

**MINUTES OF THE 239TH MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 58 KILMORE STREET, CHRISTCHURCH ON THURSDAY,
25 MARCH 2004 AT 9.30 A.M.**

CONTENTS

1. APOLOGIES
2. RANGITATA WCO FURTHER EVIDENCE
3. REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY
4. REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES
5. DEMOCRATIC PROCESS: COMMUNITY PLAN INFORMATION
6. REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY
7. ADDITIONAL BUDGET: 2004/2005
8. CLOSURE

PRESENT

Crs R B Johnson (Chairman), R A Budd, T K Burke, V M Campbell, R H M Johnston, R I R Little, A R McKay, A G Neill, M E Oldfield, W S Penno, I A Robertson, D R Shand, N J Wagner and J M Waters.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF PRESENT

Dr B R Jenkins (Chief Executive), S D Hill (Director External Relations), J D Talbot (Director Policy and Planning), I W Thomas (Director Services and Portfolio Management) and P C Berry (Manager Secretariat).

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. RANGITATA WCO FURTHER EVIDENCE

John Talbot advised that there had been some difficulty in trying to understand what was behind the questions in the Environment Court memorandum because the way it was worded in some places was ambiguous. Several of the solicitors involved were trying to gain a better understanding.

There were four areas to be covered.

- Paragraphs 2 and 3 (first page). Environment Canterbury evidence to the Court did not cover effects on birds and bird species and relied on evidence from other parties to provide this expert evidence. The issues raised in questions 2 and 3

were not addressed and again reliance would be placed on the other parties to provide details.

- Paragraph 5 the Judge was asking a legal question about Section 212(a) of the Resource Management Act which talked about what had to be taken into account when looking at a water conservation order. This was a legal question and part of the legal submission from the Council solicitor would be on this issue. In brief summary Section 212 did allow the Court to consider the wider effects of the allocation of water from the Rangitata. A Court could look at what happens to the water after it had been taken from the river and it may or may not provide anything in the Water Conservation Order to do that. However, the question raised the matter to balance the needs of industry and the legal view was it was not a balancing act. It was to have regard to the needs of primary and secondary industry and the community.
- Paragraph 6 and 7 asking technical questions about the effects of the use of water, particularly on water quality, both groundwater and river surface water quality. The evidence of Carl Hanson and Adrian Meredith was, in summary, that there could be an effect on water quality.
- Paragraph 8 the Judge was saying they would like further evidence from the Council about the matters raised in questions 6 and 7. The next question that would come but not actually posed “so what are you doing about it Environment Canterbury as the regulatory resource management authority”. In trying to pre-empt that question the paper by Barry Loe set out how the Council was approaching water quality as an issue. There were two ways that the Council was approaching – through the resource consent process and through a regional plan process and clearly this was what was being done through the NRRP.

Carl Hanson Evidence

Issues raised by members included:

- Water directed back into the river.
- Effect of increased nitrates and pesticides.
- Farm management practices.
- Intensification of agriculture.
- Effects of grass pastures (less pesticides).

Adrian Meredith Evidence

Issues raised mainly related to the matters of contaminants and trying to project the effects of increased irrigation allocations.

Morning tea was taken 10.40 a.m. to 10.55 a.m.

Barry Loe Evidence

Minor matters of clarification were discussed.

Moved Cr Oldfield, seconded Cr Campbell.

That the further evidence to the Rangitata WCO Inquiry on the questions raised by the Environment Court in Memorandum (February 2004) be approved.

CARRIED

3. REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Stuart Pringle, Energy Policy Analyst gave a detailed presentation of the draft Regional Energy Strategy covering the following matters.

Issues
Obligations
Approach
Outcomes
Methods
Costs/Budget
Next Step

There was general endorsement for the strategy. The importance of working with the community to obtain “win-win” solutions was emphasised as was the need to act now.

Moved Cr Budd, seconded Cr Shand.

That the Council adopt the Regional Energy Strategy.

CARRIED

Lunch was taken 12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.

4. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

A supplementary paper was tabled proposing public passenger transport budget items to be included in the budget for the 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

The paper covered four items discussed at the Passenger Transport Portfolio Committee on 17 March 2004.

- Increased demand for Metro Card.
- Integration of real time information with ticketing system.
- Contract variations over and above those budgeted to meet unexpected demand.
- Web based Mapping and Journey planner.

Moved Cr Shand, seconded Cr Waters.

That the additional budget items to be funded from the passenger transport reserve be adopted as the basis for preparing the Draft 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Budd, seconded Cr Little.

(a) *That the following recommendations from the Portfolio Committee meetings be adopted.*

- (i) **Recommended** (by Navigation Safety section, Air/Energy and Public Passenger Transport)

That the budget service levels performance targets and outputs in the above portfolios be recommended to Council as a basis for preparing the Draft 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

- (ii) **Recommended** (by Coastal Environment Section, Natural Hazards and Emergency Management, Waste Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Sites and Pests)

That the budget, service levels, performance targets and outputs, as amended in the above Portfolios be recommended to Council as a basis for preparing the Draft 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

- (iii) **Recommended** (by Land and Water Quality, Quantity and Ecosystems)

That the budget, service levels, performance targets and outputs, as revised in the above Portfolios be recommended to Council as a basis for preparing the Draft 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

- (iv) **Recommended** (by Regional Land Transport)

That the budget, service levels, performance targets and outputs, with the updates and revisions in the above Portfolio be recommended to Council as a basis for preparing the Draft 2004-2014 Long Term Council Community Plan.

- (b) *That the ten year budgets and activity information considered at workshops on 4 and 18 March 2004 for the democratic process group of activities be adopted as the basis for the draft 2004-2014 Community Plan.*

CARRIED

5. DEMOCRATIC PROCESS: COMMUNITY PLAN INFORMATION

This item was considered in conjunction with item 4.

6. REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY

Moved Cr McKay, seconded Cr Waters.

That the Council approve the draft Revenue and Financing Policy for notification as part of the draft Long Term Council Community Plan.

CARRIED

7. DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2004-2014

Council considered a table of preferred options within the existing Long Term Financial Strategy envelopes that would provide savings of \$130,000 allowing the costs of Commissioners for NRRP Chapters 1, 2, 3 to be accommodated within the budgeted 4.9% increase in general rates. The items considered were:

• Regional Land Transport: Investigations for PPT	\$24,000
• Regional Land Transport: Development of CTS model	\$25,000
• Democratic Process: Funding for Regional Initiatives requested by Canterbury Mayoral Forum	\$10,000
• Land: Contribution towards Green Globe	\$30,000
• Air: NRRP Air – Timaru variation	\$41,000
Total	\$130,000

In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the following options impacting on the general rate would be incorporated in the 2004-2014 budget.

Regional Land Transport: Investigations for PPT (to be funded fully from PPT separate rate)	\$24,000
Regional Land Transport: Development of CTS Model (to be funded fully from PPT reserves)	\$25,000
Land: Contribution towards regional Green Globe initiatives (funding to be reduced from \$50,000 to \$20,000)	\$30,000
	Total \$79,000

Moved Cr Wagner, seconded Cr Johnston.

- (a) *That the options impacting on the general rate totalling \$79,000 be incorporated in the 2004-2014 budget.*
- (b) *That the Council adopts the information on budgets for 2004 to 2014, as amended, as the basis for the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2004 to 2014.*

CARRIED

CLOSURE

The Chairman paid tribute to the work of Stephen Hill, Director External Relations who was leaving the Council after four years service, to take up a position with the Christchurch City Council.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

CONFIRMED

DATE _____ CHAIRPERSON