

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Council meeting on 7 December 2023.

Report 23.556

Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 26 October 2023

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao
34 Chapel Street, Masterton at 10.03am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Ropata and Councillor Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via MS Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Gaylor

That the Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Kirk-Burnnand.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 21 September 2023 - Report 23.503

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Saw

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 21 September 2023 – Report 23.503.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 21 September 2023 - Report PE23.504

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Nash

That the Council confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting on 21 September 2023 – Report PE23.504.

The motion was **carried**.

Strategy, policy or major issues

6 Natural Resources Plan, Plan Change 1 notification – Report 23.488

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation spoke to the report. Updated Attachment 1 – Natural Resources Plan, Plan Change 1 (with Appendix) was tabled.

Moved: Cr Lee / Cr Gaylor

That Council:

- 1 Notes and recognises the contribution of the Whaitua committees for Ruamahanga, Te Awarua o Porirua and Te Whanganui a Tara Whaitua, and the mana whenua of these Whaitua, in preparing the Whaitua implementation programmes that underpin Plan Change 1 of the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region.
- 2 Notes that the Chair of Greater Wellington will write to and offer to meet with the Mayors of the region's Territorial Authorities and the Chair of Wellington Water to explain the potential implications of the plan change in order that their organisations can be forewarned in their Long Term Plan preparations.

- 3 Notes and recognises the contribution of mana whenua/tangata whenua to the preparation of Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region 2023.
- 4 Notes that the Manager, Policy, has the delegation from Council to approve any minor corrections or alterations of minor effect to Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region 2023 under the Resource Management Act Schedule 1 clause 16(2).
- 5 Notes that Plan Change 1 to be notified has been changed from that which was approved by Council on 17 August 2023 to be released for limited consultation. The notified version has a 2040 timeframe for achievement of *E. coli* target attribute states, which is consistent with the Whaitua Implementation Programme recommendations.
- 6 Notes that changes made to Plan Change 1 since the Council workshop on 5 October 2023 are in Attachment 3.
- 7 Agrees that the pre-notification consultation requirements as set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act have been met.
- 8 Approves public notification of Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region 2023 having regard to the Section 32 evaluation report.
- 9 Approves public notification of the provisions identified in the Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region 2023 under the Freshwater Planning Process as a Freshwater Planning Instrument, and the remaining provisions under the standard Schedule 1 process.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Error identified in the application of the Wellington City Differentiated General Rate – Report 23.485

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, Ali Trustrum-Rainey, Group Manager Finance & Risk, Deborah Kessell-Haak, Head of Legal and Procurement, and Mike Wakefield, Partner, Simpson Grierson, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Nash

That Council

- 1 Approves the implementation of the following option to address the error identified in the application of the differentiated general rate for the Wellington City area:
Option Two – Take no remedial action, including no provision for refunds.
- 2 Requests the Council Chair to seek to identify a local Member of Parliament who would be willing to sponsor a local bill and informs Councillors on the outcome of those discussions.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 11.24am and resumed at 11.35am.

8 Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: vehicle and depot ownership options – Report 23.537

Samantha Gain, Group Manager Metlink, and Barry Fryer, Manager Rail Assets, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Notes that decisions on the ownership arrangements for Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) assets will need to be made by both Greater Wellington Regional Council and Horizons Regional Council.
- 2 Notes that analysis shows a preference for the LNIRIM assets to be held by Greater Wellington Regional Council, either directly or via the existing Greater Wellington Rail Limited Council Controlled Organisation, with Horizons Regional Council having a management services agreement.
- 3 Notes that Council will make its final decision about whether Greater Wellington Regional Council or a Council Controlled Organisation will own the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility assets based on the outcomes of the 'Proposed Strategic Public Transport Asset Control Strategy' (which will be consulted on as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34).
- 4 Notes that on 7 November 2023, Horizons Regional Council will be considering a report on ownership arrangements for LNIRIM assets.
- 5 Endorses the preferred approach for the LNIRIM assets to be held by Greater Wellington Regional Council or a Greater Wellington Regional Council Council Controlled Organisation.
- 6 Notes that subject to Council endorsement of the preferred approach:
 - a the LNIRIM Project team will engage with Horizons Regional Council to determine the terms of the funding and management services agreement, which will be brought back to Council for decision.
 - b the LNIRIM Vehicle and Depot 'Request for Proposal' documentation will be developed to provide that Greater Wellington Regional Council will be the purchaser of the vehicles, depot and related assets, with provision to nominate a Greater Wellington Regional Council Controlled Organisation as the purchaser.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility: Delegations for funding and stakeholder participation agreements – Report 23.538

Samantha Gain, Group Manager Metlink, and Barry Fryer, Manager Rail Assets, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Saw

That Council:

- 1 Notes that as part of the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Programme, certain agreements will need to be entered by multiple parties to establish the Programme.
- 2 Notes that the primary purpose of the Stakeholder Participation Agreement is to record the roles, responsibilities, and agreements of the key parties involved in the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility rolling stock procurement.
- 3 Notes that the primary purpose of the Funding Agreement is to give the Councils assurance as to the level and nature of the government financial support and how it will be administered for the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility programme.
- 4 Delegates to the Council Chair, the Transport Committee Chair, and the Chief Executive, acting jointly, the power to enter into the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Funding Agreement.
- 5 Delegates to the Council Chair, the Transport Committee Chair, and the Chief Executive, acting jointly, the power to enter into the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility Stakeholder Participation Agreement.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Christmas Fares – Report 23.525

Emmet McElhatton, Manager Policy, Metlink, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Notes that since the fare changes from 1 April this year, a 50% discount applies to all off-peak trips during weekdays, and all weekend and public holidays on Metlink trains and buses including on after midnight services (excluding Airport Express services).
- 2 Notes that the 50% off-peak discount applies to all fares, including concessions.
- 3 Notes that this year, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are on a Sunday.
- 4 Notes that the Government's Community Connect Scheme has been fully in place on the Metlink public transport network since 1 September 2023.
- 5 Notes that the Community Connect Scheme provides free travel for children under 13 years old, 75% discount for school aged children, and 50% discount for all people under 25 years old and Community Services Card holders.
- 6 Notes that the Airport Express and Tawa On-Demand services operate without funding contribution from Government.
- 7 Notes that year to date fare revenue has been considerably lower than budget, due to lower patronage after COVID-19, reduced fares, and increased cost pressure.
- 8 Agrees to provide free travel on Metlink bus and rail services, excluding Airport Express and Tawa On Demand services, on Christmas Day for 2023.

- 9 Notes that a decision on offering free travel on additional days of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve can be considered through the Council's future decisions on fares in the context of transition to the National Ticketing Solution (NTS).
- 10 Agrees to embed the provision of free travel on Metlink bus and rail services, excluding Airport Express and Tawa on Demand services, on Christmas Day for future years and include budget provision for this in the Long-Term Plan.
- 11 Notes that officers will communicate the Council's decision to Metlink bus and rail operators and to Snapper for implementation and provide communication to our customers.

The motion was **carried**.

Governance

11 Opportunity to Establish a Māori Constituency – Report 23.539

Francis Ryan, Head of Governance and Democracy, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Laban.

That Council:

- 1 Establishes a Māori constituency for the 2025 triennial local elections onwards, noting that the Māori constituency is supplementary to and not a replacement for Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations with mana whenua.
- 2 Notes that the establishment of a Māori constituency will inform the full representation review scheduled for 2024.

The motion was **carried**.

12 Shareholder Resolutions in lieu of Annual General Meeting: WRC Holdings Limited – Report 23.534

Sarah Allen, Principal Advisor Company Portfolio, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Bassett

That Council

- 1 Agrees, as sole shareholder of WRC Holdings Limited, that the company not be required to hold an Annual General Meeting relating to the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
- 2 Resolves the written resolutions contained in Attachment 1 – Shareholder resolutions for WRC Holdings Limited.
- 3 Authorises the Council Chair to sign the resolutions of the sole shareholder contained in Attachment 1.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.49am.

Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date:

UNCONFIRMED