which could be disastrous for the town and the district. It was noted submissions closed in October so there was some urgency. Councillor Blunt advised of all of the areas around the New Zealand Coast Kaikoura's was crisscrossed with a myriad of fault lines which made it a high risk area. The new offer also encroached on some significant fishing grounds. The District Planner advised she could prepare an item for the October Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.07am.