



**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
held in the Council Chambers and via Zoom, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim  
on THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022 commencing at 9.00 am**

**Present**

Councillors G A Hope (Acting Chairperson), J A Arbuckle, B A Faulls, T P Sowman, Mr E R Beech (Rural representative)

**Present via Zoom**

Councillors D D Oddie (Deputy), J D N Croad and Mayor J C Leggett (from 9.15 am) (withdrew 10.26 am)

**Also Present**

Councillors J L Andrews and N P Taylor (from 9.10 am)

**Also Present via Zoom**

Councillors C J Brooks, M A Peters

**In Attendance**

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager), Mike Porter (Democratic Services Manager/Zoom Management) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

**Apologies**

**Cllrs Hope/Arbuckle:**

**That the apology from Mayor J C Leggett for lateness be received and sustained and the apology for lateness from Cllr N P Taylor be noted.**

**Carried**

**Env-0322-274 Declaration of Interests**

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No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Matt Oliver, Council's Environmental Scientist – Land Management was present for the following two items and Andrea Wolter and Brenda Ross GNS Science were present via Zoom for the following item.

**Env-0322-275 Reconnaissance report on landslides caused by  
the 16-18 July 2021 rainstorm in the  
Marlborough region - Phase 1 E355-015-003-01**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to receive the first phase of reporting into landslides in the Marlborough Sounds caused by the 16-18 July 2021 rainstorm. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2254313).

It was noted that as a result of the intense winter storm (< 10 to > 250-year event in study area) extensive damage to roading and houses occurred throughout the Marlborough Sounds. The resulting repair work is still underway some eight months later.

It was noted that in the past Council has typically investigated such events itself and produced landslide event reports. This time GNS offered its services at no cost. Members were advised that the data gathered can be used to inform the GNS Rainfall-induced Landslide (RIL) Model that seeks to improve risk assessment for land sliding nationally. This is due to be completed in 2024.

Members expressed their appreciation of GNS Science for providing the expertise and report at no cost.

Members were advised that following the event, rain radar data provided by MetService was assessed to locate the areas that received the most rainfall. Over 1500 images from earlier flooding reconnaissance flights, media reports and Geonet reports were inspected to show locations of landslides. This helped to determine an optimal (and unbiased) flight path.

A helicopter reconnaissance flight was conducted covering some 650km over five hours. Over 2500 images were captured. These were later geolocated in Council's DAVIS software. The landslides identified were mapped in Google Earth by Zeke Hoskins and sent to GNS for inclusion in the distribution mapping.

Field visits were conducted to several sites where property damage occurred. These include properties in Mahikipawa, Havelock and in Queen Charlotte Sound/Totaranui. It was noted that Harbours provided a vessel and skipper during the weekend to avoid poor weather.

Field visits included detailed assessments of property damage, often including interviews with landowners, foot inspection of most landslides (where physically possible) and UAV surveys.

Members noted that collaboration with a capable research institute such as GNS on work such as this is extremely valuable for future planning and natural hazard management. The greater expertise that GNS can apply should lead to improved understanding of risks posed by landslides in this region. Previous Council reports have documented events but not led to the deeper investigations required to enable substantive change in risk management. Mr Versteegh noted that provision is being made for a Natural Hazard Policy role which will benefit from this kind of technology.

It was noted that a Phase 2 report is currently in progress. This report will likely have further information relevant to natural hazard planning.

**Cllrs Hope/Faulls:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Siobhan Allen, M&R Forestland Management and Mark Bloomberg were present via Zoom for the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Val Wadworth, Council's Environmental Scientist – Hydrology and Peter Hamill, Council's Team Leader Land and Water, Environmental Science and Monitoring were present for the following item.

**Env-0322-276      Rainfall event 3-5 February 2022      E385-003-01**

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the rainfall event which affected northern parts of Marlborough, particularly the Rai Valley area, between the 3-5 February 2022. This expands on the late supplementary item presented to the February Environment Committee meeting.

It was reported that the event occurred in two discrete parts, the first on the morning of the third, and the second on the afternoon/evening of the fourth. The rainfall caused slips, and road damage and closures, including the closure of State Highway 6 to Nelson for several days. Anecdotal reports of rainfall in excess to 700 mm have been reported for this event around the head of Tennyson Inlet.

Flows in the Te Hoiere/Pelorus and Rai Rivers were not exceptional, which is consistent with the rainfall data. Very localised heavy rainfall caused the damage north of Rai Valley.

Members were advised that a damage assessment flight was undertaken to gain an overview of the level of damage the flooding had caused. The main observation from the flight was that there were discrete areas where riverbank erosion had taken place but there were not large numbers of sites. It was noted that the observations were taken from the air at an elevation of over 300m and therefore only large areas of erosion

were able to be detected. Smaller localised areas along the riverbanks were unable to be detected from the air.

It was reported that the benefits of riparian vegetation were very evident with the majority of the erosion seen occurring on banks that were devoid of vegetation (other than pasture grasses) and were not fenced. In the upper Tunakino Valley, where the highest rainfall intensities were measured, most of the river and side tributaries are fenced. This has allowed native riparian vegetation to remain and in areas without riparian vegetation, pasture grasses have gone rank and created a dense layer of vegetative material. The rank grasses and native riparian vegetation has protected the riverbanks in this area and no major erosion was observed. In contrast in the upper Opouri River where little is fenced, and the riparian vegetation consists of grazed pasture bankside erosion was more prevalent.

Members were advised that there are a number of debris dams forming and in particular the Ronga River has completed redirected itself due to the debris dams. Geoff Dick, Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager is investigating these areas in regards to additional flows when the debris dams move.

It was noted that the Te Hoiere Project has identified erosion control within the catchment as one of the actions in the Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan (ICEP). In order to determine the best solution for managing riverbank erosion a proposal is being scoped for the Te Hoiere Steering Group to carry out a geomorphological analysis of the river and come up with a methodology for the long-term stabilisation of the riverbank that includes potential engineering solutions and riparian protection options.

**Cirs Faulls/Sowman:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Siobhan Allen, M&R Forestland Management and Mark Bloomberg and David Palmer, University of Canterbury were present via Zoom for the following item.

## **Env-0322-277      Estimation of catchment susceptibility to debris flows and debris floods - North Marlborough**

**E355-015-003-01, E385-003-01**

Members noted that the purpose of the item was to receive a report on estimated catchment susceptibility to debris flows and debris floods in North Marlborough, and to adopt the associated GIS layers as a "for information only" webmap usable by resource management professionals to screen for potential debris flow/flood risks. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2254221).

Members were advised that the work was commissioned following the capture of large areas of LiDAR data as part of a nationwide scheme. The data has enabled more detailed analysis of catchment morphology than was previously possible and enabled the current work. The detailed analysis was first proposed as a tool to help guide forestry harvest planning and management but it has been realised that the resulting tool could be useful in screening for hazards for other land uses.

It was noted that the study has provided a detailed map of debris flow and debris flood susceptibility to further Marlborough District Council's understanding of landslide hazards within a defined study area.

The limitations of the method were discussed and the report comes with a clear proviso that the electronic layers are only to be used for information or a screening layer and do not represent a definitive geotechnical categorisation of catchments. It was noted that any development occurring in a catchment identified as having high susceptibility should include more detailed onsite geotechnical evaluation by a suitably qualified geotechnical professional. Any identified catchment may require further investigation to determine the influence of other factors such as vegetation, land use, geology, soils and climate.

Siobhan Allen, M&R Forestland Management provided members with information on the benefits that the information has provided to the forestry industry.

Matt Oliver, Council's Environmental Scientist – Land Management provided a demonstration of the software to members.

Members were advised that the webmap will be made available to land map professionals not the public at large.

**Mr Beech/Clr Arbuckle:**

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That Council approves the use of the associated GIS layers as a “for information only” web service.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 10.26 am during the above item.

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 10.26 am during the above item due to technical issues and resumed at 10.43 am to conclude the item.

ATTENDANCE: Georgia Murrin, Council's Alcohol Licensing Inspector, was present for the following item.

## **Env-0322-278      Alcohol Licensing Functions      E350-005-008-02**

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an overview of Council's Alcohol Licensing functions and, performance under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act). To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2254155).

It was noted that the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 came into force on 18 December 2012. Under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, Council has the responsibility of appointing a Licensing Committee and appointing one or more Licensing Inspectors.

Alcohol licensing inspectors have an independent role when reporting to the licensing committee on licence applications and when performing functions and duties under the Act. This allows inspectors to report on applications in an objective manner without political influence.

It was noted that the public can object to new and renewed licence applications, however, objections are only considered when the objector has a greater interest than the general public. Objections cannot be a result of commercial competition.

Public hearings are held when decisions for licences cannot be decided solely on the papers, due to agency opposition or public objection.

Clr Taylor raised about the ability of local communities to feedback into the process for approving new off licences and whether the development of a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) would be appropriate to better facilitate this. There was considerable discussion on the query and it was noted that a LAP has been drafted but is currently on hold. The reasons for this were outlined in the discussion.

It was noted that it is important that the community is able to provide input and how the community hears about applications for licences was discussed. It was reported that Ms Murrin is currently investigating how other councils inform their communities of applications and is happy to consider other recommendations from members.

Members were advised that from 1 July 2021 to now there have been 47 applications for On Licences, 38 for Off Licences, 16 for Club Licences, 93 for Special Licences and 265 Manager Certificate applications. Currently there are 30 Club Licences, 132 Off Licences, 135 On Licences and 1045 Managers Certificates.

Ms Murrin reported that performance measures have been set with the aim of contributing to the reduction of alcohol related harm in Marlborough. Annually the requirement is to inspect 90% of On Licenced premises. Alcohol Licensing Inspectors have completed 67% of inspections to date and aim to complete the remainder before the end of the financial year. The tri-agencies have a responsibility to monitor and enforce the Act. This is partly achieved by undertaking Controlled Purchase Operations (CPOs). The next CPO is due to take place in the next few months.

Newsletters from the tri-agencies are also routinely sent out to licensed premises when information needs to be disseminated. A newsletter was provided to licensees in December 2021.

**Clrs Fauls/Sowman:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Sue Bulfield-Johnston, Council's Administrator and Hearing Facilitator, Advocacy and Practice Integration, was present for the following item.

## **Env-0322-279      Resource Consent Hearings Update      R450-004-22**

The report to the Committee provided a rolling summary of hearings scheduled and completed for applications for resource consent. It was noted that since the onset of Covid-19 and the Level 4 Lockdown a practice has been implemented to consider extension of timeframes and online hearings where appropriate.

It was noted that six hearings have been completed in the year commencing 1 July 2021. Decisions have been issued for all of these applications. A table listing the hearings was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Hearings have been set down for February and March for three applications for resource consent and three s357B objections to costs.

It was noted that as Marlborough is in the 'RED' level under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System) attendance at Hearings has been by Zoom.

**Cllrs Arbuckle/Sowman:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0322-280      Appeals Update      R450-004-22**

It was reported that as at 1 March 2022 Council is engaged in nine proceedings either as respondent or s274 party. A summary and update was provided with further detailed information contained in the agenda item.

Mr Verteegh provided members with a further update on the EDS v Otago Regional Council (Plan appeal – MDC as s274 party) - Policy.

**Cllrs Hope/Arbuckle:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0322-281      Information Package      -**

Members requested a copy of the full joint submission on Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper.

**Cllrs Hope/Arbuckle:**  
**That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 17 March 2022 be received and noted.**

**Carried**

*Postscript: The submission was circulated to Councillors following the meeting.*

The meeting closed at 11.32 am.

Record No: 2254582