

MINUTES

TITLE: Tasman District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 Submission Hearing
DATE: Wednesday 2 May 2012
TIME: 1.30 pm
VENUE: Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

PRESENT: Mayor R G Kempthorne (Chair), Crs B F Dowler, J L Edgar, B W Ensor, G A Glover, J L Inglis, T B King, C M Maling, T E Norriss, P F Sangster, E J Wilkins

IN ATTENDANCE: Strategic Development Manager (S Edwards)
Strategic Projects Adviser (M Tregurtha)
Administration Officer (G Woodgate)

APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Inglis/Norriss
CN12-05-02**

THAT apologies from Crs M L Bouillir, S G Bryant and Z S Mirfin for absence be received.

CARRIED

1 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2012/2022

1.1 Mrs Kaye McNabb (1984) Nelson Airport Ltd

Mrs McNabb gave Councillor's a handout that outlined a 13km radius around the Nelson aerodrome and provided pictures of damage caused recently to a Q300 aircraft by bird strike.

Mrs McNabb's submission requested the TDC Draft LTP include measures to ensure support for aviation and its development in this region which must include consideration of risks to aviation in all land use change and development within a 13km radius of the aerodrome.

The submission also requested Council consider its obligations under the ICAO Convention as the 'appropriate authority' in respect of meeting the standards for managing bird strike hazard in the vicinity of the Nelson airport.

Mrs McNabb advised that the Nelson Airport has over 60 'missions' per day and that the risk from bird strike was now considered 'extremely high'. Discussion on local estuary plantings, especially with eel grass that attracted birdlife ensued.

Mrs McNabb requested all future TDC building consents contain bird management information. She then warned that Council could expect litigation in the case of a fatal plane crash that involved bird strike.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked if Mrs McNabb was aware of any planting in the Waimea Estuary that would attract birds and was advised mainly the eel grass plantings.

Cr Norriss advised of problems he had experienced recently with Nelson Airport's ticketing machines.

Mayor Kempthorne asked if Nelson Airport personnel would be prepared to assist Council on bird issues and was advised they were more than happy to do this.

1.2 Mr Pete & Mrs Jill Smillie (1994)

Mr Smillie strongly objected to the proposed increase in water rates in the Low Flow Restrictor water supply (over 60%) and asked 'why can't we have a water meter and thus pay for what we use?' He advised that he had two units allocated but, 95% of the time, he used his own collected rainwater.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss advised that there were no meters available for low flow system and that there were technical issues involved in moving to a metered system. Mr Smillie asked why not supply everyone with a water tank with an associated water meter?

1.3 Mr Brian Halstead (2000)

Mr Halstead's submission contained 18 instructions for Council with regards to the Lee Valley Dam proposal.

Mr Halstead noted that some form of water augmentation was required but that he believed the authors of the economic impact analysis had got it very wrong. He also believed that the statement from the Deputy Mayor of Nelson that water will kick start the Nelson/Tasman economy was 'utter rubbish'. He added that it is the profitability of horticulture that will drive the local economy.

Mr Halstead recommended TDC get more money from central government for the Dam, convince Nelson people that they needed the Dam also and to stop overstating the benefits to the region. He concluded by stating that 'we are not a dairying region like Canterbury'.

Mr Halstead concluded by stating that the Dam had to be affordable for land owners and that he did not personally believe there would be wholesale changes in crops in the future if the Dam were to be built.

Questions and Answers

Cr Ensor noted that Mr Halstead had stated that there was enough water out there and asked on what had he based this statement on. Mr Halstead replied that all you

had to do was read the water returns that showed each zone only used about 40% of its water allocation – ‘there is a lot of unallocated water sitting there’. He added that people were better to look at low water use crops.

To a question from Mayor Kempthorne on possible litigation against Council, Mr Halstead replied that Council needed to review the water flow rates.

1.4 Ms Julie Catchpole (2004) The Suter Art Gallery

Ms Catchpole gave Councillors a handout of an OHP presentation entitled ‘Suter Redevelopment – Back to the Future’.

Ms Catchpole’s submission requested:-

- An increase to the operational grant to the Bishop Suter Trust Board by an additional \$17,066 for 2012/2013 plus CPI thereafter ie. increasing the annual grant to \$100,000+CPI
- Allocated capital funding to the Suter redevelopment project in the LTP and AP’s of TDC thereafter
- Consider part-funding of depreciation.

Ms Catchpole advised that the Board was disappointed to see that there is no allocation, not even the continuation of the \$260K capital contribution from the 2004-2014 LTP, proposed for the ‘extended and revitalised Suter’.

Ms Catchpole advised that the total cost of the Suter redevelopment project was estimated to cost \$11.2m and that the Board would soon be applying to the Lottery Board and the Ministry of Culture & Heritage for funding.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked what happens to items not on display and was advised that better storage mechanisms such as mobile racking were being planned. Ms Catchpole added that the Gallery does not get many new items annually.

Cr Edgar asked if only one new exhibition space was planned in the redevelopment and was advised ‘Yes plus a dedicated educational space’.

Cr King asked with a 40/60 split in funding, where does the TDC fit into the equation and was advised that the Trust is an NCC owned organisation that owns the Gallery. Ms Catchpole reiterated that TDC was requested to provide funding as listed in her submission.

Cr Ensor asked if the Board had undertaken any work on estimating its operating costs and staffing requirements and was advised that staffing had not been costed as yet but that at least one additional staff member would be required.

Cr Ensor then asked if the project could be undertaken in stages and was advised that it could. The restoration and strengthening work needed to be undertaken first. Ms Catchpole added that doing the work in stages increased the cost of the project by 20/25%.

1.5 Ms Dot Kettle (2137) Nelson Chamber of Commerce

Ms Kettle's submission supported:-

- Council keeping rates to a minimum while continuing to invest in infrastructure and capital projects
- The national tourism cycleway – Tasman Great Taste Trail
- The funding of Nelson Tasman Tourism and the i-site
- Developing an alternative route into Port Nelson
- Improving the Kaiteriteri Road
- Effective public transport between Nelson and Richmond CBDs
- The Lee Valley Dam proposal but had concerns regarding its financing.

Ms Kettle advised that the priorities for the Nelson Chamber of Commerce were transport, the Lee Valley Dam and support for the region's cycleways (where there is an identified economic benefit).

Questions and Answers

Cr King noted the Chamber's strong support for Nelson Tasman Tourism and EDA and asked is it time to look at the current model? Ms Kettle replied that a universal funding model was preferred and that there is still a place for i-sites.

Cr King then noted that the Chamber wanted the Lee Valley Dam to be funded by users pays but for tourism it preferred a universal funding model and asked 'why the difference?' Ms Kettle replied that Dam funding was for a strategic asset.

Cr Edgar noted that many areas were getting cycleways and asked can they all be of economic benefit and was advised each region needed an area of difference - Tasman has its own unique scenery and unique set of wineries.

Cr Edgar then asked why is the Chamber supporting public transport and was advised that there is a lot of passenger traffic between the two centres plus workers plus freight movement and that all these are of economic value to the region.

Cr Norriss asked what did the Chamber prefer to see funded, roads or cycleways and was advised roads first.

2.45 pm: Mayor Kempthorne departed and Cr King assumed the Chair.

1.6 Ms Penny Griffith (2108)

Ms Griffith requested Council defer the following items for three years:-

- All street scaping work
- All new capital expenditure on Saxton Field
- Golden Bay Community Facility

to provide appropriate long-term accommodation for the Nelson Provincial Museum.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar noted that the existing multiple facilities increased costs and asked do you need to look at the use of all these multiple buildings? Ms Griffith replied that collections and exhibitions should all be in the one building.

Cr Norriss asked if Ms Griffith realised that deferring items increased their costs and was advised that with Collingwood street scaping, for example, the area had been like this for the past seven years – street scaping would be nice but it was not essential.

1.7 Mr Ian MacLennan (2020)

Mr MacLennan's submission covered the following matters:-

- He questioned the need for Council controlled provision of rubbish and recycling collections
- Funding methodology for the Lee Valley Dam
- Level of spend toward Nelson Tasman Tourism
- Too much money was spent on audits and on intermediate governance
- More research on options and timing for water augmentation.

Mr MacLennan stated that the TDC was living beyond its means and that cross-subsidisation needed to be looked at regarding the Lee Valley Dam.

Mr MacLennan noted that 'there were no targets in the LTP to make us do, what we do, better'.

Questions and Answers

Cr Ensor advised that the TDC helps fund the likes of the Suter Art Gallery, the Museum in Nelson and the Nelson School of Music and asked what was his take on this? Mr MacLennan replied that 'there required to be a balance between what was needed and what was nice'.

Cr Norriss asked if it was perhaps time for Council to again 'raise the flag' about getting out of rubbish and was advised that Council has a role to make sure this is happening and just look after transfer stations.

3.08 – 3.20 pm: Afternoon Tea.

Mayor Kempthorne returned and assumed the Chair.

1.8 Mr Roger Bay (2038)

Mr Bay advised that he is opposed to the Lee Valley Dam proposal and listed seven reasons for his opposition in his submission.

Mr Bay advised that 'the compulsion to pay without a reciprocal benefit that is actual, not hypothetical, was tantamount to theft'.

Mr Bay added that the lump sum capital contributions to the Dam needed to be saleable so that they would add to a property's value – this he considered to be fair.

Mr Bay considered the Dam proposal to be an intergenerational issue and added that volume charges would see conservation of the resource occurring.

Mr Bay concluded by stating that the zone of supply was very arbitrary and gave his farm as an example. Some of his farm is hill country that can't be irrigated, and never will be, but is included in the Dam's catchment area. He added that he hoped this was a one-off technical error and not duplicated throughout the zone of supply.

Questions and Answers

Cr King advised that the Lee Valley Dam project is a fixed cost project. He asked would a user pays system link it together? Mr Bay replied that the whole project needed to be tabled up front, Council needed be honest about it, choose a figure such as 50% fixed cost and 50% user pays but most importantly of all, make the formula one that would work.

Cr Ensor asked what figure did Mr Bay think would work for the fixed rate and was advised that the fixed rate needed to be affordable.

1.9 Dr James Macdonald (2054) Mapua & Districts Cycle & Walkways Group (MDCWG)

Dr Macdonald's submission requested Council reconsider its significant reduction in support for cycle trails and walkways, specifically the Tasman Great Taste Trail beyond the planned Stage 1 to Mapua and Wakefield, and strongly endorsed:-

- Council retaining financial support for cycle trails and walkways within Council's LTP and
- Council making every effort to seek additional funding for Phase 2 of the Tasman Great Taste Trail.

Dr Macdonald advised that two thirds of the New Zealand population gains its exercise by either walking or cycling. He added that 75% of women advise that walking and/or cycling is their main form of exercise and that figure is 53% for men.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss asked what percentage of a general rate increase did Mr Macdonald think the community would accept to support this and was advised any amount would be more acceptable than nothing!

Cr Ensor asked if MDCWG would be prepared to help voluntarily with specific cycling projects and was advised that they would.

1.10 Ms Rose Griffin (2061)

Ms Griffin advised that she did not support TDC's cut in cycleway funding. She added that she supported the development of Tasman's Great Taste Trail and the completion of a loop trail.

Ms Griffith advised that she owned The Gentle Cycling Company based in Stoke and that she is the Secretary of the Nelson Craft Beer Trail. She added that wine cycling

tours were very popular and that the Moutere beer cycling ride was soon to be offered.

Ms Griffith made several comparisons between the Otago Central Rail Trail and the proposed Tasman Great Taste Trail.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss asked if Ms Griffith realised that the reduction in funding was due to the lack of a subsidy coming from central government and asked where should the extra funding come from? Ms Griffith replied the answer to that question was listed at the end of her submission.

Cr Sangster asked should users pay to use the Trail and was advised that Council should consider charging a fee especially for the Tasman Great Taste Trail.

Cr Maling asked if Ms Griffith felt businesses, such as hers, should help towards funding annual maintenance costs and was advised yes they should.

Cr Ensor asked what is the most important section of the Trail and was advised the area between Mapua and Motueka but that the original route is iconic for the Nelson region.

Cr King asked if Council was perhaps not being realistic on the benefits of the Trail and was advised by Ms Griffith that she didn't see any other better tourism development planned for our region.

1.11 Mr Andrew Karalus (2056)

Mr Karalus' submission opposed:-

- The cost share proposal for the Lee Valley Dam and he listed seven reasons for this opposition
- The tourism rate
- The proposed increase in charges for restricted water supply.

Questions and Answers

Cr King asked about the statement that Council has ineffective irrigation efficiency incentives and asked how should Council charge for the Dam? Mr Karalus responded by saying that users (rural and urban) should pay alike 'What's good for the goose, is good for the gander'?

Cr King asked should there be no Dam and existing water rights reduced? Mr Karalus replied that Quotable Value does regular property valuations and rates change accordingly.

Mayor Kempthorne asked Mr Karalus if he would not be opposed to the Dam if its costs were picked up by its users and was advised yes – it should be justified on a per users case scenario.

Cr King asked if Mr Karalus considered trees in the Catchment were taking a lot of water out of the system and was advised trees do reduce the total yield of the water available but that the real issue regarding water was about 'when it arrives'.

1.12 Mr Martyn Barlow (2063)

Mr Barlow's submission was against the proposed new charges for the Mapua/Ruby Bay low flow restricted water supply and the wasteful nature of the low flow restricted scheme.

Mr Barlow advised that Council should treat its water supply with UV treatments to meet Government standards.

On a personal level, Mr Barlow advised that his family only takes from the Mapua/Ruby Bay low flow restricted water supply what their storage facility can take. He added that there is no incentive in the scheme to save water. Mr Barlow's rate is to increase 194% from \$566.66 in 2012/13 to \$959.11 by the end of the 10 year period. He wanted incentives to save water built into the scheme.

Mr Barlow recommended Council pressurise the system, put in water meters and let everyone pay for what they use.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss asked why Mr Barlow was holding on to two units of water and was advised if he gave one up, he could never get it back.

1.13 Mrs Mary Ellen O'Connor (2068) Pearl Creek Farm Partnership

Mrs O'Connor did not support the Lee Valley Dam as proposed and outlined four reasons for this in his submission.

Mrs O'Connor advised that the high level of cost meant only dairying could afford to pay for it and that dairying increases nitrates to the Catchment. She added that less chemical intensive agriculture was required.

Mrs O'Connor recommended Councillors read a book entitled 'The Water Thieves' that gives a good example of what is happening in Canterbury.

Mrs O'Connor stated that the debate needed to shift from the Dam to water storage and land use. She added that a lot of the current water rights are not used and these should be on-sold. She concluded by saying 'Damn the Dam!'

Questions and Answers

Mayor Kempthorne asked Mrs O'Connor to explain how local river holes and ponds would be lost by building the Dam. Mrs O'Connor replied that if they were not lost that would be great.

Cr Sangster advised that the Dam would allow us to collect the extra winter water for release in the dry times.

Cr King advised that a nitrate survey is currently being investigated and that this should answer Mrs O'Connor's concerns in that area.

4.45 pm: Cr King departed.

1.14 Mr Bill Gilbertson (2082)

Mr Gilbertson tabled a handout to Councillors and read from it.

Mr Gilbertson advised that to cut out funding for cycleways was totally unacceptable if Council is committed to safe and efficient transport. He added that cycling is a form of transport and that the transport outcome in the LTP should reflect that. Cycling is also a form of recreation and the recreation outcome in the LTP should reflect that. Cycling is a community activity and the Community outcome in the LTP should reflect that.

Mr Gilbertson then stated that Council should:-

- Consider bikes as a percentage of the transport budget
- Consider the health benefits of cycling and
- Consider seeding the infrastructure of the Tasman Great Taste Trail.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss asked what percentage of a general rate increase would the community accept to support this and was advised the transport, recreational and community budgets should all put in a small percentage each towards our cycleways.

Cr Edgar asked if Mr Gilbertson had talked to any Government people about why they dropped the subsidy and was advised that this had to do with a mindset within Government who do not recognise cycling as a legitimate form of transport.

Cr Inglis asked what is the most important part of the Tasman Great Taste Trail and was advised Tasman needed a saleable asset that is up and running. We need to get people here to spend their money and then we can get something back from businesses. Mr Gilbertson added that we need to get a loop in place to Kaiteriteri in a reasonable standard that we can upgrade later.

1.15 Ms Donna Hiser (2190) The Bishop Suter Art Gallery

Ms Hiser requested Council:-

- Increase operational funding to the Bishop Suter Trust of \$17,066 in 2012/13 bringing the total grant to \$100k plus CPI increases thereafter
- A capital contribution for the Suter Building Redevelopment Project of at least \$1m in the 2014/15 year and
- Achieve parity with the Nelson City Council in operational funding in the gallery in the long term.

Ms Hiser advised that 50% of the visitors and children to the Gallery came from the Tasman District.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar outlined that the fact that TDC has more infrastructure to pay for while NCC has more facilities. Ms Hiser stated that the regions art collection must be preserved.

Cr Inglis noted that the upgrade of the Gallery will cost \$11.2m and asked will you get a return on this? Ms Hiser replied that this was unlikely as it is not a money making operation. Its aim is to educate children and to preserve its collections for the future.

Cr Norriss asked if there were any thoughts on the Museum and the Suter Gallery uniting for efficiencies and was advised that they have a close relationship but the storage facilities make no sense for the Gallery.

Cr Ensor asked if the Gallery's operating costs had been looked at carefully and had they considered charging more? Ms Hiser advised that the more the Gallery increases its charges the less people will use it. It is important to give local people access – preferably free to locals - and charging visitors.

5.05 pm: Strategic Projects Adviser (M Tregurtha) departed and Strategic Development Manager (S Edwards) arrived.

1.16 Mr David Sissons (2089)

Mr Sissons gave Councillors a handout and read from it.

Mr Sissons submission urged Council to reinstate the previous funding levels for coast care, but not through financial contributions. Council should instead provide a top-up fund from general rates reflecting its benefits to the existing ratepayers of the district. Council should also ensure that its esplanade reserves are managed in a healthy, sustainable and ecologically valuable way.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss advised that Council staff had instigated the lesser budget - wishing to engage more volunteer community groups for things such as tree plantings.

Cr Inglis asked if people who live by the sea coast should pay for their own protection and was advised management of the coast included clean ups and good reserve management. Coast care was more about plantings.

5.17 – 5.50 pm: Hearing adjourned.

1.17 Mrs Pam Stinton-Whetnall (2104) Mapua & Districts Community Association

Mr Bruno **Lukse** and Mr Tord Kellstrom spoke to Mrs Stinton-Whetnall's submission.

The Mapua & Districts Community Association submission included the following:-

- Infrastructure – concerned that some infrastructure had not been completed

- Parks, Reserves and Sports Facilities – The Mapua Structure Plan is urgently needed
- Supports the Mapua Wharf and Mapua Waterfront Park
- Cycleways and Walkways – Mapua wants a local cycleway like the one in Pohara. It also wants the loop completed to Mapua as this will help the local economy
- Public transport – Council's public transport is all about roads and nothing about cycles. The Association want Mapua to be a cycling destination
- Community Hall in Mapua
- Supports keeping the Aranui Road Street Scaping in the LTP.

Mr Luske advised that the Association felt that short term events (like the recent flooding) should not affect the LTP.

Questions and Answers

Cr Inglis asked if the Association should put more than 20% up front for the Community Hall and was advised that they are to approach the Lotteries Board in July. The Association has a preliminary Business Plan for the Hall and once it is built it will cover its costs. Mr Kellstrom advised that without Council support the new Hall would not happen.

Cr Norriss advised of the loss of the Government subsidy for the cycleway and asked what percentage of a general rate increase would the community accept to support it and was advised that it was more of a question of cars versus bikes. Council needs to put in at least what was in the LTP before.

Mayor Kempthorne asked what level of earthquake protection had been factored into the proposed new Community Hall and was advised the building consent will have this included in it.

6.10 – 6.40 pm: Meal break.

1.18 Mr Mike Marren (2107)

Mr Marren felt that the basis for justifying the increase in the Mapua extension restricted water supply charges was poorly founded for residential rural properties on restricted supply and contested this on five aspects.

Mr Marren noted that the increase is a 65% increase. He gave Councillors figures that backed his concerns regarding the pricing formula and was requested to email them to the Strategic Development Manager.

1.19 Mr Neil Deans (1832) Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council

Mr Deans advised that the Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Council supported the Lee Valley Dam project including the setting aside of funds to provide for enhancement of the current low flow regime on the river from 225 l/sec to 1100l/sec.

Mr Deans added that the whole of New Zealand was watching with interest what was happening regarding water augmentation for the Tasman region.

Questions and Answers

Mayor Kempthorne asked what was considered the minimum flow habitat for life in the river and was advised 800 l/sec – this also stopped salt intrusion.

1.20 Mr Neil Deans (2142) Nelson School of Music

Mr Deans tabled two handouts in support of his submission on behalf of the Nelson School of Music.

Mr Deans was accompanied by Ms **Frances McElhinney**.

The Nelson School of Music requested Council:-

- Continue its financial support of the Nelson School of Music and that it be increased to \$60k pa
- Continue active involvement with the NCC in developing plans for support of the School in the longer term.

Mr Deans advised that 30% of the users of the school come from the Tasman region and that TDC's contribution should reflect this figure. He added that a survey of Nelson and Tasman residents had recently been undertaken and that 50% were supportive of maintaining and enhancing the Nelson School of Music.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar advised of her disappointment over the negative article in the Nelson Mail published the day before and asked why the figures for the redevelopment of the Nelson School of Music had not been given to the Regional Funding Forum for their consideration. Cr Edgar also asked if there was a business case Councillors could be given? Mr Deans explained that there must have been a mis-communication and added that he would get the information to the Strategic Development Manager asap.

Cr Maling asked if the School had explored any other funding sources such as central government, Lotto and the Canterbury Community Trust. Mr Deans advised that they were currently dealing with Nelson and Tasman's LTPs but that they were looking for a commitment from central government and that they had spoken with the Canterbury Community Trust.

Cr Norriss noted an error in the figures provided by Mr Deans.

Mayor Kempthorne asked if the priorities for the School were as listed and was advised that they were.

Cr Ensor asked if earthquake strengthening was to 100% and was advised it was to 25–35%.

1.21 Mr Trevor and Mrs Robyn Bolitho (2132) Waimea Estates Nelson Ltd

Mr Bolitho advised that he was in opposition of the Lee Valley Dam as outlined in the TDC Draft LTP and listed eleven reasons for this opposition in his submission.

Questions and Answers

Cr Maling asked if Mr Bolitho's grapes were using more water now that they were established and was advised that they were not. He added that to go to less water would be detrimental to his crop.

Cr Inglis asked if Mr Bolitho were to establish new vines, would they require more water and was advised they would not – they would use the same amount of water as the older vines.

Cr Inglis then asked if Council were to borrow say \$30m at 3% to build the Dam, would this be acceptable? Mr Bolitho replied that the problem is that this is a compulsory tax on the land whether the landowners crop is viable or not – over a 25 year period. If you were unable to pay it, Council would put a charge on your land and therefore devalue it. This stops you from doing what you want with your own land.

Mr Bolitho then outlined what he considered to be a major flaw in the EDA report - it states that if you double the water you could double your crop production – he added 'that is not the way it is'.

Cr Ensor noted Mr Bolitho used 19% of his annual water allocation over each of the past five years and asked if the Dam does not go ahead, what percentage of water allocation could you live with. Mr Bolitho replied that only a severe drought would affect him.

Cr Ensor then asked if Mr Bolitho had any concerns over future land use and was advised yes he had concerns over this.

Cr Edgar asked Mr Bolitho if he was not supportive of the Dam at all and was advised the figures do not stack up but that it is important to have a water augmentation scheme for the Waimea Plains.

1.22 Mrs Anne Cumpstone (2135)

Mrs Cumpstone advised that she runs the Tahunanui Beach Motor Camp and is opposed to the Lee Valley Dam because of the way it is to be funded. She added that the Dam project held no incentives for anyone to conserve water and that if Council charged for what was used, this would support water conservation.

Crs Cumpstone advised that she would be not against the Dam if it were user pays. She added that 'Council should stop letting the big boys push the little guys around'.

Mrs Cumpstone concluded by stating that if people did not have the right land use, then that needed to be changed.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss advised of the loss of the Government subsidy for the cycleway and asked what percentage of a general rate increase would the community accept to support it and was advised 'no idea but it will be good for local businesses'.

1.22 Mr Colin Bright (2117)

Mr Bright believed the current plan to increase the rural water supply charges was unfair and penalised rural users. He added that 'it assumed all rural ratepayers use the full allocation of one cubic metre per day – this is not true and not possible in most cases'.

Mr Bright added that this increase was a 64% increase in charges and he found this offensive and unjustifiable in the current economic climate.

Mr Bright stated that he was not against a fair increase and asked for the charge to be re-evaluated.

Questions and Answers

Cr Ensor asked what did Mr Bright consider to be a fair percentage increase and was advised 50% of the urban rate.

1.23 Mr Philip Woollaston (2140) Woollaston Estates Ltd

Mr Woollaston gave Councillors a handout and read from it. Mr Woollaston was opposed to this Lee Valley Dam proposal as it is currently formulated and in particular the funding model.

Mr Woollaston advised that his name had been attributed to an economic report produced in support of the Lee Valley Dam proposal by Ian Miller and he wanted to distance himself from that report.

On Mr Woollaston's land, he advised, he did not irrigate the land, he irrigated the plants. He added that he uses 1.6mm of water per day and the dam proposal grants him 30mm of water per day. He added that grapes are not water hungry and that the Dam proposal had the highest possible usage in its figures.

Mr Woollaston advised further that the Dam proposal would double his water costs and that he could not afford this. He added that the proposal would reduce the capital value of land on the Waimea Plain.

Mr Woollaston requested Council re-assess the funding formula, include incentives for water conservation and re-evaluate the public good component of the proposal.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked if Council should ask central government for more money for the Dam proposal and was advised Council should try to get as much as possible from central government and that the NCC and TDC need to also share the costs.

Cr Ensor asked if the Dam was to proceed would existing growers expand or would new growers come in and was advised that he couldn't see either of these happening – 'this could possibly be a decade or more away'.

Cr Inglis then asked if Council were to borrow say \$30m at 3%, would this be acceptable? Mr Woollaston replied that he foresaw two problems:-

1. The dam is oversized to capture more water than we need
2. The dam is being sold to the Plains irrigators and this needs a major rethink - Council needed to factor in residential users as well.

Madeline McRae

Councillors were given an email from Madeline McRae from Richmond who was unable to attend to speak to her submission but provided further comments in support for The Nelson School of Music.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair:

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES