

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 July 2015 commencing at 3.26 pm

**Present:**

- Cr Gretchen Robertson (Chairperson)
- Cr Michael Deaker (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

**Leave of absence:** Cr Gerrard Eckhoff

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Nick Donnelly
- Jeff Donaldson
- Jane Leahy
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Dale Meredith
- Janet Favel

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Shepherd.

#### Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

### Item 1

#### 2015/0843 **Notification of Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated water management)**. DPPRM, 2/7/15

Councillors Robertson and Shepherd, who had been appointed to the hearing panel for this Plan Change, declared a conflict of interest and left the room. Cr Deaker chaired the meeting.

The report recommended the notification of Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated water management) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago. Circulated with the report were attachments (1) Overview of written comments on the Consultation Draft of Proposed Plan Change 5A; (2) Proposed Plan Change 5A, with Lindis and Bendigo/Tarras maps; (3) Section 32 Evaluation Report; and (4) Guide for preparing a resource consent application to take surface water, including replacing a deemed permit.

In response to a question Mr McRae explained that no water could be taken from the Cromwell aquifer for irrigation during winter months. Mrs Meredith explained that only two aquifers were covered by the winter restriction, and the ban on irrigating was a common restriction placed at the request of Contact Energy on consents to take water from the Clutha-Mata Au main stem and during times of low flow. A comment was made that landholders were moving to efficient spray systems in the Bendigo area and now a plan change for a different area was being imposed on them. Mr McRae explained that the intention of the proposed option was to negate any appeal from Contact Energy. He also explained that the ban referred to irrigation only, not frost fighting or storage.

It was noted that once approved, the Plan Change would become operative immediately but it might not be applied to deemed privileges, which could mean the minimum flow might not be fully implemented before 2021.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Kempton seconded

- 1. That Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated water management) and its accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report be approved for notification in accordance with Clause 5, Schedule 1 of the RMA.*
- 2. That Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated water management) be publicly notified on Saturday 8 August 2015.*
- 3. That Proposed Plan Change 5A (Lindis: Integrated water management) will have immediate legal effect upon notification.*

Cr Kelliher noted concerns expressed by the community about the economic report: it did not reflect what happened on the ground; there had

been no public input into the report; and the percentages of reduction in gross farm income were not reflected accurately. Cr Kelliher agreed that the Plan Change needed to proceed to a hearing and be publicly discussed there, but because of the concerns mentioned above in relation to the Section 32 report he would abstain from voting. Cr Bell indicated that he would also abstain from voting, for the same reason.

Mr McRae explained in response to a question that under the RMA the proposed minimum flow would have immediate effect once it was notified by Council, and would have to be taken into consideration in relation to processing consent applications. Fairness had to apply to avoid the situation where there was no water for the last applicant to replace their mining privilege. The amount of water granted in consents would depend on the amount being used, not what the mining privilege allowed.

It was noted that Cr Kelliher's contacts could commission their own economic report on the issues of concern to them.

The motion was put by division:

For: Crs Brown, Croot, Deaker, Kempton, Neill, Scott and  
Woodhead

Abstaining: Crs Bell, Kelliher

**Motion carried**

Crs Robertson and Shepherd returned to the meeting.

Item 2

2015/1031 **Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry.**  
DPPRM, 8/7/15

The report presented the Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry and recommended that Council prepare a submission supporting greater national consistency for managing the effects of activities to achieve good environmental, economic and community outcomes, but opposing the proposed standard.

Mr McRae noted that the effects of the proposed NES would be greatest at the TLA level because there was no Regional Land Plan. Some district plan forestry rules could require amendment as a result of the NES. Mr McRae commented that the logic of this proposal was that every activity should have its own NES, with the ultimate effect that regional and district plans were no longer necessary.

There was general agreement that the Council submission encourage full withdrawal of the proposed NES.

The meeting discussed membership of a panel to finalise a Council submission on the NES. Mention was also made of the consultation meeting at Telford on 28 July. An amended recommendation 2 was

suggested, that Crs Scott, Woodhead and Robertson work with staff to finalise a Council submission on the NES Plantation Forestry, and that Cr Scott attend the consultation meeting to be held at Telford on Tuesday 28 July.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

- (1) *That Council prepare a submission on the Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry.*
- (2) *That Crs Scott, Woodhead and Robertson work with staff to finalise a Council submission on the Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry, and that Cr Scott attend the consultation meeting to be held at Telford on Tuesday 28 July.*

**Motion carried**

## **PART B - FOR NOTING**

Item 3  
2015/1015 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 10/7/15

The report gave an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section since the last meeting of the Policy Committee.

It was noted that submissions on the RPS were to close on Friday 24 July, and Mr McRae advised that 50 had been received to date.

Cr Deaker moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm.



**Chairperson**