

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 10 April 2014
Time: 6.30pm
Meeting Room: Waitakere Ranges Local Board Office
Venue: 39 Glenmall Place
Glen Eden

Waitākere Ranges Local Board OPEN ADDENDUM AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Sandra Coney, QSO
Deputy Chairperson	Denise Yates, JP
Members	Neil Henderson Greg Presland Steve Tollestrup Saffron Toms

(Quorum 3 members)

Glenn Boyd
(Relationship Manager)
Local Board Services (West)

Riya Seth
Democracy Advisor

7 April 2014

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ITEM	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
23	Portfolio update: Member Saffron Toms	5
27	Budget re-allocation for the final quarter of FY 2013-2014 <i>The report was not available when the agenda was compiled and will be tabled at the meeting.</i>	

Portfolio update: Member Saffron Toms

File No.: CP2014/03050

Purpose

1. This report provides an opportunity for Member Saffron Toms to give an update with regards to activity within her portfolio areas.
2. Portfolio holders are responsible for leading policy development in their portfolio area, proposing and developing project concepts, overseeing agreed projects within budgets, being active advocates, accessing and providing information and advice.
3. Member Toms has lead for the portfolios of Environment, Biodiversity and Youth.

Executive Summary

4. This report reflects on the main highlights of the Environment portfolio and outlines some related responsibilities. Next time I will discuss the Youth portfolio, the Local Place-Making Champions portfolio I share with Member Steve Tollestrup and my roles on the Ark in the Park Governance Group and the Manukau Harbour Forum.
5. Weed control, Kauri dieback disease and the control of animal pests were recognised early in the term as key areas to focus on in our Local Board Plan, discussed later. The marine environment will also be a key, and new, focus for our Board.
6. Weeds have exploded again this summer. Some weeds are thriving, multiplying their seed-supplies and suffocating some areas. We are working with biosecurity to get a good understanding of this. Key to this is understanding how weed management approaches and associated funding may have changed since Council's amalgamation. We are gathering key people working on weeds in the area to achieve a more coordinated approach to weed control and to encourage knowledge sharing. This is so we can be strategic and get the best results with the resources we do have.
7. In efforts to raise awareness within the community, Chair Sandra Coney and I are developing a weed poster with Waitakere Forest and Bird (F&B). This collaboration acknowledges the work F&B have done to keep people educated on weeds during the period of Council amalgamation.
8. We have been advocating to Auckland Transport (AT) on appropriate management of weeds in the road corridor, including working on design guidelines for the heritage area. Included in this advocacy is asking for detailed mapping of the roads in our area to enable a more bespoke approach to roadside maintenance in our unique environment and rural roads.
9. Reactivation of the No-spray Register is a priority and we will have a workshop with AT next week to ensure the Register is active. This is in response to three themes of feedback from the community: firstly that properties on the No-Spray-register have been sprayed; secondly, that there has been an absence of alternative methods of weed control in No-Spray trial areas; and thirdly, a common perception that sprays are overused in general.
10. Kauri dieback disease (or Phytophthora Taxon Agathis, PTA) is a major focus of the Board this term and ideas abound for how to support the community to be ambassadors for bush hygiene and compliance. We will put more resources into enabling communities to take a lead in being proactive in prevention of the disease and are looking at other avenues to raise awareness.

11. Responding to new threats such as Block Offer 2013, new definitions of set-netting activities (which threaten the critically endangered Maui's dolphin) and the prospects of distant sand mining activities at unprecedented scales, Marine ecology has been catapulted into the attention of this new Board. With our significant coastline, including the pristine and high energy West Coast and the more sheltered Manukau Harbour, our area of interest is significant.
12. We were proud that one of our first actions, as a Board, was to stand with our communities to protest against the threat of deep sea oil drilling off our Coasts. This action was followed the Board's earlier submission to the Government opposing Block Offer 2013. We are very disappointed to hear the announcement this week that despite widespread public opposition, the Government has now expanded the area for oil exploration to most of the North Island's West Coast.
13. Early this year we also submitted against an application by Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTR) to mine 50 million tonnes of sand per year for 20 years, in the South Taranaki Bight. This is of concern to us for many reasons, including the effects on treasured ocean mammals such as Maui's dolphin and Southern Right Whales, whose habitats include our coasts and beyond.
14. I represented the Board at the Dunes Restoration Trust annual conference in Taranaki in March. Well supported by the local Regional Council, field trips to different sites along the Taranaki coast were highlights. Presentations and site visits revealed triumphs and challenges of dune restoration efforts in high energy beaches. A key finding was that the gene-pool of pingao is in serious decline, so transplanting the species from other regions should be discouraged in favour of eco-sourcing (planting seeds from naturally occurring local populations).
15. Currently, the Board is hosting two events as part of the EcoWest festival:
 - In March we hosted a Cycleways and Stream Restoration tour along the Waikumete Stream to celebrate progress and to share the Board's aspirations to connect the stream's Cycleway to Glen Eden village and other regionally connected transit links. Project Twin Streams staff, who are contracted by Council to work with communities to carry out restoration work on the streams, and Local Parks staff from Council were key participants. The event was well attended.
 - This weekend we hosted a walk and talk on Kauri Dieback Disease. Lead by Council's Biosecurity Principal Advisor, Dr Nick Waipara, and accompanied by Regional Park Rangers, participants were taken by the first area that PTA was recognised in the Waitakere Ranges. Dr Waipara shared what is known about the pathogen; its history and pathology, as well as how to prevent or minimise its spread and participants were encouraged to share what they had learned with their communities. The walk was well attended and we received very positive feedback.

Recommendation

That the Waitākere Ranges Local Board:

- a) Receives the portfolio update from Member Saffron Toms.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Signatories

Authors	Member Saffron Toms, Waitākere Ranges Local Board
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