

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE KAIKOURA
DISTRICT COUNCIL TO HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON SUBMISSIONS TO
THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2017/18 HELD AT 9.03AM ON MONDAY
26 JUNE 2017 AT MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE,
KAIKOURA.**

- PRESENT:** Mayor W Gray (Chair), Councillors L Bond, T Blunt, C Harnett, J Howden, D Millton, N Pablecheque.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** A Oosthuizen (Chief Executive Officer), S Poulsen (Finance Manager), S Syme (Committee Secretary).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Mackle
Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Blunt and resolved that apologies be accepted. Unanimous.

1. SUBMITTERS HEARD

Mel Skinner – Economic Recovery

M Skinner advised she was opposed to commercial and accommodation sector rates increases. There were a number of businesses who were really struggling and the turn over for many businesses was 60% to 70% down. There were numerous things happening in the business realm including increased freight costs, difficulty with goods being delivered, staff issues with small businesses losing staff to roading works. Changes to immigration laws could also make it difficult to get staff in future. There was also an accommodation shortage which was also a deterrent when trying to attract new staff. Rates increases would make things more difficult for business and would increase psychosocial issues.

M Skinner also requested that the budget for economic recovery be increased as approximately \$168,000 in additional to what had been budgeted was required. She felt that the allocation of commercial rate revenue needed to be reviewed as a large amount went to destination Kaikoura but business required more support from economic recovery. Small businesses were key to Kaikoura as they employed a lot of staff. If Kaikoura was to start losing people from the community it would affect schools, churches and community groups. She felt more funding was required from MBIE to cover rates from commercial businesses.

It was noted that some business in Kaikoura were doing well. M Skinner advised that people in those businesses were still facing issues associated with working long hours and businesses were dealing with other issues and support was required across the board. An enquiry was made regarding what sectors were most in need. M Skinner advised there were a lot of operators who were struggling particularly small operators and accommodation suppliers did not have any forward bookings for tourists. There were also a number of people in the construction sector who did not have work.

A discussion was held regarding business grants.

Kaikoura Sport and Recreation Recovery / Sport Tasman

M Fissenden and K Boyce- Campbell were in attendance to present this item.

It was requested that the sport and recreation leadership recovery plan was included in all formal Council papers, that insurance money received for earthquake damaged sport and recreation assets went back towards the rebuild of the assets; a percentage of general earthquake relief funds received were put aside for sport and recreation and that Council support the partnership proposal put forward by Sport Tasman by allocating additional funding to sport and recreation. It was suggested this would show the community that Council was listening regarding its top priorities for a pool and sports hub. It would also show investors that Council was investing in community facilities. A discussion was held regarding the proposed new outdoor coordinator role.

Kaikoura Museum

S Lange, Museum Manager, was in attendance to present this item.

S Lange requested that Council relieve the museum of its rent obligations in the 2017/18 financial year. The Museum was currently facing financial hardship, it could not reduce its operating costs and there had been a massive increase in workload due to new donations as people looked to the museum to protect historic items.

The Museum was a great asset to the Kaikoura community and there was a large amount of community pride, it was marketing for the town and it was winning awards which provided positive stories for the district. The request for rent relief was not viewed as an ongoing request.

An enquiry was made regarding whether the Museum was eligible for subsidies and grants. S Lange advised the Museum had taken advantage of subsidies available but it was not eligible to the same grants as businesses because it was a registered charity. It was noted there were very few funds that would pay for operational costs.

Ralph Hogan

R Hogan advised that prior to the earthquake, Council was making a lot of progress on improving footpaths. Funding for footpaths appeared to be a low priority in the draft Annual Plan. People walking was one of the most basic forms of connectivity. He suggested that maybe people did not walk on footpaths because they may trip over.

R Hogan expressed concern regarding the Council newsletter not being in the Kaikoura Star any longer and also that Councillors still did not have Council email addresses.

Councillor Harnett entered the meeting at 9.47am.

R Hogan noted the draft Plan did not show any projection for income from development contributions. He suggested the Development Contributions Policy needed to be reviewed to ensure it was fair and equitable and he felt that due to the thresholds in place it was not.

Nicole Radermacher

N Radermacher put forward suggestions for the creation of a safe environment and beautiful useable spaces, community and economic development, water services and waste. Suggestions included;

- Collection depots for free to use bikes
- Street noticeboard for communications rather than just online or the local paper
- Include information on the Council structure so people understand processes to bridge gaps between community and Council including the different between Environment Canterbury and Council roles
- Advocate for the living wage
- A business mentor programme to help local people get into new businesses
- Encourage environmentally friendly and low impact repairs for the infrastructure rebuild
- Have teaching rooms and resources rooms for education about Zero Waste and Green Globe at Innovative Waste
- Potential for innovation e.g biofuels.

Kaikoura Forest and Bird

Ailsa Howard was in attendance to present this item.

A Howard requested Council make the biggest commitment to the natural environment that it was able to. She requested policies which included the wellbeing of wildlife. Kaikoura was a place of high biodiversity and provided genetic resilience. That biodiversity came from isolation and the number of habitats and as custodians the community need to manage. Nature provided a sense of wonder and it was noted there were no specifics in the Plan regarding the environment and biodiversity.

A Howard asked Council to be aware of the urgency for some of Kaikoura's wildlife. 81% of endemic birds were in danger. Predation had an enormous impact on birds like the Dotterill with cats being the largest problem. She noted Council could educate and provide information to the community regarding predators. She noted Council was not adverse to doing things which were controversial as it had shown in the past and noted that Adelaide had a very extensive Cat Policy and Wellington was also implementing a policy regarding cats.

Rhythm Wishart

R Wishart noted that small business owners and employers of the town would be particularly hard hit by rate increases. She felt that large increases in rates over the next three years were inappropriate. In a loss accruing situation, rates increases seemed like a nail in the coffin. She noted it was not the property owner who was faced by increases as the cost of rates were passed onto the tenants. It was going to take a lot longer than the

opening of the road for businesses to recover and she wished to highlight the need for small businesses in Kaikoura.

Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura

T Howard was in attendance to present this item.

Te Korowai was requesting funding of \$10,000 in the 2017/18 financial year. T Howard advised Te Korowai had been underway for well over a decade in Kaikoura. There was a large amount of people that came to Kaikoura for its marine environment. Kaikoura was the seabird capital of the planet and 20% to 30% of ratepayers were in Kaikoura for recreational fishing or for the experience of the marine environment so maintaining it was critical. He advised that it was important that Te Korowai was part of the recovery and ongoing health of the community.

A discussion was held regarding the costs of running Te Korowai, the effects of the earthquake on work already undertaken by Te Korowai and potential future work due to pollution coming out of fissures in the land for example.

Kaikoura Youth Council

Representatives from the Youth Council were in attendance to present this item.

The Youth Council were concerned about the lighting in some of the well-used walkways around town and advised they would like to see lighting in specific areas including Adelphi and Davidson Terraces. They noted it did not feel safe walking on dark streets on the way home from after school activities. They were also concerned regarding all of the strangers in town and requested that representatives from NCTIR and Council talk to youth and their parents regarding the matter.

The Youth Council requested if Council was dealing with issues that involved youth that they talk to youth and when youth presented to Council that feedback was given.

Some of the facilities around town were considered less than ideal for example the BMX track and the Scout Hall. The youth were keen to see a youth space where youth could go all the time. Concern was also expressed regarding the length of time it had taken to get things moving in terms of the temporary skate ramp and skate park repairs.

A discussion was held regarding the various community facilities.

Julie Ratcliffe

J Ratcliffe advised one of the things she loved about Kaikoura was the amazing things that were happening in the recycling space. She noted however that a lot of people felt that Kaikoura was a rip off tourist town. She noted tourism was not enough to ensure economic success. A resilient and sustainable community could take care of its needs without relying on the outside world. She believed Kaikoura needed to look at the trends around the rest of the world and see what people were actually wanting

which was a healthy life and a healthy lifestyle. The community needed to ensure it piece of paradise stayed that way.

J Ratcliffe advised of some easy fixes, these included;

- encouraging rainwater collection and reusing grey water
- making it easier for people to use and install composting toilets.

She advised there was an opportunity for Kaikoura to get on board with environmental issues and making the town more eco and environmentally friendly. This included ideas like not using bleach in Kaikoura and reviewing plastic bag use.

A discussion was held regarding the initiatives and also the fact that Kaikoura was not good at getting the word out about initiatives which were in place.

Colin Nimmo – Rural Recovery

C Nimmo advised at least 30% of rates came from rural rating and he was sure that less than 30% of ratepayers were rural. He noted that in the consultation document Council stated it wanted to support business but he felt farming was not being supported. He advised one way farming could be supported was with a fair rating system. Everyone one wanted to eat and all food came from farming. Rural rates were set to increase the most at 6.7%. Rural properties had the highest capital value so therefore had the highest percentage increase on the highest value. Somehow Council had to find other funding sources as rates increases were not sustainable.

C Nimmo advised that the main costs on rural rates were related to roading and given there was now a 95% subsidy it begged the question as to why rural rates were going up. He also raised the issue regarding damage to local roads as a result of recovery work. He also felt the harbour and airfield should be completely self-funding.

C Nimmo also put forward a suggestion regarding creating more useable land in the West End and providing areas where people could look at the mountains and sea rather than just looking across the street.

Justine Schroder

J Schroder noted that rates were high for a one income family. Last year a differential has been introduced for rural properties and she hoped that in future the differential could be lowered. She advised she would hate to see farmers moving out of the district because they could not afford to pay rates. She suggested Council needed to try and find a way of taxing tourists as a way to reduce rates. J Schroder noted that rural rates were high but she also believed commercial rates were high and there was a need to keep people in the district so Council needed to look at ways to reduce rates.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and 12.20pm and resumed at 12.50pm.

T Blunt exited the meeting at 12.50pm.

2. SUBMITTERS NOT HEARD AND DELIBERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Ross Jackson

R Jackson was opposed to rural rates increases for the residential and commercial sectors.

David Stanford

D Stanford wanted zero rates increases.

Federated Farmers

Federated farmers recommended Council;

- continue to focus on the repair and rebuild of core infrastructure
- continue to develop partnerships and seek external funding for earthquake-related recovery activities,
- and ensure that the importance of agriculture was considered when developing an economic development strategy and associated activities.

It was generally felt the submission was very supportive.

Coastal Pacific Trail Working Group

The Group had requested support and funding of \$50,000 for public and stakeholder consultation and planning.

It was noted that Marlborough were more than happy to progress the trail to the Clarence bridge and that Council let Marlborough complete that section of the trail and Council focus on the section from Mangamaunu south. It was suggested that funding of \$10,000 be granted from the Earthquake Relief Fund to show support for the project.

Moved by Councillor Millton, seconded by Councillor Howden and resolved that \$10,000 from the Earthquake Relief Fund be granted to the Coastal Pacific Trail Trust for planning and development of the Coastal Pacific Cycle Way. Unanimous.

Susi Haberstock – Social Recovery

Susi Haberstock had requested \$50,000 to go towards materials for the proposed programme approach to winter warming.

It was noted the project was still being scoped and \$45,000 had been provided for project management and other agencies were being approached for further funding. It was noted there was funding in place for the project currently and it was not known if extra funding would be required. It was recommended that scoping be undertaken and if it was identified there was a real need for additional funding that a report be presented to Council for consideration.

Kaikoura Volleyball Club

The Kaikoura Volleyball Club felt the community urgently needed a large investment in its sports facilities. The Kaikoura Volleyball Club in particular needed a larger sports hall with wooded sprung floors, high ceiling,

spectator seating and stand area, changing facilities and an outdoor grass area.

Council was supportive of the needs of the club however it was felt that this would be something which would be dealt with as part of the sports hub and this would require a feasibility study.

Mrs Kingi-Patterson

Mrs Kingi-Patterson noted that the toilets at the South Bay harbour were below standard. She suggested a Christmas event to promote community well-being and a sculpture, design tabled, be erected to promote tourism and Kaikoura. She also offered to loan a collection of royal dolls to provide an attraction with a percentage of funds raised to go towards the shell sculpture, skate park, pool and events.

It was generally felt the shell sculpture suggestion should be taken into account when Council was looking at a town beautification plan. It was requested the Events Coordinator be asked to look into a Christmas event.

Kathie Roberts

K Roberts did not wish to see the Library automated like overseas libraries. She also wished to see more money put towards arts and music. She felt art in general had been neglected over many years. She also noted that parking should be a consideration for any proposed hub.

A discussion was held regarding space for art exhibitions in the township.

Environment Canterbury

It was agreed Council should acknowledge the submission from Environment Canterbury which reaffirmed Environment Canterbury's offer of support for the district as it recovered from the earthquake and thanked Council for its support of the Kaikoura Water Zone Committee.

Mel Skinner – Economic Recovery

It appeared that prior to the earthquake there had been some businesses which had not been viable. It was generally felt businesses were being offered enough help through the grants programme. It was noted there was funding for economic recovery for a year and this would transition into economic development. There was no desire to change the commercial rates.

Sport and Recreation Recovery / Sport Tasman

A discussion was held regarding the temporary pool as the budget to run a pool had been removed in the 2017/18 year as it had been believed there would be no pool to run. A request had also been made for an additional \$26,500 for a new outdoor coordinator role. An enquiry was made regarding whether funding could be sought to run the temporary pool and it was generally felt external funding should be sought.

Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Councillor Harnett and resolved that \$26,500 be granted to Sport Tasman from the Earthquake Relief Fund for Earthquake Recovery as identified in the Kaikoura District Council /Sport Tasman partnership proposal. Unanimous.

Ralph Hogan

It was generally felt the Airport landing fees should be reviewed regarding aerial spray contractor charges.

It was noted in terms of footpaths there was a budget for maintenance of \$35,000 it had been estimated that \$100,000 would be required for temporary and minor footpath repairs. No renewals had been budgeted for in 2017/18 however there would be some work undertaken on footpaths.

It was agreed that development contribution revenue from NCTIR should be included in the budgets for the 2017/18 year.

Councillor Blunt re-entered the meeting at 2.32pm.

In terms of a stance on fluoridisation a copy of the submission prepared through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum would be send to R Hogan.

Ailsa Howard

A discussion was held regarding the increased number of cats (possibly feral) that were around since the earthquake. It was requested that a report be prepared on cats and potential policies / education which could be put in place to reduce predation on birds.

Councillor Harnett left the meeting at 2.51pm.

Rhythm Wishart, Ross Jackson, David Stanford

It was generally felt the most appropriate action in response to the submission was to identify those business which were struggling and to ensure they had enough help through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. To provide a blanket reduction on rates was not targeting those business which were struggling. It was also noted that commercial businesses which had properties which were unable to be used as a result of the earthquake could apply for rates remissions under the rates relief policy. It was also suggested that sometimes businesses needed to change their model to meet the current situation.

Te Korowai

It was suggested that given the changes to the marine environment Te Korowai needed momentum now more than ever. It was felt the requirements for funding were completely earthquake related.

Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that \$10,000 be granted to Te Korowai in the 2017/18 financial year from the Earthquake Relief Fund. Unanimous.

Youth Council

A discussion was held regarding the temporary skate part and it was noted the old skate park need to have temporary fixes undertaken. It was felt that communication regarding strangers in town should come through the Community Connectors but it was also suggested that NCTIR talk to the High School. It was requested a report be prepared regarding lighting of walkways.

Julie Ratcliffe

It was agreed that Julie Ratcliffe's submission be acknowledged as thoughtful and futuristic.

A discussion was held regarding banning or placing a levy on plastic bag use. It was requested that Plastic Bay use be included as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Colin Nimmo – Rural Recovery

It was agreed that rural rates should be reviewed but not until the 2018/19 financial year. Alternative revenue streams should also be investigated for future years. It was generally felt that a review of the rating system would be beneficial and that the Development Contributions Policy should also be reviewed. A review of the rating system should be commenced within the next twelve months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.26pm.