

MINUTES

TITLE: Council meeting to hear LTCCP Submissions
DATE: Tuesday 19 May 2009
TIME: 12.30 pm
VENUE: Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond
PRESENT: Mayor R G Kempthorne (Chair), Crs T B King, G A Glover, M J Higgins, E J Wilkins, B W Ensor, B F Dowler, T E Norriss, S J Borlase, J L Edgar, S G Bryant, J L Inglis
IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (P Wylie), Strategic Development Manager (S Edwards), Executive Assistant (V M Gribble)

APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Bryant/Edgar
CN09/05/06**

THAT apologies for absence from Crs R G Currie and N Riley for absence, and Cr T E Norriss for lateness be received.

CARRIED

1 SUBMISSIONS

1128 The Nelson Provincial Museum

Chief Executive P Millward and Chairman S Chapman presented the submission.

Mr Millward spoke in support of Tasman District Council funding at parity with Nelson City Council as bulk funding, for operational expenditure of all museum services at TA 445 and Isel Park.

Ms Chapman sought funding to investigate the best long term plan for the security and preservation of the Nelson Provincial Museum collection to museum standards. She said Council needs to have the collection included in its significance policy.

1145 K Geiger

Ms Geiger believes the tourism rate is unfair and iniquitous. She said if a levy is actually justified, an income-based levy supported by GST returns would be fairer.

Cr King asked would it be better to remove funding of tourism through rates?

Ms Geiger said she does her own advertising.

1148 Talleys

Mr Talley sought confirmation from Council that it wouldn't come in later years expecting them to join the Motueka reticulated water scheme. He said the water is pure and has to be of high standard.

Cr Glover asked how can Council know that you will be conserving water if it is going to be scarce in the future?

Mr Talley said they have a right to draw 10,000 cubic metres a year and it is metered regularly and readings are sent to Council every two weeks.

5715 C Mildon, Nelson Mountainbike Club

Mr Mildon asked for clear emphasis on mountainbike facilities to be developed by Council, as well as the cycling facilities at Saxton Field. The Club is keen to work with Council on the facilities.

Cr Bryant asked about present facilities and arrangement for operating.

Mr Mildon said there are very few, in Richmond there are a few tracks in Dellside, Rabbit Island and Kaiteriteri. Activities in Motueka are in partnership with DOC.

5193 H Arnold (Nelson Forests)

Ms Arnold spoke on behalf of Nelson Forests. She asked what the plan contains to support forestry and if forestry could come under farming for rating of contiguous property and be considered for remission of consent fees. She considered there should be one regional transport committee in the region and the two councils should work collaboratively on transport issues, working on one efficient route to the port.

Cr King said that the value of forestry trees is not included in the capital value on which rates are based, whereas for other activities like horticulture, the value of any trees producing crops is included in the rating valuation. Isn't that advantageous to forestry?

Ms Arnold agreed it was advantageous.

Cr Norriss said Council has spent a lot of dollars upgrading roads for forestry over the last ten years. He noted the importance of Tasman District preparing its own regional transport plan.

Cr Higgins asked what the cost annually of resource consents is to the company.

Ms Arnold said the basic application for a resource consent is \$800 and it goes up. They probably spend \$10,000 annually. There is no monitoring proposed for permitted activities.

1218 Kahurangi Gateway Tapawera

D Wilson sought support for the establishment of a Kahurangi Gateway gardens and historical information site at Tapawera. No costings have been done on the proposal.

Cr Borlase asked what monetary support you want from Council.

Mr Wilson said they didn't know, but they were hoping for volunteer input by way of labour and provision of materials.

Cr Bryant asked how important Kahurangi is to the Tapawera community and tourist operators.

Mr Ball said it is the eastern gateway and a lot of people go through to the Wangapeka Track, goldfields. Kahurangi is central to tourism in Tapawera.

1219 T Bayley

Mr Bayley considers the tourism target rate to be grossly unfair. He said everybody in the region benefits from tourism, not just operators and retailers.

1238 J Wilson (Sealord Aquaculture)

Mr Wilson spoke on behalf of Sealord Aquaculture. Sealord would like to see provision in the LTCCP for a change in the Aquaculture section of the Coastal Plan to allow for other species to be farmed in AMA areas zoned for permanent occupation.

Cr Ensor asked what operations will Sealord undertake at Port Taranaki? Previous submitter talked about high cost of water in Nelson. Do you see potential to move any operations to Tasman District, in particular, Taranaki.

Mr Wilson said that Taranaki Wharf will be used mainly for Sealord's operations in Golden Bay. During the development phase a lot of equipment will go over the wharf and be used in establishment of mussel farms. After that floats and ongoing maintenance and a substantial amount of product. The ability of the port to hygienically handle the product is important, to separate food from general cargo.

Cr Norriss asked where do you see the additional vessel going?

Mr Wilson said it will be used out of Nelson and Taranaki.

Cr King said Council is looking at Port Taranaki and wanting to make a return on investment. Mr Talley said issues were charges by the Port Company and the high cost of water from Nelson City Council.

Mr Wilson said as long as operational costs are transparent it's fair that users pay for services.

Cr King commented on the issue of rating or charging occupation rentals for public land like the seabed.

Mr Wilson said paying for work (eg monitoring) is appropriate and other mechanisms in place at the moment are suitable for that, such as direct charges for time involved in monitoring compliance with consent. He doesn't like the principle of paying rates on what is not freehold property and public have right to access and use that space.

Cr Bryant asked about the quality of sea water and whether it is being affected by land-based runoff. He noted that TDC water quality has improved remarkably and he thought the issue was resolved.

Mr Wilson noted that there are some concerns with the water quality coming from the Motueka River and if we could improve that it would increase the number of harvesting days in Tasman Bay.

Cr Higgins said you spoke about voluntary line levies that you didn't like. If we build a wharf how would it be funded?

Mr Wilson said with line levies, it should be only on user pays basis. Line levies work in Marlborough, but there must be transparency on cost of operating the port and revenues from mussel farming.

1336 Mapua Tennis Club

Ms B Ryan said the Club is wanting new astro turf courts.

Mayor Kempthorne said we need to have an overview from Mapua community with various requests and prioritisation.

1380 Marine Farming Association

Mr G Coates was in attendance to present the Association's submission. There was discussion and several questions on coastal occupation charges or rating to recover the costs of infrastructure and services benefiting marine farms.

1399 G Mills

Mr Mills supported the proposed rowing course at Rabbit Island.

Cr Norriss asked if he has submitted to Nelson City Council asking them to support the project.

Mr Mills said the rowing club asked people to submit to Tasman District Council.

1436 Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit

M Schruer and D Hiser were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the Business Unit.

2590 P Griffith

Ms Griffith asked that the Rabbit Island watersport facility be removed from the plan and that tourism promotional activities be funded from the general rate. She said current funding and accommodation for the Isel Park heritage research collections is inadequate and requires urgent action.

Cr Edgar said Nelson Bays Heritage Trust requested CPI increase of \$26,000, which is different to your request. The other aspect of their request was to include a feasibility study to look at ongoing archives storage facilities with anticipation that funding would go into 2012 LTCCP.

Ms Griffith said it was in 2006 when the funding adjustment made huge difference to staffing and services. She accepted Nelson Bays Heritage Trust request was appropriate. Ms Griffith expressed her concern about the housing for professional staff to work on collections and provide services to users and where they will be based.

6865 Murchison and Districts Community Council

S Blakemore was in attendance to present the submission.

Cr King said submissions have requested we look at development contributions community by community, instead of district wide. Do you support that approach?

Mr Blakemore said the main objection is that this proposal would result in such a high percentage of a subdivision costs in Murchison being the development contribution payment to Council. We'd have to support community by community.

Cr King said the risk is that because you've got a small number of sections being subdivided in Murchison that there is the potential for the development contribution to be even higher in Murchison if it was calculated on a settlement basis, rather than across the District.

Mr Blakemore, wouldn't be happy with that either. He objects to the big increase.

Mayor Kempthorne asked that if the settlement approach would lead to an increase in the development contribution payable in Murchison, would you prefer to stay district wide?

Mr Blakemore said obviously.

Cr Norriss asked Mr Blakemore for his views on whether he thought the community association works better than a community board?

Mr Blakemore said they work well, support our Councillor well, but won't say we work better.

Cr Edgar asked for brief information with regard to funding for MESI generator.

Cr King said Wakefield Medical Centre has raised money for a generator through trusts and grants system available.

Mr Blakemore said the main umbrella that the generator sits under is Civil Defence. My understanding is that Council has responsibility for civil defence. People that run MESI building are volunteers. Don't know how much they've put into raising money.

Mr Blakemore as Chairman is concerned about possible loss of Fulton Hogan roading contractor and said they've been happy with them. They have issues locally with the quality of work provided by the opposition. Would like to support Fulton Hogan in the upcoming tender round.

1863 N & M Turtle

Mr Turtle was opposed to the recycling and waste collection service proposed.

Cr Bryant asked for suggestions in the area of discretionary spending or cuts.

Mr Turtle said any discretionary spending that puts Council budget over cost of living should be put case by case to ratepayers with explanation for expenditure and ratepayers right to refuse. He agrees waste has to be reduced. He said affordability is a big issue for ratepayers.

6881 M Melville

Mr Melville is opposed to funding of the proposed Rabbit Island rowing/watersports facility.

2329 C Robinson

Mr Robinson spoke about rates increases and also recycling and waste collection.

2505 A A Aubrey

Mr Aubrey said the UAGC is not part of the general rate as stated in the plan and said there should be an explanation as to what the UAGC is used for. He said policy of reducing general rate and increasing targeted rates needs to be very carefully considered. There has been no consultation with ratepayers about a Richmond community facility and the funding in the 2009/2010 is premature and inappropriate.

1002 Rainbow Sports Club Inc

M Hay and J Fitchett presented the submission on behalf of the Club. Rainbow is proposing a joint approach to Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council. They requested \$90,000 from each Council as a suspensory loan to be written off over seven years.

3842 P C Withington

Mrs Withington spoke to her submission concerning recycling and waste collection. She is also concerned about targeted rates.

2764 P Daubney

Mr Daubney asked Council to include initiatives within the ten year plan to make the Appleby Bridge safer for cyclists.

Mayor Kempthorne said the Appleby Bridge is on the state highway and Council will continue to push for cyclist safety over the bridge.

3014 P Watkins

Mr Watkins is opposed to the tourism rate as he considers it is unfair. He doesn't believe Tourism Nelson Tasman provides good value for money.

2593 Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay Inc

Cr King left the meeting at 4.30 pm.

G Pollock said the group is concerned there is no provision for estuary management plans in the LTCCP.

3006 B Cech

Mr Cech is opposed to the tourism targeted rate and considers it to be unfair.

Cr Borlase said the money collected would go straight to Tourism Nelson Tasman to help with destination marketing.

6129 Keep Richmond Beautiful
3023 C Andrews

Mr Andrews is against the provision of a rowing facility at Rabbit Island. Rabbit Island is a reserve that should be protected for the future people of this area and the provision of a rowing facility will totally alter the character of the island forever.

Keep Richmond Beautiful suggested that a watersport venue for the region is actually highly desirable. They suggested Nelson Haven – north end excavated to extend for 3 km (the Haven is approximately 8 km in length); or Waimea River, upstream from Appleby Bridge for 3 km. Essentially a lake would be formed in the river.

Mayor Kempthorne said if this was done carefully and sensitively and developed with native plantings, and enclosed by forest, do you think it could deal with a lot of your concerns and be a good outcome?

Mr Andrews said it could possibly be done, but very carefully and at great expense.

3027 P Craig Martin

Mr Martin submitted in support of the inclusion of the proposed rowing facility into the LTCCP. He said it is Council's role that with this issue and every other, that debate be allowed. He said content of the ten year plan should reflect the needs of the district, the people who live here and the very heart of what we are about. He said Council has a responsibility in the construction of this plan that will bind the next generation.

Cr Edgar asked where do you think the line should be drawn for some of the projects.

Mr Martin doesn't believe it is Council's role to fulfil the role of private enterprise, but should provide infrastructure so people can come and do business. Council needs to be active in amenities, not business.

Cr Borlase said the days of relying on pastoral farming and horticulture are behind us. What can you see that will replace those in the next generation?

Mr Martin said we have to do things differently. We are unique and everyone wants to live here.

Cr Dowler said Council put \$635,000 in plan for motorsport park. Do you agree that money should stay there?

Mr Martin said broad principle is Council should be involved in providing motorsport activities. He said historically New Zealand's success over last 70 years has been with success in minor sports.

3165 M Carter

Mrs Carter said the rubbish collection we have presently is satisfactory. She is concerned about affordability of the proposal in the Ten Year Plan.

3213 A Hilson

Mrs Hilson is concerned with the pace of development of walkway linkages on the Waimea Inlet and the small budget provided for this in the ten year plan. She said unformed legal roads can enhance current walking access and the development of new tracks and routes.

Cr Glover asked who would maintain the paper roads that would be formed into walkways and cycleways?

Mrs Hilson is not suggesting all paper roads would be formed into walkways and cycleways, but some are suitable. It would be funded by selling other paper roads that don't have recreational value. If a farmer had a paper road through his place that was not valuable for recreation Council could stop the road and sell it to the farmer.

Cr Borlase said in the past that happened. You don't foresee a facility where the paper road could be put to another property around the verge of a river.

Mrs Hilson gave an example of a paper road that leads to forest park and there's a paper road that will get you into the ranges. That road has been stopped and swapped for access that goes straight up a boundary fence.

3217 H Briggs

Mr Briggs represented Future Forestry Ltd and Don Sutton, two adjacent landowners of large blocks of hill slope land above Ligar Bay. This land is forested and will be ready to harvest in the next 3 -5 years. They have been seeking to have the structure planning of the Ligar Bay area done earlier to ensure that the future use of the land

and pattern of development in this general locality can be finalised before their harvesting activity commences.

6395 J K Jennings and E D Williams

Ms Williams said they are not opposed to a tourism tax if it is fairly applied but they consider that the proposal is entirely unfair to the smaller operator with a short season. She said rates have become a burden.

Cr Edgar asked if Ms Williams had any more equitable way to target this rate.

Ms Williams expressed the view that the entire district benefits from tourism and the rate should be spread more generally.

Cr Norriss said there have been suggestions that those not registered for GST be exempt.

Ms Williams said there would be a lot of B&B operators not registered for GST. Mr Jennings said we're registered for GST because we were when we were kiwifruit growers and if we got out of GST we'd have to pay GST on our land.

Mayor Kempthorne said if targeted rate was applied over all tourist and retail outlets on a flat fee, do you think that would be equitable?

Ms Williams said it is not equitable. There are so many small B&B operators who are very seasonal. She would appreciate a drop but it wouldn't be equitable.

3256 Nelson Tasman Business Trust

S Holmes presented the submission and said the Trust appreciates funding support provided by Tasman District Council and suggested this funding (\$10,000) should be part of an annual funding agreement in the Council's annual plan, rather than through the Grants from Rates scheme. She said \$12,000 would be more appropriate.

3268 S & S Mirfin

Mrs Mirfin said they are concerned about elderly people in the community and how they will cope with wheelie bins. She said there is no incentive in this plan for residents to reduce their output of rubbish which is what Tasman District Council should be encouraging people to do. People who have extra loads of rubbish, greenwaste and recyclables should pay for the extra they generate.

3300 Waimea Village Residents Committee

Mr Rowland spoke on behalf of the Committee. They are concerned about the waste management proposals and asked Council to take into consideration all aspects of the community.

3444 T France

Mrs France finds the current refuse collection system highly satisfactory.

3660 Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand

Ms H Campbell said the Society asked that no further developments take place in or around the Waimea Inlet until a strategic plan involving all of the community has taken place. They are opposed to the proposed watersport facility on Rabbit Island.

3717 Bishop Suter Trust Board

C Potton and J Catchpole presented the submission on behalf of the Board. The Board requested an increase (\$23,450 for 2009/2010 plus CPI thereafter) to the grant level to bring it to \$100,000 and the opportunity for The Bishop Suter Trust to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tasman District Council.

Cr Edgar asked for clear distinction between The Suter and the Museum. The museum has an extensive art collection. She asked if there is a role for greater co-operation?

Ms Catchpole said art is part of archival collections and Nelson Provincial Museum has an archive facility at Isel Park and The Suter is a visual art gallery.

Mr Potton said in every reasonably sized city there is an art gallery and museum. There is a clear cultural need for a museum and separate to that, an art gallery.

5076 D Hiser

D Hiser urged Council to acknowledge that the Suter Gallery provides an important service to the residents of Tasman District and asked Council to allocate a level of funding which reflects the importance and ratepayer use of the services provided.

5346 J Evans

J Evans spoke in support of the Suter Gallery and asked Council to change its view on the arts and think about the passion of art.

3745 Tasman Bays Promotions Association Inc

Mr Salt said the Association is opposed to a targeted tourism rate, believing it to be unfair. Despite the objection, the Board supports Tourism Nelson Tasman's wish to increase funding for destination marketing. If the targeted rate is instituted, they believe Tourism Nelson Tasman should be much more accountable to the tourist sector since it will be getting Council to collect money directly from operators.

Mayor Kempthorne said one suggestion is to set up a tourism advisory group. If we were to incorporate all tourist operators and businesses, would you support it?

Mr Salt said it would be a good idea.

3850 A D Johnston

Mr Johnston spoke to the Council about a proposal for a reserve at the southern end of Collins Road extending from the state highway around to Bateups Road.

4766 Nelson Sustainability Forum

Rod Witte and Margot Brian presented the submission on behalf of the Forum. They endorsed the joint initiative of Tasman District Council with Nelson City Council on waste management proposals and cycleways/walkways. They encouraged Council to make use of the Forum. The Forum would be interested in the waste management issue and is still working through what its role could be.

5788 S I Wilson

Mr Wilson objects to the proposed rowing/watersport facility on Rabbit Island on the basis that this infringes upon the Island's natural environment and public space.

1722 I Loftus

Mr Loftus asked Council to retain the current system of recycling and waste collection and said he wants to retain his choice for rubbish disposal.

4002 G M Walker

Mr Walker spoke about the recycling and waste collection proposals. He questioned how Council can plan ten years ahead.

4067 J M & N C Price

Mr Price said they are very concerned about rates increases. They believe the current system is discriminatory and unfair to a lot of the community. Mr Price said they are happy with the current waste management system.

Cr Higgins asked Mr Price his view on the zerowaste policy.

Mr Price supports a combined initiative of Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council which could reduce the cost and also a joint landfill operation which could considerably reduce costs.

Mr Price said they would be happy for Council to investigate the rowing/water sports facility at Rabbit Island. Council shouldn't be initiating borrowing up to the level that it is "entitled" to. He said everybody should be rated on a relatively level plain.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

Chair:

Date: