

MINUTES
NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
22 February 2018
Kerikeri

Board Members: J Forbes (Chair), P Mudford, P Brown and R McNeill.

In attendance: E Pyle (Chief Executive), P Culling (Corporate Services Manager), A Wilson-Goldman (Communications Manager), M Fleck (Senior Analyst), J Gardiner (Regional Field Advisor).

Opening Comments

The meeting commenced at 9am

The Chair welcomed Board members and staff and P Brown opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

An apology was received by B Stuart who was unable to make the meeting due to travel disruptions caused by Cyclone Gita.

Conflicts of Interest

P Mudford declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 12a on the agenda Kawakawa Station dispute.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

2. Confirm Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Auckland on 22 November 2017 were circulated and read.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the minutes of the 22 November 2017 meeting as being a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chief Executive's report

The Board discussed the Chief Executive's report for February 2018.

E Pyle reported on; plans underway for the 2018 interim audit, the 2018 top outdoor spot competition, recruitment of a Policy and Partnership Advisor, Aspinall scholarships, the Commission's relationship with the Overseas Investment Office, Taranaki tracks and trails strategy, Rodney Access Network Strategy, WAMS missing data, DOC short walks, LINZ and easements on the Coronet Peak/Soho properties, and the methodology being developed to measure the length of New Zealand waterways and coastal areas with access.

The Chief Executive's report also included an update on the projects the Commission is currently working on - South Island High Country, Auckland peri-urban (Puhoi-Warkworth-Matakana), Ruahines, Upper North Island, Central North Island and the Marlborough/Kaikoura road re-build.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the Chief Executive's report for November 2017.

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

4. Taranaki Tracks and Trails initiative

E Pyle presented a paper that updated the Board on the pilot project the Commission has with Sport Taranaki and the Department of Conservation (DoC). The aim of the project is to develop a tracks and trails strategy for the Taranaki region, seeking buy-in from; Councils, DoC, Sport Taranaki, iwi and recreation groups.

A team from Lincoln University Design Lab has been contracted by the Commission to develop landscape-level plans that will integrate a range of activities, including access, urban form, agricultural activities, tourism, recreation, and iwi interests.

The issues identified in the Taranaki region are likely to be similar for other areas of New Zealand and the work aims to develop a process that can be used in other areas

E Pyle advised the Board that the next steps in the pilot project was for the Design lab to present the initial findings from its work to Sport Taranaki, DoC, and the Commission in early March 2018.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the report and the issues it contained.

5. Review of the Walking Access Act – third paper

E Pyle presented the Board with the third paper in a series of papers designed to build a shared view among staff and the Board of the Commission's past, current and future role. The challenges the Commission faces and the various roles it could play was the focus of the paper.

E Pyle outlined the process for the *Walking Access Act* review and the role of MPI in that process.

The Board discussed access issues New Zealand is facing and where the Commission was positioned to be involved. The wording and intention of the *Walking Access Act* was discussed. It was agreed that a facilitated strategic planning workshop be organised to fully address the issues raised by the Chief Executive and the Board around the role and future direction of the Commission, walking access legislation, two Ministerial inquiry reports from several years ago, and the upcoming review.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the third paper on the review of the *Walking Access Act*.
- b) **agreed** that a strategic planning workshop be held on the possible future role of the Commission

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

6. Kauri dieback (KDB)

E Pyle presented a paper to inform the Board about KDB, its implications for access to the upper North Island and the possible actions open to the Commission in relation to KDB.

The Board paper outlined the background of KDB in the New Zealand kaurilands, KDB's spread and the Commission's management opinion that KDB will be the largest access issue in New Zealand's history in terms of the impact on people and where they will be allowed to visit and walk. E Pyle informed the Board that the Auckland Council was moving to close access to Kauri areas after consultation with the public.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the paper on Kauri dieback.
- b) **noted** the work being undertaken by the Auckland Council and Department of Conservation in the area of KDB.
- c) **agreed** that the Commission has a role to play in the issue of kauri dieback.

Moved P Brown **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

7. **Draft 2018/19 Statement of Performance Expectations and 2018-2022 Statement of Intent**

M Fleck presented a paper seeking the Board's comments on the drafts of the 2018/19 Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) and the 2018-2022 Statement of Intent (SOI).

The Board were informed that the layout and style of the Commission's current SOI and SPE had been changed to reflect a more modern and succinct style. The changes were based on recommendations from Audit New Zealand who used the SPE and SOI of the Broadcasting Standards Authority as an exemplar.

In addition, the Board discussed projected revenue and expenditure budgets for the 5-year period 2018/19 to 2022/23, a comparison of actual 2016/17 revenue and expenditure with the proposed 2018/19 budget, and projected financial outlook showing funding, expenditure, cash balance and equity from 2018 to 2023.

Action: The Board

- a) **reviewed** the drafts of the 2018/19 SPE and 2018-2022 SOI.
- b) **agreed** to provide feedback to staff by 27 February 2018.
- c) **noted** that near-final drafts of the SPE and SOI will be provided for Ministerial review by 30 April 2018.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Mudford **Carried**

8. **Revised outcomes framework and performance measures for 2018/19**

M Fleck presented a paper on the proposed outcomes framework and performance measures for the Commission. The measures are intended to be included in the Statement of Performance Expectations for reporting purposes in 2018/19.

The proposed new outcomes framework is a result of a recommendation from Audit Zealand.

Action: The Board

- a) **reviewed** the revised outcomes framework and performance measures
- b) **agreed** that the revised outcomes framework and performance measures be reported to the Board for sign off at the next Board meeting in April.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

9. **Rodney Access Network Strategy**

E Pyle presented a paper updating the Board on the Rodney Access Network Strategy (RANS). The paper outlined the objective of the RANS which is to deliver an access

plan for the Rodney area that would identify the best options for a network of tracks and trails, associated public access requirements and securing of access.

An integral part of the RANS is the employment of a Programme Manager to drive the project and deliver results. The Chief Executive informed the Board that options included employing the Programme Manager directly with the Auckland Council meeting any overheads associated with the role, or Auckland Council employing the Programme Manager and the Commission transfer money to the Council to fund this.

Either option requires a close partnership with Auckland Council, which is essential along with substantial engagement with the Matakana Trails Trust.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** the next steps in setting up the RANS.
- b) **delegated** to the Chief Executive the authority to enter into negotiations with the Auckland Council over the employment of a RANS Programme Manager.
- c) **agreed** the Chief Executive should report back to the Board on the final arrangements for employing a RANS Programme Manager.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Mudford **Carried**

10. South Island High Country

A Wilson-Goldman presented the Board with a final draft of the South Island High Country (SIHC) report and asked for feedback on the next steps in the project. These next steps involve sending the completed draft SIHC report to the 55 people who were interviewed as part of the project and giving them the opportunity to provide feedback.

When the feedback is received it will be incorporated into an updated draft report that will be released for wider circulation through the Commission's digital channels and also directly to stakeholders.

A final report is expected to be published in early April.

The final report will be sent to the Mayors and Chief Executives of all South Island Councils prior to discussion at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 5 and 6 meeting on 20 April 2018.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the draft SIHC report and agreed to provide feedback by February 25.
- b) **noted** that the draft report will be sent to interviewees and to the public for general consultation.
- c) **noted** that the Commission's Chair, Chief Executive and Communications Manager will present the final report to the LGNZ Zone 5 and 6 meeting on 20 April 2018.

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

11. Overseas Investment Office cost recovery

E Pyle presented a paper that sought Board approval for management to pursue cost recovery for Overseas Investment Office (OIO) cases.

The Board was informed that between \$300,000 and \$500,000 of the Commission's resources were used annually on involvement in OIO cases which equates to approximately 25% of the Commission's core funding.

Management expect that the amount of Commission time and effort in OIO cases will remain the same in the short term with a possible reduction in work required on applications to purchase farmland in the medium term as the number of these applications reduce.

Options for the Commission recovering costs from the OIO include, working with the OIO to develop a cost recovery regime, and advocating fees for the Commission on OIO case work during the next OIO regulation review.

Action: The Board

- a) **agreed** that the Commission pursue cost recovery options for its involvement and management of OIO cases,

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

12. Kawakawa Station dispute

E Pyle presented the Board with a paper providing background on an Overseas Investment Office (OIO) case involving the OIO granted consent for the purchase of Kawakawa Station. The key issue is walking access to the Kawakawa Hut in the Aorangi Forest Park.

A dispute has arisen between the consent applicant and the Commission on access recommendations with a strong likelihood that the dispute resolution process in the conditions of the OIO consent would be triggered. The Board agreed that the Commission should pursue walking access to the Kawakawa Hut.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** the strong likelihood that the Commission would become involved in mediation and possibly arbitration in this case.
b) **agreed** that management pursue this matter through the mediation process.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

13. Hunter Valley Station Easement

E Pyle presented the Board with a paper confirming the Board's agreement to progress an application to the Commissioner of Crown Land (CCL) for a walkway easement on parts of Hunter Valley Station.

The aim of the easement would be to provide managed walking, cycling, horseback, and vehicle access on parts of Hunter Valley Station enabling access to the head of Lake Hawea and Hawea Conservation Park.

The access conditions for the Hunter Valley Station road provided for formalisation of existing informal access. Since the sale of the Hunter Valley Station public access has been restricted even over legal roads.

The Board expressed its concern about the actions of the Hunter Valley Station leaseholders and their sublessees and reiterated its wish for managed public access.

Action: The Board

- a) **agreed** that the Commission apply to the Commissioner of Crown land for a walking easement over the Hunter Valley Station road for walking, mountain biking, horseback and vehicle access on a managed basis.
- b) **noted** that public interest in this issue will be high.

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

14. Revocation of part of the Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway

E Pyle presented a paper to the Board seeking approval to revoke part of the Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway that had to be realigned due to damage caused by cyclone Debbie in April 2017. In accordance with the Commissions delegation of statutory functions and powers the Board is required to approve revocation of all or part of a walkway.

Action: The Board

- a) **approved** the revocation of part of the Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway.
- b) **requested** that the new section of the walkway be registered contemporaneously.

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

15. Quarterly Report 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017

The completed Quarterly Report to December 2017 was given to the Board for information.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** the completed Quarterly Report to December 2017.

16. Significant correspondence

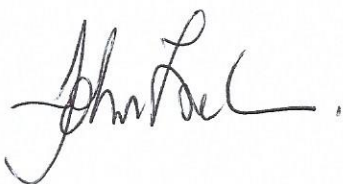
Inwards

The report to the Board by Audit New Zealand for the audit completed for the year ended 30 June 2017 was noted. Audit New Zealand assessed the Commission's management control environment as very good, financial information and controls as very good and service performance information and associated systems and controls as good.

17. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on in Wellington on April 11 and 12

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Forbes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J Forbes
Chairperson