

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NELSON CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR AND CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HOUSE, TRAFALGAR STREET, NELSON ON THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2008 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT:** Councillor Reese (Deputy Mayor – Chairperson), Councillor I Barker, A Boswijk, G Collingwood, D Henigan, M Holmes, A McAlpine, A Miccio, D Shaw and G Thomas.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Manager Environmental Policy (M Workman) and Senior Planning Adviser (D Bradley) and Administration Adviser A Rose
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors M Cotton and P Rainey and His Worship the Mayor for Part of the meeting.
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Manager Environmental Policy gave an introduction, explaining that the Council had agreed on a draft Action Plan for Climate Protection, and this had been put out for public consultation. Today's meeting was to hear those that wished to speak to their submissions, and to consider all the submissions and then decide what changes the Council wants to make to the draft Action Plan in view of the submissions received.

2.0 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

The meeting proceeded to hear submissions.

2.1 Department of Conservation – Submission Number 7474, agenda pages 38-41 refer.

Mr Rod Witte made a powerpoint presentation on behalf of the Department of Conservation, and tabled a copy of the slides.

On behalf of the Department of Conservation, Mr Witte suggested changes be made to the draft Action Plan, firstly in monitoring and reporting, to build CO₂ reporting into monthly business planning and reporting, graph the target and report against it monthly and annually, appoint internal sustainability champions and celebrate successes. He said the Department of Conservation was happy to share its model with Council. In addition, he urged that the plan include a Communications Strategy showing how the Council will inspire, motivate and inform its community of the issue, what they can do, and report and celebrate overall community progress. He said Council should lead by example, and questioned who and where in the Council would be the community point of contact for the community action plan.

He also suggested that the plan include a diagram showing the relationships and linkages between the Climate Change Action Plan and other relevant Council documents, including the LTCCP, Regional Policy Statement, Regional Management Plan, Regional Land Transport Strategy, Sustainability Strategy, Asset Management Plans, Cycleway Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy, etc.

He also suggested that Council adopt a flounder motif for the clock tower, for within Maori culture, he said, a flounder represented sustainability and wealth.

Councillor Shaw asked if a list of what had been done to retrofit the Conservation House in Wellington could be supplied to Council.

2.2 New Zealand Trade and Enterprise – agenda pages 3-7 refer

Mr Jo Rainey presented his submission on behalf of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

He urged Council to explore with the local scientists the benefits of converting algae at the sewerage works into biofuel. He also encouraged Council to explore and expand its gas production of methane at the landfill.

In response to a question, he said that it should be recognised in the document that Council, because of its ownership of significant community infrastructure, has a role to play in bringing investment, science and infrastructure into a co-ordinated working relationship.

2.3 Nelsust – Submission number 7463, agenda pages 8-18 refer

Mr Peter Olorenshaw presented the submission on behalf of Nelsust. He explained that Nelsust was a group comprising approximately 400 people. He said the organisation believed that the targets, as stated in the document, were too low and said that the Council should start planning now for the predicted sea level rise of 800mm that was forecast for the year 2090.

In answer to a question from Councillor Shaw as to why Nelsust was advocating operating the landfill as a green waste digester, Mr Olorenshaw commented that the landfill would need to be purposely set up to generate methane in the first instance.

2.4 Carl Horn – Submission number 7449, agenda pages 19-26 refer

Mr Horn said that his submission addressed three major areas. Firstly it urged Councillors to read the book ‘Believing Cassandra’, which dealt with the psychology of change and how to deal with dire predictions. Secondly, his submission dealt with how climate change helps deal with peak oil issues, and thirdly, he said that television programmes and the internet show huge amounts of information on what is happening around the world and he urged Council to dedicate staff time to research these new ideas.

2.5 Transition Nelson – Submission number 7465, agenda pages 27-29 refer

Mr Keith Preston presented the submission on behalf of Transition Nelson. He congratulated Council on the draft Action Plan and expressed a hope that Transition Nelson and the Council could work closely together to progress the plan.

He said there doesn't seem to be a vision or a goal in the plan and he believed that it needed a strategic framework. He said it needed some smart goals that were time based, and it needs to be more focussed on actions. The draft as it is at present seems to have the emphasis on tweaking “business as usual”. He said he believed the targets needed to be broken down into smaller periods to develop critical milestones. He recommended Council read the book “Preparing for Climate Change – A Guidebook for Local, Regional and State Governments”.

He urged Council to invest in an appropriate data management system to track climate change initiatives.

In answer to a question as to how Council could make sure that the cost of work done on climate change was affordable to ratepayers, Mr Preston said the Council could achieve this by clever use of existing resources.

In answer to another question as to how long he thought it would take to develop some strategic direction in the plan, Mr Preston said he believed a draft could be available in six months, with a final document in two years.

2.6 Nelson Greens – Submission number 7446

The Nelson Greens' submission was presented by Mr Phil Osborne, who tabled additional information.

The submission supported Nelsust's submission, and encouraged car free zones, public transport, building energy efficient new homes, community gardens and allotments, and the collection of rainwater becoming mandatory on all new houses.

Attendance: The meeting adjourned for morning tea from 10.01am to 10.20am.

2.7 Mark Fielding Residential Design – Submission number 7536, agenda pages 30-32

Mr Fielding tabled additional information and read it, and played Council a short DVD introducing his solabode concept of an affordable eco home.

2.8 Dr Ed Kiddle – Submission number 7462, agenda pages 33-37 refer

Dr Kiddle presented his submission. He congratulated Council on the draft Action Plan. He spoke on how climate change would impact on human health, saying there will be a lot more disease as a result of warmer temperatures, and the key part is cutting down carbon emissions. Since 2006, he said, a lot of science has reinforced the evidence for climate change. He referred to a report entitled "Climate Code Red". He said that there needs to be significant changes made over the next 5-10 years, and so far the evidence is that things are worse than the worst predictions, which had forecasted a metre in sea level rise by the year 2100. He maintained that the temperature on the planet had risen 1.4 degrees centigrade since the beginning of industrial times and it was highly likely that by 2014 this rise would be 1.7 to 2 degrees centigrade. He said it was essential that the rise be kept below 2 degrees centigrade.

He said that the risk is real and that society did not accept such risks in other areas of human activity. The community needs to act now, and while the changes required will be major and cost money, the costs of doing nothing or delaying effective action are significantly higher, he said.

Dr Kiddle tabled additional information which set out the key points of his submission.

2.9 Tourism Nelson Tasman Ltd – agenda pages 1-2 refer

Mr Paul Davis, Chief Executive of Tourism Nelson Tasman Limited, presented the submission.

He said that Tourism Nelson Tasman was generally supportive of the draft Action Plan, and had looked at its tourism implications. He said that the New Zealand Tourism Strategy 2015 recognises the value of Field Advisers, and is funding advisers for eight new regions. However, there is not ongoing funding for advisers for the original six regions, but there was support available from the EDA, the Sustainable Business Network and the Cawthron Sustainable Business Group to broaden the role of the adviser to all businesses and make it a full time, permanent position.

He urged Council to support a full time, sustainable business adviser.

In answer to a question as to what feedback Mr Davis had had from visiting tourists on the subject, he said that whereas New Zealand was seen as clean and green from the outside, on the ground the general opinion was that it could do better. Here he cited, as an example, the need for public recycling facilities.

2.10 Nelson Tasman Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society – Submission number 7473, agenda pages 42-46 refer.

Ms Jocelyn Bielski presented the submission on behalf of the Nelson Tasman Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and tabled additional information in the form of a media release from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society in 2005, which she read, emphasising that Nelson should set an example to New Zealand, particularly in its use of energy.

2.11 Nick Kiddey – Submission number 7467, page 47-48

Mr Kiddey presented his submission, pointing out that whatever actions Council takes with regard to climate protection will be beneficial whether climate change exists or not, so he urged Council to carry on with the work.

He pointed out that the inventory in the draft Action Plan made no mention of CO2 emissions associated with food production due to the lack of agriculture in Nelson. He emphasised the importance of community gardens, allotments, local orchards, etc. to reduce this impact.

He said that Council should be an advocate to develop a Nelson Tasman Regional Greenwaste digester plant to create local power, and he urged Council to lead by example when it came to sustainability.

2.12 Mike Ward – Submission number 7468, agenda pages 49-50 refer

Mr Ward congratulated the Council on the initiative, and he pointed out that the Council can choose to do as little or as much as it wants to.

He urged the new Councillors to serve at least two terms and create a Nelson that its people will delight in.

2.13 Dan McGuire – Submission number 7430, agenda page 51 refer

Mr McGuire insisted that there was considerable data to support that there had been no demonstrated global warming since 1958, and he was concerned that the Council proposed to spend significant money on climate protection that may not be necessary. He also urged Council that if it got involved in public transport, it had to be user pays.

Attendance: Councillor Reese left the meeting at 11.36am, and Councillor Shaw took over chairing the meeting at this time.

2.14 Association for the Study of Peak Oil (NZ Inc) – Submission number 7464, agenda pages 52-58 refer

Janet Whittington presented the submission on behalf of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil (NZ Inc) which addressed a large range of issues within the draft Action Plan. She said peak oil solutions are the same as climate change solutions. She raised the issue of transport associated with food. For example, milk produced in Golden Bay travels 1000km to Christchurch and back before it is used.

2.15 John Phair – Submission number 7441, agenda page 59 refer

Mr Phair spoke to his submission and tabled additional information. He pointed out that over 49% of greenhouse gas in New Zealand is caused as a direct consequence of eating meat. He asked the Council to encourage vegetarianism within the City, pointing out that violent crime and domestic crime in cities is not caused by true vegetarians.

2.16 Jim Sargent – Submission number 7480, agenda page 60 refers

Mr Sargent spoke to his submission and tabled additional information. He spoke on the carbon cycle and emphasised the need to increase the deposition of carbon underground to prevent it getting into the atmosphere.

Attendance: Councillor Henigan returned to the meeting at 12.07pm.

2.17 Gertrude Kaiser – Submission number 7541, agenda pages 62-64 refer

Ms Kaiser presented her submission, which expressed her concern about the effects of climate change and global warming. She suggested schools should grow food on their school grounds.

2.18 Michael Lincolne – Submission number 7461, agenda pages 66-68 refer

Mr Lincolne urged Council to look at Australian towns of similar size to Nelson look at the way that they were addressing the problems of climate change and public transport.

Attendance: The meeting adjourned for luncheon from 12.33pm to 1.26pm. During the luncheon period, His Worship the Mayor and returned and Councillor Henigan left the meeting.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

3.1 Report for the Draft Local Action Plan

Document 679712, agenda pages 69-101 refer.

The staff were complimented on the report and the summary that it contained of the submissions. The Chair directed that the meeting look first at the bigger picture. Councillor Boswijk said that she supported Dr Kiddle's suggestion to pick up those things Council can do easily, and in parallel set up a working group to harness community input.

The idea of setting up a community forum with staff, along the lines of the model Council had used for its Biodiversity Forum was supported.

His Worship the Mayor said that there was a lot of common ground, and he was interested in collaborative government. Council should lead, broker and facilitate, he said.

He also pointed out that Council needed to show the way. In particular any retrofitting of Civic House, the extension of the Trafalgar Centre and the new stadium at Saxton Field have all got to clearly demonstrate that Council is 'walking the walk'.

Councillor Barker was concerned that there was a lack of information and data, and a cost benefit analysis should be done to determine what the total cost of this exercise is going to be before any commitment was made.

Councillor Thomas said that the submissions had been very informative, but he saw things falling through the cracks where Council could "walk the walk", for instance the need for Councillors to carpool when they go off site for meetings. He also asked whether Council had a brochure for people building a new home with eco ideas.

Councillor Collingwood said that the final Climate Protection Plan has to be more interesting for the public, but she agreed that bringing together a forum from the community would be a good way to work.

Attendance: Councillor Reese returned and took over the Chair of the meeting at 1.39pm.

Councillor Collingwood listed a range of regional business opportunities and issues:

- Milk treatment
- Bottle washing
- Bottle deposit
- Agriculture
- Public transport
- Food provision
- Sea level rise

It was identified that with all these issues, there was cross-boundary issues, and Nelson City Council should work with Tasman District Council.

The model of the Biodiversity Forum was again put forward as the one which this process should follow. Councillor Reese said that she supported a Biodiversity Forum concept. There was a need to harness the collective energy of the submitters, she said.

Attendance: Councillor Holmes left the meeting at 1.50pm.

Councillor Reese added that she had found the draft Action Plan very internally focused. It should be come a community document and needs to engage with the community and the neighbouring local authorities.

At that point it was agreed that the staff would bring back a proposal for progress on the matter to the workshop scheduled for Tuesday 19 August 2008.

Attendance: At 2.00pm His Worship the Mayor took over the Chair of the meeting.

4.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor explained that in accordance with section 46(a)7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the reason why the item regarding the Appointment of the Chief Executive was not on the agenda, and the reason why discussion of the item could not be delayed until a subsequent meeting was because it had come to hand after the agenda had closed, and needed to be considered at this meeting because of the need for urgency.

Accordingly, he said, a procedural resolution was required before any discussion could take place.

Resolved

THAT the item regarding appointment of the Chief Executive be considered at this meeting pursuant to section 46(a)7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, because of the need for urgency.

Holmes/Shaw

Carried

5.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

5.1 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the grounds that the public conduct of this part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.

i. Appointment of the Chief Executive

Reason:

To protect the privacy of natural persons.

Reese/Boswijk

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 2.05pm, and resumed in the public session at 2.59pm.

5.2 Re-admittance of the Public

Resolved

THAT the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

Reese/Collingwood

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 2.59pm.

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

_____ CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE