
MINUTES
of the
FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held
9.30 am, Thursday, 28 February 2019
at
Headingly Centre, Headingly Lane, Richmond

Present: Mayor R Kempthorne, Councillors T King, S Bryant, P Canton, K Maling, D Wensley, D McNamara, A Turley, S Brown, D Ogilvie, T Tuffnell, P Hawkes and P Sangster

In Attendance: Chief Executive (J Dowding), Acting Engineering Services Manager (D L Fletcher), Activity Planning Adviser (H Lane), Utilities Manager (M Schruer), Senior Resource Scientist (J Thomas), Transportation Technical Officer (M Bell), Emergency Operations Recovery Manager (R Kirby), Legal Counsel (L Clark), Community Relations Manager (C Choat), Communications Adviser (B Catley) and Senior Executive Assistant (R L Scherer).

1 OPENING, WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Ogilvie/Cr Turley
CN19-02-12

That apologies from Cr M Greening and for lateness from Cr S Bryant be accepted.
CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Maxwell Clark noted his concern about the current drought and the resultant stress on the community. He asked the Council to consider the option of weirs on the river and suggested that weirs are preferable to a dam.

Hayden Stevenson from Greenwood Holiday Park congratulated the Council for their management of the recent Pigeon Valley fire emergency. He asked that the Council consider an extra water allocation for his business where he currently has 97 residents. He

urged the Council to provide some compassion for his patrons and to provide more water to his property.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Nil

5 LATE ITEMS

Moved Cr Tuffnell/Cr Hawkes
CN19-02-13

That the late item, Temporary Road Closure – Fire Response Parade be considered at today's meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 Temporary Road Closure - Fire Response Parade

Transportation Technical Officer Megan Bell spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. She noted that Richmond Unlimited, the Waimea and Nelson Weeklies and the Council's Communications team are working together to organise a parade to acknowledge the many agencies who were involved in the Pigeon Valley fire emergency response. The parade will be followed by a community event at the A&P Showgrounds.

That the Full Council:

- 1. receives the Temporary Road Closure – Fire Response Parade report, RCN19-02-02; and**
- 2. approves the temporary closure of Queen Street, Richmond on 23 March 2019, from Wensley Road to McIndoe Place from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.**

7.1 Drought Management - Next Steps

Acting Engineering Services Manager, Dwayne Fletcher used a powerpoint presentation to inform the Council of the current water supply crisis and the actions staff have taken so far to provide water to the community.

Mr Fletcher outlined the current significant drought conditions and noted that without any rain on the horizon there is the potential for a 'cease take' order being placed on the Council. This would mean that residents who are receiving their water from the Council's water supplies would be restricted to 125 litres of water per person per day.

He noted that as well as the water restrictions staff have been able to augment supplies within the District and also receive extra water from the Nelson City Council. Mr Fletcher spoke about the risks to the District's water sources and noted that a bund had been built on the Waimea River to protect the river from salt-water intrusion.

Mr Fletcher outlined the significant communication and engagement campaign that Council staff

had used to inform water users of the situation and how they can help to save water.

Senior Resource Scientist, Joseph Thomas spoke about the current drought and noted that the Tasman District is currently experiencing the driest summer since records began 78 years ago. He noted that without the water available in the Wai-iti Dam, the Wai-iti River would be dry by now.

In response to a question regarding the water being provided by Nelson City Council, Utilities Manager, Mike Schruer noted that Nelson City will be declaring Stage 3 water restrictions for their residents and this may impact on the amount of water they can provide to Tasman District in the near future.

The Councillors discussed the community reaction to the water supply crisis and the anecdotal evidence that many residents are unaware of just how much water they use on a daily basis. It was suggested that the Council should encourage people to read their water meters on a daily basis so they have an understanding of their water use.

The Councillors spoke about their water saving initiatives within their own households. Mayor Kempthorne noted that he would be issuing a challenge to all residents to beat his own household's daily water use of 97 litres per person per day.

It was agreed that the Council's early communication with residents about the need to conserve water had been successful and was reflected in the lower water consumption rates over the past two weeks.

Cr Bryant joined the meeting at 10.20 am.

In response to a question, Mr Fletcher said that the Council does have emergency bores which, while they do not provide an additional water allocation, are likely to be free of salt water. Mr Schruer noted that the Council has one other bore in the Appleby area but this water is not treated and would only be used in this water supply crisis if the current bores are subject to salt-water intrusion.

It was suggested that the Council should consider longer term solutions for any future water crisis including the requirement for water tanks on every new property.

In response to a question about the volumes of water allocated to abstractive users, Cr King advised that Council's Compliance staff produce a list of water overtakes on a weekly basis. It was noted that horticulture growers are subject to the same water supply restrictions as residents.

In response to a question about the Council's involvement in the decision-making process for water supply restrictions, Mr Fletcher explained that Council staff had received legal advice that any significant decision about water restrictions needs to be made by the Council. Any decision also needs to consider public feedback and staff intend to hold a public meeting on 6 March 2019 prior to the Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2019 where the next decision regarding water restrictions needs to be made.

In his right of reply, Cr King spoke about the effects the current water supply crisis is having on everyone in the community and the overwhelming positive response from many of our residents. He noted the recent positive meetings with Redwood Valley and Dovedale water users and hoped that the public meeting in Richmond would elicit a similarly positive response.

Moved Cr King/Cr Brown

CN19-02-14

That the Full Council:

- 1. receives the Drought Management – Next Steps report, RCN19-02-01; and**
- 2. agrees to propose the following in response to rationing on the Waimea Plains Delta Zone:**
 - A. The current water restrictions remain in force if the Council’s abstraction limits are between 30% - 35% of our consents;**
 - B. The Council also bans the topping up of community swimming pools and requires business water use cuts of between 30% and 50% (depending on the extent of rationing) if:**
 - The Council’s abstraction limits are between 20% - 29% of our consents; or**
 - Nelson City Council’s water supply to Tasman District falls below 500 m³ per day; or**
 - Any one of the Wakefield, Brightwater, Richmond, Waimea or Redwood Valley scheme water sources is compromised and water must be piped or tankered from the other schemes;**
 - C. If a cease take order applies to the Council's water supplies, the Council:**
 - bans all use of the public water supply except that the occupants of properties may use water supplied by the Council for their ordinary domestic and food preparation use (as defined by the Health Act 1956) and sanitary needs, and for animal welfare, fire-fighting, the functioning of food retailers and medical and care facilities; and**
 - sets a maximum water use entitlement of 125 litres per day per person for dwellings (excluding water used for fire-fighting).**
- 3. agrees to propose that the 88 Valley, Wakefield, Brightwater, Redwood, Richmond and Mapua/Ruby Bay water supplies maintain restriction parity with the other water schemes on the Waimea Plains unless their source water supplies are compromised; and**
- 4. agrees to propose that the Council maintains a fully charged pipe network with all properties still receiving on-demand supply (for urban) and restricted supply (for rural and rural extensions) throughout all stages of rationing, unless the source water for a scheme is compromised; and**
- 5. agrees to propose that if the source of water for a scheme is compromised, the Council may:**
 - A. cease normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a scheme and instead provide water via distribution points; and**
 - B. impose water restrictions equivalent to the cease-take restrictions in resolution (2)(C); and**
- 6. agrees that the Council will seek and consider feedback on the above proposals from the public, including via a public meeting next week, before making its final decision on 7 March 2019 and that this engagement is appropriate and practical given the circumstances; and**

7. **agrees to delegate authority to restrict the supply of water to land or buildings under section 193 of the Local Government Act 2002 to the Engineering Services Manager; and**
8. **agrees to delegate the authority to cease normal supply to individual properties for all or part of a water scheme to the Engineering Service Manager, as provided for by sections 648 of the Local Government Act 1974 and 69S of the Health Act 1954.**

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 10.43 am.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: