

MINUTES
NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION MEETING
12:45pm, 24 March 2014
Revera House, Thorndon
Wellington

Board Members: J Forbes (Chair), M Barnett, M Bayfield, P Brown, P Mudford, and B Stephenson.

In attendance: M Neeson (Chief Executive), R Cullinane (Operations Manager) and D Knott (Corporate Services Manager).

Opening Comments

The Chair welcomed attendees.

1. Conflict of Interest Register

M Barnett advised the Board that, the context of discussions about public access on Coronet Station pastoral lease, he had been a consultant to Trojan Holdings Limited for a period of 10 years. Trojan Holdings owns NZ Ski which, in turn, owns and operates the Coronet Peak ski field, as well as Mt Hutt and Remarkables ski fields.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the Agenda for the meeting.

2. Confirm Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting dated 10 February 2014 were circulated and read.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2014 as being a true and correct record of the Meeting.

Moved B Stephenson **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

3. Board self-review: 2014

The Board conducted a confidential informal self-review of its performance using a series of questions based on those used by an external facilitator in 2013.

Following its review, the Board invited M Neeson, R Cullinane and D Knott to join the meeting and discussed elements of their review with management.

Action: The Board

- a) **completed** an informal self-review of its performance between March 2013 and March 2014 based on a series of questions used in the previous year; and
- b) **agreed** to invite an external consultant to conduct a formal review in 2015.

Moved B Stephenson **Seconded** P Mudford **Carried**

4. **Statement of Intent and Statement of Performance Expectations for 2014-2018**

The Board received a paper from the chief executive seeking approval for the release of the draft 2014-2018 Statement of Intent (SOI) and Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) to the responsible Minister so that he, and officials, may provide feedback and agreement with the strategic direction the board has adopted and the performance targets proposed to monitor the Commission's progress against those targets.

M Neeson added that the draft SOI and SPE reflected feedback from the Board's February meeting and Audit New Zealand and that the board needs to be confident that the SOI appropriately outlines the Commission's strategic goals and that the measures in the SPE will provide useful information to the board, especially as there is a cost to conducting surveys for several measures.

Action: The Board

- a) **approved** the release of the draft 2014-2018 Statement of Intent and Statement of Performance Expectations to the responsible Minister for consideration; and
- b) **agreed** that any further changes to the draft 2014-2018 Statement of Intent or Statement of Performance Expectations will be managed by email or telephone unless the Minister's comments are substantive and require a board meeting.

Moved B Stephenson **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

5. **Chief executive's report**

The Board received and discussed the chief executive's report.

M Neeson reported that the Select Committee had completed its 2012-2013 financial review and that the resultant report reflected favourably on the Commission; the Tophouse/Rainbow Road report would some require additional research and analysis, and that the "Results Library", for inclusion on the Commission's corporate web site to provide a publicly accessible, comprehensive and concise picture of the Commission's results, was making good progress.

With the announcement of the general election in September 2014, M Neeson reported that he had circulated a copy of the Commission's media management guidelines and State Services Commission advice on media management to board members and staff.

The board discussed the briefing from M Jebson and P Kirby from the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII NT) regarding Coronet Peak's leaseholder (Soho Properties Limited) intentions to covenant access walkways on Coronet Peak and adjacent landholdings. M Neeson advised that, prior to finalising the Commission's position and making recommendations for the board, he was seeking legal advice regarding the proposed arrangement between QEII NT and Soho Properties and its implications for the New Zealand Walking Access Commission.

Action: The Board

- a) **agreed** that the chairman write to the Minister for Primary Industries and brief him on progress regarding the QEII NT's proposed access arrangement for Coronet Peak and adjacent landholdings; and
- b) **agreed** that the board's preferred option is to secure public access by way of an easement to co-exist with any other option. Other options include the arrangement as proposed by the QEII NT and gazetted walkways, noting that the latter requires appointing controlling authorities.

Meeting closed 1:50pm.



J Forbes
Chairperson

Notes

In the morning of 24 March the board held a workshop which covered the following topics:

M Neeson gave a presentation to the board on the role and responsibilities of Crown entities and board members. The presentation used material supplied by the State Services Commission. The implications of changes in 2013 to the Crown Entities Act and the forthcoming general election were discussed.

R Cullinane briefed the board on progress with establishing walkways on Coronet Peak and adjacent landholdings. This was followed by a briefing from M Jebson (chief executive) and P Kirby (legal counsel) from the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust regarding their options for securing public access on Coronet Peak and adjacent landholdings.

R Cullinane briefed the board on proposals to develop and improve the recreation layer on the walking access mapping system.

