

Great Barrier Environment Committee OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Great Barrier Environment Committee held in the Claris Conference Centre, 19 Whangaparapara Road, Claris, Great Barrier Island on Wednesday, 22 April 2015 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Susan Daly	
Deputy Chairperson	Jeff Cleave	Until 11.55am, item 13
Members	Izzy Fordham	
	Judy Gilbert	
	Christina Spence	

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

IN ATTENDANCE

Karen Walker	
Rebecca Gibson	Department of Conservation
John Ogden	Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust

1 Welcome

Chairperson Susan Daly opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Deputy Chair JC Cleave led the meeting in a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number GBESP/2015/11

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member JJ Gilbert:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Confirms the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on Wednesday, 25 February 2015, as a true and correct record.**

CARRIED

5 Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

6 Acknowledgements

There were no acknowledgements.

7 Petitions

There were no petitions.

8 Deputations

There were no deputations.

9 Public Forum

9.1 Karen Walker

Karen Walker was in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to weeds and Pah Beach.

A document was tabled in respect to Karen Walker's presentation. A copy of the tabled document has been attached to the official copy of these minutes and can be viewed in the Auckland Council website.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/12

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member IM Fordham:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Receives the Public Forum presentation.**
- b) **Thanks Karen Walker for her Public Forum presentation.**

CARRIED

Attachments

A Tabled document - Karen Walker

9.2 Rebecca Gibson – Department of Conservation

Rebecca Gibson from Department of Conservation was in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to an update on the Conservation Park and other matters.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/13

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member IM Fordham:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Receives the Public Forum presentation.**
- b) **Thanks Rebecca Gibson from the Department of Conservation for her Public Forum presentation.**

CARRIED

10 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

11 Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

12 Infrastructure and Environmental Services Update Report

Emma Joyce – Relationship Advisor, and Jeremy Warden - Biosecurity Advisor Plants - Great Barrier, Infrastructure and Environmental Services were in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to this report.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/14

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member CA Spence:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Notes the information in the Infrastructure and Environmental Services update report.**
- b) **Thanks Emma Joyce – Relationship Advisor for her attendance and presentation on the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Update Report.**
- c) **Thanks Jeremy Warden - Biosecurity Advisor Plants-Great Barrier for his attendance and presentation on the Biosecurity report update.**

CARRIED

13 Options for reducing the cost of waste services on Great Barrier

Warwick Jaine - Waste Operations Manager and Ian Stupple - Manager Solid Waste, were in attendance via tele-conference and Emma Joyce – Relationship Advisor, Infrastructure

and Environmental Services was in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to this report.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/15

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member JC Cleave:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Notes that Long-term Plan feedback from its on island Have Your Say event, on and off island community events and written feedback overwhelmingly opposed the adoption of a full user pays solid waste service for Great Barrier Island.**
- b) **Notes that the proposed charges are an interim arrangement pending implementation of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.**
- c) **Requests that the solid waste subsidy for Great Barrier Island be retained at current levels.**
- d) **Notes that it has worked with the Solid Waste team to reduce operating costs on Great Barrier from \$1400 pa per property to around \$1000 per property but that \$1000 is totally unaffordable and unfair for ratepayers when average annual residential rates are only \$1035 and median household incomes at \$30,300 pa are the lowest for any local board in the region.**
- e) **Supports officer proposals for the following changes to solid waste services on Great Barrier Island to reduce costs**
 - i) **Introducing gate fees at the landfill for all waste excluding recycling;**
 - ii) **Review public opening hours at the landfill during the non-peak season;**
 - iii) **Introduce kerbside recycling though the provision of a crate provided to households;**
 - iv) **Disestablishing all current transfer drop off sites for recyclables;**
 - v) **Review the current transfer refuse drop off sites with the view to reduce the sites from four to two sites available during the non-peak season.**
- f) **Notes its request for rubbish bin removal from beaches.**
- g) **Wishes to continue to work with officers to explore other opportunities to reduce solid waste costs including charging for commercial waste including properties which are not currently paying a waste levy, and noting its belief that local solutions including resource recovery can and should be explored further.**
- h) **Thanks Emma Joyce – Relationship Advisor for her attendance and presentation on the Options for reducing the cost of waste services on Great Barrier report.**
- i) **Thanks Warwick Jaine - Waste Operations Manager and Ian Stupple - Manager Solid Waste for their attendance via teleconference and presentation on the Options for reducing the cost of waste services on Great Barrier report.**

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: *Deputy Chair JC Cleave left the meeting at 11.55am*

14 Sustainability Stocktake - Report back on survey findings

Bill Smith - Ecological Associates and Eion Scott - Eco Design Advisor were in attendance via tele-conference, and Liz Ross - Environmental Programmes Advisor and Emma Joyce –

Relationship Advisor, were in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to this report.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/16

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member JJ Gilbert:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Receives the Sustainability Stocktake – Report back on survey findings report.**
- b) **Supports use of the remaining budget to progress the initiatives summarized in the report to promote and distribute the report and to fund participation in the 8/9 May Off the Grid event on Great Barrier.**
- c) **Agrees, in principle, to include funding in its 2015/2016 environment work programme for implementation of initiatives arising from the sustainability stocktake.**
- d) **Thanks Liz Ross – Environmental Programmes Advisor and Emma Joyce – Relationship Advisor, for their attendance and presentation on the Sustainability Stocktake - Report back on survey findings.**
- e) **Thanks Eion Scott - Eco Design Advisor and Bill Smith - Ecological Associates for their attendance via teleconference and presentation on the Sustainability Stocktake - Report back on survey findings.**

CARRIED

15 Update on Aotea Great Barrier Ecology Conversations

Resolution number GBESP/2015/17

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member IM Fordham:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Receives the report on the Aotea Great Barrier ecology conversations.**

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: *Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12.55pm and resumed at 1.30pm*

Secretarial Note: *Item 17 was discussed at this point.*

16 Long-term Plan 2015 - 2025 consultation feedback report for Great Barrier Local Board

Jacqueline Fyers – RM PA/Office Administrator was in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to this report.

A document was tabled in respect of resolution a). A copy of the tabled document has been attached to the official copy of these minutes and can be viewed in the Auckland Council website.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/18

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member IM Fordham:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a) **Confirms an updated list of advocacy points for the discussions with the Budget Committee on 28 April.**
- b) **Requests that the Great Barrier Locally Driven Initiative (LDI) and capex budgets shown in the draft Long-term Plan be retained without further reduction to enable the Great Barrier Local Board's key projects and initiatives to be progressed.**
- c) **Supports the mayor's proposal for additional discretionary capex for local boards noting that the proposed Great Barrier 2015/16 capex budget drops significantly in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and that the proposed additional capex budget will enable the board to continue to deliver key projects for its community.**
- d) **Notes that its draft LDI budget is adequate for the board's needs and that it has already allocated most its LDI and discretionary capex budget to projects.**
- e) **Notes that it would not support a return to a 2.5% rates increase if this resulted in its local LDI or capital budget being reduced.**
- f) **Notes that it has not been provided with sufficient detail on regional asset based services budgets that relate to Great Barrier to establish if any significant reductions are proposed and requests that further clarity on these budgets including overheads be provided as in some cases activity area budgets are significant but there is no specific local projects, inputs or officer time visible on the island.**
- g) **Notes that Long-term Plan feedback from its on island Have Your Say event, on and off island community events and written feedback overwhelmingly opposed the adoption of a full user pays solid waste service for Great Barrier Island.**
- h) **Notes that the proposed charges are an interim arrangement pending implementation of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.**
- i) **Requests that the solid waste subsidy for Great Barrier Island be retained at current levels.**
- j) **Notes that it has worked with the Solid Waste team to reduce operating costs on Great Barrier from \$1400 pa per property to around \$1000 per property but that \$1000 is totally unaffordable and unfair for ratepayers when average annual residential rates are only \$1035 and median household incomes at \$30,300 pa are the lowest for any local board in the region.**
- k) **Supports officer proposals for the following changes to solid waste services on Great Barrier Island to reduce costs**
 - i) **Introducing gate fees at the landfill for all waste excluding recycling;**
 - ii) **Review public opening hours at the landfill during the non-peak season;**
 - iii) **Introduce kerbside recycling though the provision of a crate provided to households;**
 - iv) **Disestablishing all current transfer drop off sites for recyclables;**
 - v) **Review the current transfer refuse drop off sites with the view to reduce the sites from four to two sites available during the non-peak season.**
- l) **Notes its request for rubbish bin removal from beaches.**
- m) **Wishes to continue to work with officers to explore other opportunities to reduce**

- solid waste costs including charging for commercial waste including properties which are not currently paying a waste levy, and noting its belief that local solutions including resource recovery can and should be explored further.
- n) Requests that the governing body expedite the Great Barrier Local Board's request for a delegation to manage cemeteries locally and that proposals consulted on outside of the Long-term Plan to introduce charging not be progressed until this request is considered on the basis that it is the board's intention to fund burial costs from its LDI budget.
 - o) Requests that the governing body agrees to investigate Great Barrier Island being treated as a special case in relation to fees and charges as the principle of removing subsidies and introducing user pays is not workable in a range of areas on Great Barrier.
 - p) Requests that funding for Kauri dieback monitoring not be reduced due to the importance of this disease being adequately managed and the clear central role Auckland Council has in supporting this issue.
 - q) Requests that the governing body urgently confirm the June 2014 resolution of the Parks, Recreation and Sports Committee provisionally allocating \$1m to the purchase of Glenfern Sanctuary noting that the Great Barrier Local Board has confirmed its commitment of \$200,000 to purchase and the Minister of Conservation's 12 April 2015 announcement of a significant government contribution to purchase, to enable funds to ideally be allocated in the current financial year.
 - r) Reiterates its previous opposition to the increased use of chemical weed spraying in parks and its offer to reduce service levels for berm mowing in villages to offset the cost of continued mechanical weed management.
 - s) Notes its submission to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015-2025 (RLTP) asking that funding for the island's transport needs is provided by the governing body at the Auckland Plan programme level and not the basic transport programme level.
 - t) Notes that its RLTP submission also registered its opposition to the proposed regional fuel tax applying to Great Barrier Island on the basis that the island's vehicles seldom go to town and therefore aren't contributing in any way to the problems the tax is aiming to address, that petrol on Great Barrier costs from \$2.60 - \$3.30 per litre and is the most expensive in New Zealand, and that most households and businesses must also buy expensive diesel to power generators.
 - u) Notes that while it continues to advocate to Auckland Transport for funding to seal more of the island's roads on environmental, safety and public health grounds, its focus has now shifted to the use of dust suppressant products and it has investigated these in considerable detail.
 - v) Notes that while a range of dust suppressant products are in use by some other council's, Auckland Transport continues to oppose their use as being uneconomic and asks the governing body to support its request that AT undertake a trial of dust suppressant products on appropriate unsealed Great Barrier roads.

- w) Notes that Stages 2 & 3 of the Shoal Bay wharf at Tryphena is no longer funded in the RLTP. The board doesn't support full upgrade previously funded but wishes to see modest alternatives investigated.
- x) Supports the general intent of Empowered Communities noting that community led community development is already the practise on Great Barrier and offers to showcase its approach to any interested parties.
- y) Thanks Jacqueline Fyers – RM PA/Office Administrator for her attendance and presentation on the Long-term Plan 2015 - 2025 consultation feedback report for Great Barrier Local Board.

CARRIED

Attachments

A Tabled document - Great Barrier Local Board Long-term Plan advocacy points

17 Community group and agency reports

John Ogden from the Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust was in attendance to present to the Great Barrier Environment Committee in respect to this report.

Resolution number GBESP/2015/19

MOVED by Member SP Daly, seconded by Member JJ Gilbert:

That the Great Barrier Environment Committee:

- a. **Receives the March 2015 Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari newsletter and Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust April 2015 report.**
- b. **Thanks John Ogden from the Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust for his attendance and presentation on the Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust April 2015 report.**

CARRIED

18 Consideration of Extraordinary Items

There was no consideration of extraordinary items.

2.20 pm

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE GREAT BARRIER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....