

# **Minutes of the 572<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Canterbury Regional Council, held at Environment Canterbury, Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Wednesday, 28 February 2024 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, Genevieve Robinson, Vicky Southworth, John Sunckell, Deon Swiggs and Nick Ward\*.

\*via audio/visual link.

## **1. Karakia/Mihi Whakatau - Opening**

Deputy Chair Pauling opened the meeting with a karakia, followed by a mihi whakatau. The mihi acknowledged the passing of Charles Crofts:

*It is with sadness that I start this pānui having heard about the passing of Charlie Crofts (Ngāti Huikai, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, Ngāi Te Rakitāmau). Charlie was the first Kaiwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, a former co-chair of Te Rōpū Tuia and was on the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee. Aroha to his whānau and to those kaimahi who had the honour of knowing and working with Charlie. E te rangatira, haere, haere, haere atu rā.*

The passing of Lesley Shand was also acknowledged, Lesley was an amazing advocate for Waitaha.

The Chair noted that the meeting would not go into public excluded as the report was not available.

## **2. Apologies**

An apology for lateness was received from Cr Dietsche.

An apology for early departure was received from Councillors Korako and Cranwell who advised that they needed to leave at 12.15pm.

## **3. Conflicts of Interest**

Cr Robinson expressed a conflict of interest for agenda item 7.2 'Plan Changes in Response to 'AWA' Decision', and took no part in the discussion.

#### **4. Public Forum, 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. Report Items**

Refer pages 6-351 of the agenda.

#### **11. Temporary Suspension of Standing Orders**

Chair Scott proposed a temporary suspension of Standing Orders to provide a maximum of 5 minutes per Councillor for item 7.1.

##### **Resolved CNCL/2024/018**

That the Council:

1. Temporarily suspend Standing Orders 21.2 (c) 'Time limits on speakers' for item 7.1, to limit the speaking time to five minutes per person to allow the agenda items to be covered and allow the members to attend the tangi for Charles Crofts.

Deputy Chair Pauling/Cr Edge  
CARRIED

Cr Dietsche joined the meeting at 10.50am during 7.1.

Cr Korako left the meeting at 11.17am and returned at 11.18am during discussion on motions 4, 5 and 6 in agenda item 7.1.

#### **7.1 Long-Term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Approval**

Refer pages 6-347 of the agenda.

Staff sought Council's approval of the consultation document 'What's the cost to Waitaha/Canterbury? / He aha te utu ki Waitaha/Canterbury?' and supplementary information supporting the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 consultation. The consultation provides the opportunity to seek community views on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34 before the Council deliberates and adopts the final plan. Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council is required to undertake a special consultative procedure and consult with the community on the Long-Term Plan.

Staff tabled the letter from Audit New Zealand (Attachment 7.1.1).

Secretarial Note: Under Standing Orders 23.3 'Motions expressed in parts', the motions were taken in three parts as recommendations 1-3, 4-6 and 7.

Staff recommendations:

That the Council:

1. Approves the signing of the Audit representation letter and delegates to the Chair the authority to sign the letters.
2. Receives the independent auditor's report from the Audit-New Zealand on the 'What's the cost to Waitaha/Canterbury? / He aha te utu ki Waitaha/Canterbury?' in accordance with section 93C(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. Resolves, on the basis of the independent auditor's report, that the Consultation Document will achieve the purpose of providing an effective basis for public participation in local authority decision-making processes, relating to the content of the draft Long-Term Plan, in accordance with sections 93B and 93D of the Local Government Act 2002.
4. Adopts for public consultation the draft Revenue and Financing Policy and the associated summary of this policy, as provided in the Consultation Document.
5. Adopts the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34 supplementary information, which is relied on by the content of the Consultation Document, in accordance with section 93G of the Local Government Act 2002.
6. Adopts the Consultation Document 'What's the cost to Waitaha/Canterbury? / He aha te utu ki Waitaha/Canterbury?' for public consultation, in accordance with section 93A of the Local Government Act 2002;
7. Delegates to the Council's Chief Executive the authority and responsibility for agreeing minor editorial changes to the Consultation Document and the supplementary information.

### **Resolved CNCL/2024/019**

That the Council:

1. Approves the signing of the Audit representation letter and delegates to the Chair the authority to sign the letters.
2. Receives the independent auditor's report from the Audit-New Zealand on the 'What's the cost to Waitaha/Canterbury? / He aha te utu ki Waitaha/Canterbury?' in accordance with section 93C(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. Resolves, on the basis of the independent auditor's report, that the Consultation Document will achieve the purpose of providing an effective basis for public participation in local authority decision-making processes, relating to the content of the draft Long-Term Plan, in accordance with sections 93B and 93D of the Local Government Act 2002.

Cr Edge/Cr Cranwell  
CARRIED

Secretarial note: The meeting updated resolution 5.

### **Resolved CNCL/2024/020**

That the Council:

4. Adopts for public consultation the draft Revenue and Financing Policy and the associated summary of this policy, as provided in the Consultation Document.
5. Adopts the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34 supporting information (Attachment 7.1.2), which is relied on by the content of the Consultation Document, in accordance with section 93G of the Local Government Act 2002, noting a space to be added between the words 'to achieve' on page 15 of the supporting information and 'in monitored' on page 23.
6. Adopts the Consultation Document 'What's the cost to Waitaha/Canterbury? / He aha te utu ki Waitaha/Canterbury?' for public consultation, in accordance with section 93A of the Local Government Act 2002;

Cr Edge/Deputy Chair Pauling  
CARRIED

Councillors McKay and Swiggs requested that their vote against the motion be noted.

**Resolved CNCL/2024/021**

That the Council:

7. Delegates to the Council's Chief Executive the authority and responsibility for agreeing minor editorial changes to the Consultation Document and the supplementary information.

Cr Sunckell/Deputy Chair Pauling  
CARRIED

## **7.2 Plan Changes in Response to 'AWA' Decision**

Refer pages 348-351 of the agenda.

Staff sought the Council's approval to proceed with targeted plan changes, and associated budget, to resolve unintended consequences because of the findings of the Supreme Court in a recent decision regarding the Land & Water Regional Plan.

**Resolved CNCL/2024/022**

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Council:

1. Resolves to commence the development of Plan Changes to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan (HWRRP).
2. Notes the potential timeframe for the Plan Changes, with the intention of a June 2024 notification date.
3. Notes the associated anticipated overspend in the 2023/24 planning budget of \$0.5 million, to be debt funded in accordance with Council's current approach to funding planning work.

Cr Sunckell/Deputy Chair Pauling  
CARRIED

Cr Swiggs abstained from voting on the above motion.

Cr Robinson took no part in the discussion and voting on the agenda item, having noted a conflict of interest earlier in the meeting.

## **8. Resolution to go into Public Excluded**

The meeting did not need to go into public excluded as the report was not available.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20 March 2024 at 10.30am.

## **10. Karakia Whakakapi - Closing**

A karakia was provided by Deputy Chair Pauling.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm.

CONFIRMED 20 MARCH 2024

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Chair Peter Scott  
Councillor, Environment Canterbury

## **To the reader**

### **Independent auditor's report on Canterbury Regional Council's consultation document for its proposed 2024-34 long-term plan**

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Canterbury Regional Council (the Regional Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Regional Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and requires an audit report on the consultation document. I have done the work for this report using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our report on 28 February 2024.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Regional Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2024-34 long-term plan, because it:
  - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
  - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Regional Council and the Canterbury region, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

## **Emphasis of Matters**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the following disclosures.

### ***Uncertainty over funding of Public Transport Futures Programme***

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to page 45, which outlines the high level of uncertainty over Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's (the Agency's) expected funding of the Public Transport Futures programme. If the Agency does not provide funding or provides less funding than assumed, the public transport investment plans will either not proceed or will be reconsidered depending on the level of funding received, which will affect the proposed levels of service.

## **Basis of opinion**

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical

Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Regional Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Regional Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

## **Responsibilities of the Council and auditor**

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Regional Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

## **Independence and quality management**

We have complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour; and
- quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements* (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.



Other than our work in carrying out all legally required external audits and reporting on the Regional Council's debenture trust deed assurance engagement, we have no relationship with or interests in the Regional Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Yang'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yvonne Yang  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General, Christchurch, New Zealand