

# **MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO HEAR AND DELIBERATE SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024, 9.00AM, TOTARA, 96 WEST END, KAIKŌURA**

**PRESENT:** Mayor C Mackle (Chair), Deputy Mayor J Howden, Councillor L Bond, Councillor V Gulleford, Councillor T Blunt, Councillor K Heays, Councillor J Diver and Councillor R Roche

**IN ATTENDANCE:** W Doughty (Chief Executive), P Kearney (Senior Manager Corporate Services), S Poulsen (Finance Manager), G McMillan (Administration Officer - minutes)

## **1. KARAKIA**

## **2. APOLOGIES Nil**

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Nil**

### **4.1 Overview of numbers of submissions**

P Kearney provided an overview of the report. It was noted the significant increase in engagement from the previous LTP in 2021 with overall strong support for the preferred options.

### **4.2 Summary of submissions with staff comment to the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034**

Tabled

### **4.3 Full submissions received**

Tabled

The Councillors moved to the submitters wishing to be heard.

## **5. SUBMITTERS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor C Mackle thanked the 124 number of submitters and those wishing to speak to their submission.

Dianne McNeil was not able to attend of the day and was not heard.

### **9.09am - Angela Blunt – Submission Number 9**

Angela was in support of the reduction to the differential on the general rate for semi-rural properties. She noted that the rural population make up less than 10% of the ratepayer base but pay 20% of general rates. She stated that rates are a large part of costs to the rural sector and appreciates anything that helps to minimise the cost to rural ratepayers. She would like to see an aged care facility built in Kaikōura.

### **9.12am- Lynette Buurman – (Individual, Dolphin Encounter) - Submission Number 18 & 19**

Lynette acknowledged the leadership and foresight of Council. She was very fully supportive of funding for the Whale Trail. She stated that the trail would bring benefits to the community on a multitude of fronts and acknowledged iwi partners in the journey to date. She was keen to see family activities available as there are limited options which are low cost. She would like to see the domestic market continue to grow in Kaikōura. She noted that Central Government will see that Council is investing in the Whale Trail and give them further confidence in the project.

Councillor Blunt queried how many kilometres of coastline pathway are missing from the NCTIR works. The CEO advised approximately 15.6 kms from memory.

**9.20 am – Lynette Buurman - Kaikōura Information & Tourism Inc** – Lynette acknowledged the ongoing funding made available from Council for Destination Kaikōura. She stated that they are the smallest in New Zealand but mighty in action. She thanked the Council and noted they are achieving great things. She felt cycle trails are a year-round activity which will help to avoid the Winter downturns.

**9.23am – Winston Gray – Submission Number 51**

Winston was in support of the full financial commitment for the Whale Trail. He advised that he is the Chair of the local cycle club and that there is good support and numbers coming into town to use the trails. He noted that the trail is an asset for walkers, runners and bikers and positive to get cyclists off the road. He advocated for getting an offroad cycle path along old Beach Rd. There are approximately 8 volunteers that maintain the cycle tracks in the area.

**9.26am – Kevin Heays – Submission Number 58**

Kevin advised that his submission and a number of supporting submissions were about the West End. He stated that the West End is the heart of retail, tourism etc and the core of the town. Kevin noted that the submission was not asking for any specific financial assistance, however would like a placeholder text in the LTP. This would enable consideration of a West End related plan or activities in the future.

Councillor Howden queried what exactly Kevin was looking for in a placeholder.

Mayor Mackle queried the clarification around a placeholder and suggested some financial commitment would also need to be included.

Councillor Blunt queried if there was a clause in the LTP that if some funding was available then would this satisfy.

Councillor Diver queried the need to include the placeholder in the LTP.

**9.42am – Tony Anker (Kaikōura Community Charitable Trust) – Submission Number 32**

Tony spoke on behalf of the Kaikōura Community Charitable Trust. He advised the Council on the positive aspects of the aquatic centre and the tasks involved in the running of the pool. He noted there are new trust members and various activities ongoing such as a fund-raising group, development of a strategy and business plan going forward for the pool. He noted that there has been no increase in the grant given since the initial commitment of \$70,000 per annum. The costs associated with the running of the pool were rising. He was seeking an increase in support from Council of funding for the pool to from \$70,000 to \$85,000.

Councillor Howden clarified the figures provided on the operational grant does this include GST.

Councillor Blunt queried if the pool had a roof would this extend the season. It was advised that it may extend the shoulder season but not necessarily all year round.

**9.55 am - Ted Howard– Submission Number 65**

Ted spoke to the effects of climate change and the potential impacts on the township. He highlighted the accelerated sea level rise and sea temperatures. He suggested that alternative power sources should be investigated for key Council waters infrastructure. He advised about the Kowhai River being an issue in relation to future flooding of the township and the need to work with ECan and other agencies to manage the risk.

**10.06am - Thomas Kahu - Submission Number 75**

Thomas provided a presentation on behalf of Whale Watch. His issue is the Harbour Special Operator Targeted Rate for Whale Watch. He would have liked a conversation to happen so Whale Watch knew what was happening. He stated there is no clear definition of where the rate is going to be applied and that Whale Watch are the only ones that have been targeted. He outlines that there is 26 berth users of the South Bay Harbour facility and Whale Watch do not have exclusive use of the marina. He clarified that Whale Watch do have control over the area in the marina where their boats are. He requested that the stakeholders have a voice and that they share the responsibilities and costings and how this is going to look.

Councillor Diver clarified exclusive rights of the reserve area for vehicle access for Whale Watch. Thomas advised that Whale Watch do not have exclusive rights.

The CEO clarified the area relating to the tender jetty and Thomas indicated that it was under the control of KDC with 3 berths available.

Councillor Blunt clarified the number of berths in the water that Whale Watch use. Thomas advised that there are 12 used by both Whale Watch and Dolphin Encounter out of 15 in total.

**10.21am - Nigel Muir - Submission Number 90**

Nigel fully supports the Whale Trail and Council investment in the trail. He advised the new fire station and other facilities in town including the link pathway are a credit to the Council. He stated that the trail would have huge economic benefit and a great return on investment for Council with \$11.5m proposed to be spent in the District on the trail itself. There are two suspension bridges being installed at Kekerengu and Tirohonga, 36 bridges in total across the full project and three construction teams working. Nigel acknowledged that the maintenance would be an issue, however user pays does not work as seen from the experiment with the Queen Charlotte Great Ride. To date 1000 native trees have been planted in an area previously not utilised in Koromiko.

Councillor Howden clarified the economic drivers. Nigel outlined that an economic development expert linked to the Whale Trail could run a community session around is the town ready for a Great Ride.

Councillor Blunt clarified if any of the cycle trials use any forms of user pays to cover the maintenance. Nigel highlighted that Queen Charlotte was not successful with a user pays scheme. It was suggested Council and the Whale Trail could have a workshop to look at this in more detail.

*The meeting adjourned for break at 10.30 am and reconvened at 10.50 am.*

**10.52am – Julia McLean (North Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group ) – Submission Number 85**

Julia spoke on behalf of the North Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group. They appreciated the wide mowing on the Kowhai River and being able to ride horses on the beaches. She was approaching a number of Councils to raise awareness of equestrian tourism and to gain permission for utilising horse trails. Julia noted that the Walking & Cycling Strategy of 2009 hasn't been reviewed for a number of years and requested that equestrians are included when a review is undertaken. She is also keen to see equestrian riders recognised as a vulnerable road user as per the UK. They have campaign material to raise awareness of equestrians and are keen for Council to help share the messaging.

**11.05am - Chris Wilson– Submission Number 122**

Chris spoke on behalf of the East Coast Community Organisation and thanked the Council for recognising the plight of rural ratepayers with the change to the rural differential. This is something ECCO have been advocating for a long time. The rates differential should be 0.7 but feels this is a good

start point. He noted the comments in regards to the funding model for local authorities being broken. ECCO supports the footpaths and noted in Kaikōura that the foot traffic is mainly tourists. He was unclear how the Whale Trail is going to be constructed from Clarence to Kaikōura. ECCO supported the Whale Trail but noted to be cautious about ongoing maintenance costs and don't over commit. Supports rural recycling staying the status quo.

Councillor Heays clarified until there is clarity about where the Whale Trail is going then it shouldn't be supported financially. Chris stated ECCO's preferred option is 2 with a cap on opex contribution of \$40,000.

#### **11.11am - Justine Schroder– Submission Number 102**

Justine thanked the Council for the work behind the scenes to keep the district running smoothly. Justine noted that the footpaths done to date look amazing and supported Option 1. Justine was supportive of the Whale Trail and Option 1 which would enable locals the chance to explore the coastline. Justine felt that the rural differentials have a massive impact and rural use the facilities less than urban, would like to see movement to 0.7 which would be more beneficial. Justine acknowledged the reduction to 0.8 and appreciated the work done to achieve that and so is supportive of Option 1. Justine felt rural recycling is vital and supported Option 1. Feels Kaikōura need alternative activities for wet days and encourages Council investigate costings for a no frills indoor pool.

#### **11.20am – Derrick Millton– Submission Number 88**

Derrick raised the issue that accuracy of long-term plans across all Councils is not perfect. He felt the footpaths need improving and the Link pathway looks spectacular. Derrick queried why you would have a maintenance value when the Whale Trail is not built yet. Supportive of reducing the rural differential to 0.8 but felt that it should be 0.7. He noted that farmers are struggling with wool and meat prices. Derrick is supportive of Option 1 for the rural recycling. Derrick noted the lack of maintenance to the Civic Building and encouraged Council to revisit the maintenance costs going forward. Derrick stated the roading budget needs to be more efficient in terms of delivery. He also highlighted the need to maintain the Kowhai river due to chance of it flooding town again.

#### **11:32am – Alisa McGilvary Howard – Submission Number 83**

Alisa submission was regarding the need for cat regulation due to the cats harming the local bird life. She suggested a committee being formed on cats and the possibility of a cat bylaw. She highlighted that ribbon development in Kaikōura is an issue with domestic cats leaking out to the beach areas. She acknowledged that it is a tough problem to address, but a number of other Councils are looking to regulation for cats including desexing, microchipping and restricting the number of cats owned. Central Government is also considering legislation. She is very keen to work with numerous parties to find solutions locally to this issue.

The Councillors returned to items 4.4 and 4.4.1

#### **4.4 Changes to the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 post-consultation**

P Kearney provided an overview of the high level changes in the financial model since the draft went out for consultation. It was noted the current overall proposed rates increase as a result of those changes was 14.69%.

##### **4.4.1 Staff Submission – Kaikōura District Library**

A brief overview of the staff submission was provided with the rationale for retaining a modest charge for new titles.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.02 pm and reconvened at 12.48 pm.*

The Council reviewed and noted the following submissions from submitters who choose not to speak. Their chosen options and/or additional comments are recorded in the Summary Sheet and full submissions.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Submission #</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Lloyd Anderson	1	1
Jude Anker	2	3
April Anstis	3	5
Vern Ayson	4	7
Vince Barry	5	9
Toni Batey	6	21
Lyn Bentley	7	23
Chrissy Bittle	8	25
Caroline Boulton	10	33
Chris Boyd	11	38
Ian Bradshaw	12	40
David Bratt	13	43
Gretchen Bristed	14	45
Lesley Brocker	15	47
Peter Brunson	16	49
Stu Burrows	17	51
Dennis Buurman	18	53
Bev Chambers	21	59
Graeme Chambers	22	61
Matt Chambers	23	63
Bronwyn Chandler	24	65
Jon Chandler	25	68
Julia Claridge	26	71
Raymond Clarke	27	73
Carol and Chris Cumpstone	28	75
Murray Darling	29	77
Jenny Davison	30	79
Karl Dean	31	81
Colette Doughty	33	95
Janice Dreaver	34	97
Alan Duncan	35	99
Pip Duncan	36	101
Alexandra Etty	37	103
Fiona Farquhar	38	105
Paul Finney	39	107
Louise Fisher	40	109
Mark Fissenden	41	111
Megan Fissenden	42	113
Dwayne Fussell	43	115
Andrew Garner	44	117
Brigid Getz	45	119
Jenny Gilchrist	46	121

David Bruce Gill	47	123
Euan Godsiff	48	125
Tom Granger	49	128
Yvonne Grant-Martens	50	130
Rosemary Hargreaves	52	134
Geoffrey Harmon	53	136
Mark Harnett	54	140
Martin Harrison	55	142
Bill Hartley	56	144
Kevin Hawkins	57	146
Jason Hill	59	151
Natasha Hill	60	154
Roz and Bruce Hills	61	159
Mark Hislop	62	161
Doug Hitchon	63	163
Bill Holmes	64	165
Joanne Hubbard	66	174
Rodney Hubbard	67	176
Ross M Jackson	68	178
Pauline Jellyman	69	182
Elisabeth Johnston	70	185
Grant Johnston	71	187
Tina and Jeremy Johnston	72/73	189
Andrea Judd	74	192
Don Knapp	76	200
Elaine Linnell	77	202
Robin Litchfield	78	205
William Loppe	79	207
Dave Margetts	80	209
Kapri Martin	81	211
Peter Matts	82	213
David McKee	84	222
Adele Miller	87	234
Gary Morriss	89	240
Sam Newton	91	244
Colin Allen Nimmo	92	260
Gordon Ocallahan	93	264
Tania Osborne	94	266
Will Parsons	95	276
Diane Paton	96	278
Stuart Paul	97	281
Bernadette Power	98	283
Andrea Prince	99	285
Mark Redwood	100	287
Belinda Rickerby	101	289
Anne Scott	103	294
Peter Scott	104	306

Sandy Shadbolt	105	312
John Simpson	106	315
Mel Skinner	107	318
Kara Smith	108	320
Ronda South	109	323
Basil Stanton	110	325
Chris Sturgeon	111	327
Kim Swords	112	329
Te Korowai o Te Tai O Marokura	113	332
Lewis Turnbull	114	334
Sally Turnbull	115	336
Wendy Walker	116	338
David Walsh	117	340
Grant Wareham	118	345
Cassie Welch	119	347
Christine Whybrew	120	349
Beverley Wilson	121	355
Michael Wilson	123	360
Graeme Woods	124	362

**Hearings ended at 1.18pm**

## **5. DELIBERATIONS**

### **5.1 Four Main Consultation Items**

#### Increased footpath improvements.

61 out of 71 submissions (86%) received on footpaths were in support of the preferred option 1 to increase investment in footpath renewals.

It was discussed that we continue with the current delivery approach for the footpaths and that officers should look to reconvene the footpath working group and confirm the priorities for accelerated delivery. The North Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group would like to be involved in any work undertaken in regard to the update to the Walking and Cycling Strategy. It was noted this needs reviewing and to include riding.

The Council were supportive of option 1, as presented in the updated draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

#### Council support for the Whale Trail

76 out of 94 submissions (81%) received for the Whale Trail were in support of the preferred option 1 to provide financial support to the Whale Trail.

Discussion was had around the wording on the options, noting that for Option 1 the opex contribution will be up to a maximum of \$80,000 per annum starting from year 2 of the LTP and rising to the maximum when required. It was noted that the maintenance of the trail could be an issue and these costs need to be further clarified going forward. A suggestion was to investigate the costs for bike counters to collect data on the use of the trails. An expert from the Economic Development Whale Trail team can provide a workshop around “is your town ready” for a Great Ride.

The Council were supportive of option 1, as presented in the updated draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

#### Reduce the differential on general rate for rural and semi-rural properties

57 out of 72 submissions (79%) received for the general rate differential were in support of the preferred option 1 to reduce the rural and semi-rural rate differential on the general rate.

The Council noted that some urban ratepayers were supportive of the reduction in the differential as well as rural and semi-rural ratepayers. The rural sector noted their appreciation.

The Council were supportive of option 1, as presented in the updated draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

#### Rural recycling services

37 out of 66 submissions (56%) received for rural recycling were in support of the preferred option 1.

A comment that the Kekerengu Community raised about having a rubbish collection service available. It was noted that this could be looked into via a waste management and minimisation plan review or they may be able to enter into a private arrangement with a supplier.

The Council noted that this would be very costly to provide the service only to the Kekerengu/Clarence community.

The Council were supportive of option 1, as presented in the updated draft updated draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

### **5.2 Internal Report from Staff – Changes to the Updated Draft LTP**

The Council noted the changes made to the financial model since the draft was consulted on.

### **5.3 Staff Submission on the library**

The Council were supportive of the staff request to retain a modest charge for new titles in the library.

### **5.4 Consideration of Other Matters**

#### **West End**

It was agreed to include the importance of the West End in the LTP narrative and the potential to consider development options/projects in the future. A placeholder budget to be included of \$30k per annum for years 4,5,6 until any required work can be further defined. P Kearney to work with Councillor K Heays on draft wording for inclusion in draft LTP.

#### **Aquatic Centre**

Councillors noted that with the staff changes to the draft budgets, that the annual grant commitment for the pool had changed from \$70,000 to \$80,000 to allow for inflation changes since the grant was first agreed. The Council agreed to further increase the operational grant by \$5,000 to \$85,000 for year 1 and then to be inflation linked going forward.

#### **Walking & Cycling Strategy**

Council Officers to add to the list of strategies and update this over the next 3 years. This will involve the Equestrian group once work is undertaken and will require looking to use internal resources first.

#### **Resilience**

Council Officers to investigate alternate power supplies for key infrastructure such as solar for Mackles bore.



### **Kowhai Flood Risk**

Council to encourage ECAN around an action plan for flood protection. It was noted that \$50K from Better Off Fund has already been allocated to come up with tangible actions or to undertake work. Council officers to have a discussion with the Water Zone Committee and potentially the Kowhai Catchment Group around progressing this work. It was highlighted that a focus on gravel extraction and the markets available might be a priority.

### **Youth Council Pontoon**

Discussion was held around the request for reinstatement of the pontoon. It was noted the seabed has changed significantly and the mooring blocks and chains that held the original pontoon have been lost. There is also dwindling volunteer support as the pontoon has been rebuilt twice.

Therefore, not an option currently and no action required in the draft LTP.

### **Cats Being Controlled**

Significant discussion was held around the issue. The Council were in favour of education in the first place before regulation. If the education is not effective then the possibility of doing a Bylaw. Council could look at initiatives such as signage, information supporting voluntary desexing programmes.

### **Old Wharf**

No allocated budget for this currently other than to make safe with the removal of the worst section. A report is required to the Council over the next few months outlining ownership and the current make safe plans and any long term requirements. No action required in terms of the draft LTP.

### **Pests and Invasive Weeds**

Councillors requested that the Reserves Management need to have a focus on this issue using internal resources and within the current budget. There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Runanga and other agencies. The Resource Management Plan needs to include any maintenance requirements. No action required in terms of the draft LTP.

It was noted that with the financial change made to the aquatic centre grant the final draft overall rates increase for year one would be 14.75%

### **Whale Watch Submission**

The Mayor opted to go to Public Excluded for deliberations with regard to the Whale Watch submission as this was intertwined with ongoing historic issues that are commercially sensitive.

## **6. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

Moved, seconded that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely

- a) Whale Watch Submission

The general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1), 6 and 7 of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for excluding the public</b>	<b>Grounds of the Act under which this resolution is made</b>
Whale Watch Submission	To deliberate on the submission from Whale Watch that involves ongoing historic issues and negotiations that are commercially sensitive.	Section (7)(b)(ii) would be likely unreasonable to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information Section (7)(2)(h) enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities

		Section (7)(2)(i) enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
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\*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

We do not want to reveal the details of those negotiations. Information will be made publicly available in due course.

Moved: Councillor T Blunt  
Seconded: Councillor R Roche

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

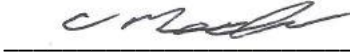
The meeting moved into the Public Excluded Session at 3.00pm.  
The meeting moved out of the Public Excluded Session at 3.38pm.

**7. CLOSE MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.38pm.

Moved: Councillor T Blunt  
Seconded: Councillor R Roche

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

CONFIRMED  Chairperson  
27 June 2024 Date