

Whangarei District Council Environment meeting - 10th August 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs. after all the excitement from the previous meeting. (Targa presentation) *Was this where Cr Martin was throwing his toys out of the cot because the rally was planned to go past his place?*

Apologies were received for Cr Greg Martin (*in a meeting with Targa rally representatives*) and Cr Warwick Syers.

It was 1031hrs. and on to Item No. 1 - The minutes for the previous Environment Committee, Wednesday, 13 July 2011. (Page1) meeting were accepted with no discussion taking place and a small spelling correction needing attention.

With the time still at 1031 hrs it was on to The Environment Group Monthly Report July 2011. (Page 4) Item No. 2 and Environment Group Manager Paul Dell was asked by the chair to speak to the report as they proceeded through it. This he did. Group Manager Environment Paul Dell added that The Marsden Cove development certificate had been received.

Cr Phil Halse commented in regards to the Marsden Town Centre (page 4) that he and Shelley were not happy with some of the developments. There were plan changes that were very specific and they had met with a few locals to discuss these.

Cr Merv Williams queried whether there was going to be a full review of the Gambling Policy review. (Page 15 e)

With the time at 1038hrs it was on to Item No. 3 - Final Consideration of Plan Change 92 – Built Form and Development (Page 26)

Cr Deeming informed that there was a spelling mistake on page 27 and it should read Plan Change 92 not '69'. *Gee what were the staff thinking off, with that mistake?*

The chamber shrieked to the call of Jeremy Busck's rooster: *trying to be released from his cell phone. Jeremy, feed it before the meetings. It and us like 'chocolate fish'!!!!*

Cr Phil Halse commented 'we are elected to represent ratepayers, to represent all ratepayers. These are people's rights for democracy'. *Pinch me, pinch me, pinch me please, I must be dreaming; they don't really understand democracy or has something been put in their water? Has Mr Nice really got to him?*

Item No. 4 (now1042hrs) Plan Change 93 – Urban Transition Environment - Hearing

Commissioners' Recommendations (Page101)

Cr John Williamson withdraws from discussion with this item as his family has land in this area.

There was little discussion on this item.

Item No. 5. (1045hrs) Update on Coastal Plan Changes 95 and 116 (Page147)

Cr John Williamson wished to move recommendation No 1 as there were other processes going on around this. The two recommendations needed to be taken separately as the hearing is adjourned.

Paul Dell claims he totally agrees with Cr Williamson as we would be tied up in courts if we didn't do this.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans informs he is staggered that it went on for so long before you decided to stop it; asking 'why it took so long to make the decision?'

Paul Dell explained the commissioners had heard other people's views and there were a number of issues going on. They were gaining community feedback.

Cr Merv Williams claimed this was a case in point; where councilors should back themselves. The unsurity the councilors had was 'where does coastal environment start and where does it end?' 'We had possibly learnt something ourselves; we must make things "our plan". If we have reservations we should get staff to obtain a peer review'.

Cr John Williamson advised they had sought legal advice on issues.

Cr Shelley Deeming confirms after the vote, Part 1 is carried now onto Part 2 of the recommendation.

Paul Dell gave a brief on this point; 'we need a new decision, we have multi environments'.

Cr John Williamson informs that 'we need to recognize the District Plan is our document and a community document about what the community wants. *Has Mr Nice got to him as well? I find these comments hard to believe, do they really mean them?*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans asked if it would be smart to wait for the RPS. (Regional Policy Statement)

Paul Dell informed that they were closely involved with the Regional Council in the development with the RPS.

Item No. 6. (1100hrs) Plan Change 103 – Management Plan Technique – Hearing Commissioners Recommendation (Page 150)

Paul Dell explains that this is a more flexible way of working with the rules so they will 'trial it'.

Cr Crichton Christie claims that they need a simple document; this is not about creating jobs for professionals.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans also had concerns about over regulating; a bigger growing bureaucracy stifling progress.

Paul Dell insisted that they must measure themselves against others.

Cr John Williamson in response to Crichton Christie, believed it was an area for professionals

Cr Merv Williams felt they were getting off the point but this allowed for lateral thinking.

Cr Crichton Christie 'agreed in principal but was concerned that professionals clip the ticket all the way through'. *(In your many years on council, Crichton have you possibly seen a fair bit of this?)* He continued 'It's for the guy who wants to get the development done'.

Cr Sharon Morgan thought it was great having clearer guidelines.

Item No. 7. 1110hrs Plan Change 117 Northpower (Page 172)

This item was accepted with no discussion necessary.

Item No. 8. 1113hrs National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. (Page 240)

Paul Dell commented that they would need to see how NRC (Northland Regional Council) regulates this.

Cr Brian McLachlan voiced his opinion that it was important they were working on water quantity and water quality. He queried (page 243 Para 2) where was the Whangarei Harbour Integrated Management Strategy.

Cr Merv Williams informed that the power this gives to the RPS (Regional Policy Statement) is quiet huge; were they allowing the Regional Council to make the plan? He advised councilors to read this well (there were only 11 pages), as there were some hard hitting points.

Cr Phil Halse advised that Environment Canterbury was not functioning. It was another layer of bureaucracy coming from government; just get the regional council to do its job. We need to fight back with some of this red tape that is thrown at us. There are some serious decisions coming.

Cr John Williamson advised that water was not a commodity to be preserved but to be used for economic advantages for Northland

Cr Phil Halse claims 'they want to control allocated water but when it comes to a flood they don't want to know about it. *Sorry Phil but we have witnessed immense work that the NRC has continually worked on in regards to flooding in their region. Maybe working with them rather than against them may reap some rewards?*

Phil continued that they didn't want to be dictated to by Wellington. *You may be missing the bus Phil, Wellington does have a say in you jumping; it's just a matter of how high.*

The meeting concluded at 1120hrs with Cr Deeming thanking all for attending.