



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, District Council Administration Building, Seymour Street,
Blenheim on THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2014 commencing at 1.00 pm.**

Present

Councillors P J S Jerram (Chairperson), J A Arbuckle, G S Barsanti, C J Brooks, D D Oddie, L M Shenfield, Mayor Sowman, Mr E R Beech (Rural representative).

In Attendance

Councillors J L Andrews, G I T Evans, B G Dawson, J C Leggett, T M Sloan, and Mr H R Versteegh (Manager, Regulatory Department), and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary).

Apology

An apology for non-attendance from Councillor Hook was received and sustained.

R.13/14.339 Confirmation of Sub-Committee Business -

Cllrs Barsanti/Arbuckle:

That the following approvals granted by the Swimming Pools Sub-committee acting under delegated authority (Regulatory Committee Minute (R.13/14.166) be received and the recommendations adopted:

- **A Crawford, 121C David Street, Blenheim - exemption to install a Save-T Cover III automatic pool cover in lieu of a fence (exemption pursuant to section 6 of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987).**
- **Barker Ventures, 35 Lintons Road, RD 4, Blenheim - exemption to install a Save-T Cover III automatic pool cover in lieu of a fence (exemption pursuant to section 6 of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987).**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms R Rait, Council's Environmental Scientist – Land & Air, was present for the following item.

**R.13/14.340 Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report –
Blenheim 2013 E300-004-003-01**

Emily Wilton, Air Quality Consultant from Environet, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Annual Air Quality report and the accompanying report card which were included with the order paper for members' information.

Ms Wilton reported that air quality monitoring in Blenheim was carried out at the two historical monitoring sites (Redwoodtown and Middle Renwick Road) during 2013. The contaminant monitored was PM₁₀, which is the main air pollutant of concern in urban areas of New Zealand. Ms Wilton advised that the main source of PM₁₀ in Blenheim during the winter is solid fuel burning for domestic home heating.

Members were advised that concentrations of PM₁₀ exceeded 50 µg m⁻³ (24-hour average) at the Redwoodtown site on five occasions during 2013. The National Environment Standard for Air Quality (NES) specifies one allowable exceedence per year which means Blenheim was in breach of the NES on four occasions during 2013. The maximum measured concentration was 61 µg m⁻³. Ms Wilton advised that PM₁₀ was measured over a 24 hour period and emissions from elsewhere in the Blenheim airshed

generally influenced concentrations at that site. The inventory does not take into account whether the source is from domestic heaters or outdoor burning. Burning from outside the airshed could also have an influence.

Ms Wilton advised that PM₁₀ emissions in the Blenheim District need to be improved by 38% as increases in the frequency of exceedences and the magnitude of the concentration have been observed from 2010-13.

The Committee discussed non compliant burners and educational options.

The members were advised that the Resource Management Plan Review Sub-committee was presented with management options for the reduction of PM₁₀ concentrations and the Council's Policy Group are currently working on this matter as it is a requirement by the Ministry for the Environment that all airsheds comply with the National Environmental Standard for PM₁₀ by 2016. It was noted that any options proposed would be subject to consultation with the community.

Cirs Barsanti/Oddie:

- 1. That the information be received.**
- 2. That the "Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report - Blenheim 2013" and "Air Quality Monitoring Summary" be received.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr P Davidson, Council's Groundwater Scientist, was present for the following item.

R.13/14.341 Wairau Aquifer Research and Marlborough Earthquakes Update E345-007-001

The members were updated on the latest findings from investigations conducted on the hydrology of the Wairau Aquifer which is being used to review the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan. The latest analyses from GNS Science of the Seddon/Lake Grassmere/Christchurch earthquakes, and their effects on water resources or land stability in Marlborough were also outlined.

Mr White a geophysicist from GNS Science based in Wairakei made a presentation to the Committee. He noted that the Council staff water budget for the Wairau Aquifer is by and large correct and that the groundwater flow in the Lower Wairau Plain area is predominantly upwards, whereas around Blenheim and the mid plains area water drains downwards in some areas and upwards in others. The ability to confirm the direction of water flow is pertinent to the impact of future development in the Blenheim area where groundwater interacts with springs and Taylor/Opawa River baseflows and that any allocation policy needs to recognise that surface and groundwaters are linked and therefore need to be considered together rather than separately.

Mr White identified the distribution of liquefiable material around Blenheim using a 3-D model to help visualise how these correlate with pre-European waterways. Ancient swamps and lagoons accumulate fine materials which are more susceptible to subsidence when shaken. These patterns will help planners assess the risk for land stability and human settlement around Blenheim.

Mr White also advised members of two smart phone applications that are now available namely; Well-finder which identifies wells that are situated at the phone user's current position and a geological profile (or earth beneath my feet) which gives a description of what soil types are under the phone users current position.

Cirs Barsanti/Brooks:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE Mr A Johnson, Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager, was present for the following four items.

R.13/14.342 OSPRI and TBfree New Zealand Update

C315-11-37

A presentation from William McCook, CEO OSPRI, and Danny Templeton, South Island Relationship Manager, was made to the Committee which provided an introduction on OSPRI New Zealand and an update on the local vector control programme and the national funding review and how that may impact on Marlborough.

It was reported that OSPRI is responsible for the implementation of the National Bovine TB Strategy with the key objective to eradicate bovine TB from New Zealand. It was noted that TBfree New Zealand Limited is the management agency and undertakes a range of national measures to manage cattle and deer movements. This is managed by the National Animal Identification and Tracing Scheme (NAIT) which links people, property and livestock providing lifetime traceability of livestock thereby enhancing market access and the ability to respond to a biosecurity incursion.

Mr McCook discussed the TB progress made in Marlborough. It was reported that there is now over 90,000 hectares free of TB. The TBFree new pest management programme is designed to continue to protect the newly eradicated TB free area while still ensuring a reduction in the infected herds in the district.

The proposed programme for Marlborough entails three aerial operations - Awatere North 6000 hectares (delayed due to weather 2013/2014), Upper Wairau 7000 hectares, Grey Medway + Avon 5 Mile 10,000 hectares, with 10 ground control operations 107,558 hectares.

Mr McCook also advised that there will be small localised programmes available to deal with any flare ups of the disease.

Mr McCook thanked the Council for its ongoing support.

Cirs Shenfield/Brooks:
That the information be received.

Carried

Ms Rait rejoined the meeting for the following two items.

R.13/14.343 Cleanfill Criteria for the Marlborough District

E355-005-001

Ms Rait advised the Committee that currently there is no national guidance on establishing appropriate criteria for waste disposed to cleanfills. One approach put forward is to use a limit midway between background concentrations and soil guideline values derived to protect ecological receptors (Eco-SGV).

The Committee heard that it has been found that some background concentrations of selected trace elements (heavy metals) in Marlborough exceeded the Eco-SGVs, posing challenges in establishing cleanfill criteria to ensure an appropriate level of environmental protection.

It was reported that Landcare Research was commissioned to investigate this issue and the subsequent report (attached to the agenda) identified two distinct areas, one with elevated Chromium (Cr) and Nickel (Ni) soil concentrations and the second with non-elevated soil concentrations. It was proposed that this new criteria developed for the non-elevated region would provide Council officers and consultants assessing reports dealing with cleanfill operations with the right information to be able to interpret and evaluate the robustness of the data presented in support of contaminated site investigations.

The Committee heard that trace elements are naturally occurring substances that can be hazardous if present in high concentrations, thus there is a need to establish appropriate concentrations so that material accepted for cleanfill does not contain hazardous concentrations of trace elements. The guidelines would provide an appropriate approach in establishing cleanfill limits while ensuring these limits guarantee an appropriate level of environmental protection.

Cirs Arbuckle/Barsanti:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the new Cleanfill Criteria be adopted for Council assessment of cleanfill operations.

Table 7 Comparison of recommended interim cleanfill criteria and their basis of derivation with current cleanfill criteria

Element	Current Cleanfill criteria (mg/kg)	Recommended interim Cleanfill criteria (mg/kg)	Comment
Arsenic	13	12	Equidistant between rural residential SCS _{health} and 95th percentile background
Cadmium	1	0.9	Rural residential SCS _{health}
Chromium	47	88	Added risk SRGV
Copper	77	147	Added risk SRGV
Lead	57	92	Equidistant between rural residential SCS _{health} and 95th percentile background
Nickel	34	75	Equidistant between rural residential SCS _{health} and 95th percentile background
Zinc	139	260	Added risk SRGV

Carried

R.13/14.344 Analysis of Soil Samples Using a Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) E355-006-005-01

The report "Analysis of Soil Samples Using a Portable X-Ray Fluorescent Spectrometry (XRF)" prepared by Pattle Delamore Partners Limited, attached to the agenda, provided the Committee with the results and best practice guidelines for X-Ray Fluorescence analysis of soils.

Members were advised that field portable XRF analysis is an ideal tool to undertake a large number of measurements of elemental concentrations in soil in a very short time. However, the technique is subject to a number of sampling and analytical errors and therefore is regarded as a screening level assessment tool only. Ms Rait advised that in-situ XRF analysis should only be used as a screening level technique (by placing the XRF directly in contact onto the ground). This method requires minimal sample preparation. This can be used for preliminary identification of contamination, identifying hotspots and extent of contamination.

The report outlined the factors that affect XRF analysis which include spectral interference, contact angle, depth of X-Ray penetration, grain size effects, moisture content and other matrix effects. XRF analysis can be used for screening and semi-quantitative results.

Ms Rait advised the Committee that there are currently no guidelines or standards regarding use of XRF for investigating contaminated sites in New Zealand. Therefore this document will provide officers assessing reports that have used XRF with the right information to be able to interpret and evaluate the

robustness of the data presented in support of contaminated site investigations and noted that without guidelines it would be difficult to confirm the accuracy and consistency of the information gathered.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Brooks:

1. **That the report be received.**
2. **That Council adopt the Analysis of Soil Samples Using a Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry report as best practice guidelines.**

Carried

R.13/14.345 Environmental Reporting Bill E360-004-002-01, E365-000-001

The Committee was updated on the Environmental Reporting Bill that has been introduced to Parliament to create a national level environmental reporting system. The objective is to create a reporting framework with clearer accountabilities and provide the public with a level of certainty about the scope and quality of information they receive.

The Committee heard that the environmental reporting framework is proposed to publish 1 of 5 reports every six month period on the environmental domains defined as air, atmosphere and climate, freshwater, land and marine followed by a synthesised report providing an analysis of across domain trends and interpretation of information every three years. The data and information for the national reporting framework will come from a variety of sources including central government and regional councils.

The Committee heard that it is proposed that a submission be made on the Bill to clarify Clause 16 which requires consent from the Secretary for the Environment and the Government Statistician before any disclosure can be made of the information or analysis Council provides for this national reporting. This limitation on the use and disclosure of information will potentially impact on Council's own regional data use and reporting. This information and analysis is undertaken to meet Council's own obligations, such as State of the Environment reporting and policy development, and as such Council should be able to control its use and the release of the information.

Mr Johnson reported that the closing date for the submission is prior to the next Environment Committee meeting on 17 April 2014. After a brief discussion on this matter Councillors suggested that the submission be approved by the Chairman before being submitted and moved the following additional recommendation.

Clr Barsanti/Mr Beech:

That the submission on Clause 16 to Central Government be signed off by the Chairman

Carried

Cllrs Barsanti/Shenfield:

1. **That the information be received.**
2. **That Council make a submission regarding the control and use of the information and analysis created and provided by Council to Central Government.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE Mr G Congdon, Council's Compliance Manager, was present for the following item.

R.13/14.346 Who Should Pay for Animal Control?

E305-001-001

A report to consider whether it is timely to act on the resolution made by the Council on 4 April 2013, that 20% of the cost of Animal Control be funded from general rates be adopted, was discussed.

The Committee was advised that the current Animal Control contract expires in March next year and that it is anticipated that when it is tendered an increase in costs is likely due to increased costs associated with the function.

It was reported that if the resolution of 4 April 2013 was introduced into the Annual Plan it would result in the dog registration fee being reduced but once the new tender is in place it can be expected to increase a short time later by a greater amount. It was acknowledged that though the decision had been made Council would be best served by not making any changes to how the Animal Control activity is funded until after the anticipated increase in providing the function has been determined by going through the tendering process.

Further discussion from the members present to clarify the recommendations was made. It was agreed that recommendation two be deleted and replaced by a recommendation that clarified that the timing to introduce the resolution be deferred and the 80/20 split be maintained.

Clrs Oddie/Arbuckle:

- 1. That the implementation of Council's decision of 4 April 2013 that 20% of the cost of Animal Control be funded from general rates be deferred until 2015-16 financial year.**
- 2. That the 80/20 split for Animal Control funding be introduced into the next Long Term Plan.**

Carried

R.13/14.347 Marine Farm Light Audits

H100-005-14

The report to the Committee provided an update of a recent ongoing marine farm light audits as noted in the order paper. Members were advised that over the last two years Council has reviewed conditions of consent attached to individual marine farm consents and this included a review of farm lighting requirements. The Harbour Master advised that there is still considerable variability with respect to requirements relating to the inshore marking of marine farms and work to clarify matters in conjunction with the Marine Farming Association has been completed. It was noted that there has been a substantial improvement in overall compliance.

The members were advised that the Harbour Master is working closely with the Marine Farming Association and that the new monitoring regime has been implemented and any issues identified being worked through.

Clrs Barsanti/Oddie:

That the information be received.

Carried

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Enforcement Tory Channel Compliance	In order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as provided for under Section 7(2)(a).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm.

Record No: 1476113