

Minutes of the 566th meeting of the Canterbury Regional Council, held at Environment Canterbury, Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 10.30am.

Present

Chair Peter Scott, Deputy Chair Craig Pauling and Councillors Greg Byrnes, Iaeen Cranwell, Joe Davies, Paul Dietsche, David East, Grant Edge, Tutehounuku Korako, Ian Mackenzie, Claire McKay, Vicky Southworth, John Sunckell, Deon Swiggs, and Nick Ward.

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Deputy Chair Pauling opened the meeting with a karakia, followed by a mihi whakatau.

The Chair noted that the last item on the public excluded agenda '9.2.5 Chief Executive Performance Review', will be taken at 1pm and the public excluded items may move in order for this to be taken at this time.

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cr Genevieve Robinson.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

4. Public Forum, Deputations and Petitions

Refer page 4 of the agenda.

4.1 Public Forum

4.1.1 Public Forum - Geoffrey King

Refer page 4 of the agenda.

Geoffrey King spoke on problems of social injustice living in the wind shadow of 40 Metro Place.

During his public forum, Cr Korako stated a point of order under 15.2, in particular bullet point two.

Under Environment Canterbury Standing Orders, 15.2 Restrictions (Public Forums):

“The Chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- *A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum;*
- *The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;*
- *The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;*
- *The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;*
- *The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and*
- *The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.”*

The Chair gave Mr King a warning and advised he could continue bearing in mind the Standing Orders.

Mr King continued to criticise staff and elected members and it was felt that he became disrespectful. The Chair asked Mr King to leave the Chamber, he refused.

Cr Cranwell left the meeting at 10.44am during the adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 10.44am and reconvened at 10.48am.

This item lay on the table.

Cr Cranwell returned to the meeting at 10.49am during item 4.1.2.

4.1.2 Public Forum - J J Smith

Refer page 4 of the agenda.

J J Smith, along with his dogs Hazel and Spruce, provided a presentation (Attachment 4.1.2.1) and spoke on a proposal to allow dogs to travel on Christchurch City Council bus transport.

Resolved CNCL/2023/118

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Receives the public forum from J J Smith regarding agenda item 4.1.2 Public Forum - J J Smith.
2. Provides a reply to J J Smith as soon as practicable.

Cr Dietsche/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED

4.1.3 Deputations and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations, and petitions.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

6. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

7. Minutes

Refer pages 6-123 of the agenda.

7.1 Unconfirmed Council Minutes - 16 August 2023

Refer pages 7-123 of the agenda.

Cr Korako requested that item 1. of the minutes be updated to reflect that Flora Anni Mamaeroa Briggs contributed in South Island Māori Netball, not Basketball as shown.

Resolved CNCL/2023/119

That the Council:

1. Confirms the minutes from the Council meeting held on 16 August 2023 as amended.

Cr McKay/Cr Ward
CARRIED

8. Report Items

Refer pages 124-216 of the agenda.

8.1 Previous Committee Activities and Minutes

Refer pages 124-183 of the agenda.

Secretarial Note: It was noted that, in the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee item '8.9 Audit New Zealand - Audit Fees 2023-2025' a Councillor questioned the process taken by Audit New Zealand and the Auditor General.

Resolved CNCL/2023/120

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Notes the minutes and information received in relation to recent joint, external, and limited membership committee meetings.
 - Unconfirmed minutes from the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee - 23 August 2023.
 - Unconfirmed minutes from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee - 24 August 2023.
 - Unconfirmed minutes from the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee - 24 August 2023.

Cr Edge/Cr Sunckell
CARRIED

8.2 Council Resolutions Status Report - September 2023

Refer pages 184-194 of the agenda.

Staff provided visibility on the status of resolutions made by the Council.

Resolved CNCL/2023/121

Updated staff recommendation adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Notes the status of previous resolutions provided in the Council Resolutions Status Report - September 2023.

Cr Byrnes/Cr Edge
CARRIED

8.3 Discharging the CWMS Regional Committee

Refer pages 195-198 of the agenda.

Staff requested that the Council discharge the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee.

Secretarial Note: The Chair stated there was a need to acknowledge those people who have been a part of this Committee specifically Mana Whenua representatives.

Resolved CNCL/2023/122

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Discharges the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Regional Committee as a committee of the Canterbury Regional Council.
2. Acknowledges and thanks the members of the Committee for their participation and commitment to the CWMS Regional Committee.

Cr McKay/Cr Ward
CARRIED

8.4 Amendment to Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023

Refer pages 199-203 of the agenda.

Staff proposed changes to the Council and Committee Schedule for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year and requested adoption of the revised meeting schedule.

Resolved CNCL/2023/123

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Approves the following amendments to the 2023 Council and Committee Schedule:
 - 1.1 Notes the additional Canterbury Regional Transport Committee (CRTC) meeting date of 5 October 2023, due to a decision required relating to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-34 (RLTP), before the consultation draft goes to the Committee in November 2023.
 - 1.2 Amends the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee (CRTC) meeting date scheduled for 23 November 2023 to 27 November 2023 due to the LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 Meeting.
 - 1.3 Amends the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee (CDEM JC) meeting date scheduled for 23 November 2023 to 27 November 2023 due to the LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 Meeting.
2. Endorses the revised 2023 Council and Committee Schedule detailed in Attachment 8.4.1 of this report.

Cr Davies/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.39am and reconvened at 11.42am during item 8.5.

The meeting adjourned at 11.43am and reconvened at 11.44am during item 8.5.

8.5 Delegation of Authority to Make Minor Editorial Changes to Committee Terms of Reference

Refer pages 204-206 of the agenda.

Staff sought the delegated authority for the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes to the Terms of Reference for committees and subcommittees of the Council, allowing minor changes, that do not impact the work of the committee, without bringing a report to the Council or Committee with the authority to change the Terms of Reference.

Staff recommendations.

That the Council:

1. Notes that any substantive changes to Terms of Reference will require a decision be brought to the Council or a relevant Committee.
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to make minor editorial changes to the Terms of Reference of the Council's various committees and subcommittees.

Cr Byrnes/Cr McKay

Foreshadowed amendment proposed by Cr Swiggs, seconded by Cr Davies:

That the Council:

3. Requests that the Chief Executive notifies Councillors in advance of any proposed changes to committee or subcommittee Terms of Reference.

Cr Swiggs/Cr Davies

CARRIED

This was then added to the substantive:

Resolved CNCL/2023/124

That the Council:

1. Notes that any substantive changes to Terms of Reference will require a decision be brought to the Council or a relevant Committee.
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to make minor editorial changes to the Terms of Reference of the Council's various committees and subcommittees.
3. Requests that the Chief Executive notify Councillors in advance of any proposed changes to committee or subcommittee Terms of Reference.

Cr Byrnes/Cr McKay

CARRIED

8.6 Notification of Items Released from Public Excluded

Refer pages 207-212 of the agenda.

Staff provided a report advising the Council of items considered in previous public excluded agendas that have been made publicly available.

Resolved CNCL/2023/125

Staff recommendation adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Receives this as notification that the information in Attachment 8.6.1 about the Odeon Theatre and CBD Land Holdings (previously considered in public excluded sessions of Council and Performance, Audit, and Risk Committee) was approved for release to the public by the Chief Executive on 6 September 2023 in accordance with Canterbury Regional Council Standing Orders SO18.4 and SO18.5.

Cr Edge/Cr Byrnes
CARRIED

Cr Edge left the meeting at 12.06pm and returned at 12.10pm during discussion on item 8.7.

8.7 Report from the Chair

Refer pages 213-216 of the agenda.

The Chair raised matters of current interest to the Council and noted any emerging issues and provided an opportunity for Councillors to speak to their work on key Council priorities.

Resolved CNCL/2023/126

Staff recommendation adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Receives the report from the Chair.

Chair Scott/Cr Swiggs
CARRIED

9. Resolution to go into Public Excluded

Resolved CNCL/2023/127

That Derek Walsh, Manager - Public Transport Operations, be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded for item 9.2.3 PT Climate Emergency Response Fund Bids, Debbie Harris, Team Leader Property and Land Management remains after the public have been excluded for item 9.2.4 Deed of Lease, and Amanda Douglas, Partner, Wynn Williams remains after the public have been excluded for item 9.2.5 Chief Executive Performance Review of the public excluded agenda as they have knowledge that is relevant to those items and will assist the Council.

AND

That at 12.17pm the resolution to exclude the public set out on pages 217 to 219 of the agenda be adopted.

Cr Korako/Cr Byrnes
CARRIED

The public were re-admitted to the meeting at 2.34pm.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 October 2023 at 10.30am.

11. Karakia/Whakamutunga - Closing

A karakia was provided by Cr Cranwell.

The meeting concluded at 2.36pm.

CONFIRMED 25 OCTOBER 2023

Chair Peter Scott
Councillor, Environment Canterbury

DOGS ON BUSES

PRESENTATION TO ECAN

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW DOGS TO TRAVEL ON CCC BUS TRANSPORT

JJ SMITH

BACKGROUND

- Dogs (and pets in general) have had a profound effect on humans for centuries both physically, socially and mentally. The uptake in pet ownership during 2020 alone, due to the COVID-19 impacts, show that the benefits to mental health and stress coping mechanisms have been important.
- Dog owners have for decades been looking at alternatives to transporting their pets to dog parks/beaches/vets etc rather than using private vehicles.
- The carriage of Dogs on Public Transport in Europe has been common for decades without incident. Less so in USA/Australia and NZ where the use of private cars dominates over public transport.
- The ability to allow dogs on public transport has many benefits both in cutting down use of private vehicles, health issues with having pets stuck in vehicles and allowing humans to maintain connections with their pets.

Case Study – Australia (1300 pers)

- There is an acknowledged need in Sydney, like other cities, to reduce traffic and its associated environmental costs. At the same time, urban planners seek to promote the well-being of citizens and engagement with recreational spaces. Reducing people's dependence on cars – by providing excellent public transport – is one way to do this. But we also need to ensure that public transport is accessible and meets people's needs. Its a human and animal welfare issue.
- The study found that each household made an average of 3.8 dog-related trips by car each week. Considering there are 4.9 million people living in Sydney, and 1.6 million households, 39 per cent which comprise at least one canine, that is a possible 2.4 million dog related trips – by car – each week.
- This includes trips to the vet, 86 per cent of which are by car. Concerningly, 13.9 per cent of dog owners surveyed said that lack of transport had prevented them from taking their dog to the vet in the last 12 months.

Auckland

1. Are drivers exposed to additional abuse due to having dogs on buses?

There have only been a handful of incidents on buses, none of these have been considered serious. The incidents are related to either drivers or customers misunderstanding the rules as the change beds in. Details in attachment. Pets have been allowed on our trains since 2019, again no serious issues to report.

2. Are there more people getting on buses because they can bring their dogs on board?

More customers are using buses with pets, we haven't tracked numbers exactly and don't issue tickets etc. for pets.

3. Are there any issues with having dogs on buses?

No particular issues, customers in the main have welcomed the change, it's pretty standard stuff globally. Our safety measures with approved carriers for smaller pets and leads/muzzles for larger dogs exceed international standards.

4. Do we really need to have dogs in cages? Is dogs on leash and appropriate muzzle better option?

Our whole approach has been about baby steps introducing smaller pets in carriers first, trailing it before but feedback is that the preference is dogs on leashes and muzzles.

Additional Benefits

- People unable to drive and the elderly will have greater freedom to travel around the city with their pets.
- The biggest block to dogs on buses is ignorance and lack of exposure to dogs that are socialised by allowing people to observe dogs in this environment will break some of these prejudices, as can be seen on ferries.
- Well-controlled dogs on buses promote conversation and social connection
- Cutting down on private car use is environmentally crucial
- Increased use of CCC buses
- Cost effective as Auckland has shown more people are getting on buses with dogs
- PR –showing that CHCH is a pet friendly environment

Limitations

- Size can be an issue and large breeds of dogs are a challenge but with understanding and management and use of leads and muzzles it is not an issue
- Dog behaviour – dogs would need to be always restrained either by carrier or leash/muzzle. Preference is the latter.
- Dogs and space – dogs should only travel during off-peak hours and the driver have right of refusal if the bus is crowded.
- Allergies - The empirical info notes that only 10-15% of NZ has a dog allergy and mostly minor and from the rest of the country who allow dogs on buses no reports of significant effects have been reported. Well controlled dogs are no different to guide dogs in allergenic potential and buses are cleaned regularly.
- Making a mess – it is the owners responsibility to ensure dogs have done their business before entering a bus but must clean up if it happens, just as guardians of young children do.

Proposal

- All dogs be allowed on CCC buses
- Travel to occur during off-peak hours and weekends and public is notified that buses will have dogs aboard
- Dogs to be on a leash and muzzle
- Limit of 2 dogs per passenger if dogs under 7Kgs
- One dog if greater than 7 kgs
- Drivers have the right to refuse carriage if bus is crowded/ legitimate passenger concerns or unruly behaviour
- A well planned PR strategy is worked up to include public/Management/drivers and officials to the concept