



**District Plan Committee meeting
Held on Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 9.00am
at Selwyn District Council,
Rolleston**

Present: Mayor S Broughton, Councillors M Alexander, M Lemon, D Hasson, N Reid, B Mugford, P McEvedy, J Bland, C Watson, J Morten, Mr D Ward (CEO Selwyn District Council), Ms T Wati (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga), Mr H Matunga (Te Taumutu Rūnanga) and Mr T Harris (Chair).

In attendance: Messrs' J Burgess (Planning Manager), S Hill (Business Relationship Manager), B Rhodes (Strategy & Policy Team Leader), R Love (Strategy and Policy Planner), B Baird (Strategy and Policy Planner), A Mactier (Strategy and Policy Planner, Mesdames' J Lewes (Strategy and Policy Planner), R Carruthers (Strategy and Policy Planner), N Brown (District Plan Administrator) and T Van der Velde (District Plan Administrator & Note taker).

Standing Items:

1. Apologies

P Skelton (Environment Canterbury), Councillor Miller and Councillor Lyall for absence, and Councillor Hasson and Councillor Bland for lateness.

Moved – Councillor Lemon / **Seconded** – Councillor Alexander

‘That the apologies received from the above Councillors be received for information.’

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. Deputations by Appointment

Nil.

4. Outstanding Issues Register

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Taken as read and accepted.

Moved – The Mayor / Seconded – Councillor Mugford

‘That the Committee accepts the minutes of the 13/02/2019 as being true and correct’.

CARRIED

6. Preferred Option Report and Communications and Engagement Summary Plan - Vegetation and Ecosystems

Mr Mactier spoke to his report. The District Plan Committee (DPC) endorsed the establishment of the Biodiversity Working Group. The preferred options are the result of over 12 months of work by the Biodiversity Working Group over 10 meetings and two field trips. The outcome is the three recommendations brought to the committee today.

‘Councillor Hasson in 9.03am’

The provisions are fairly well developed however there is further work to do in regards to tidying up minor parts in the provisions. This will be actioned before the May DPC Workshop where there will be opportunity for the Committee to discuss matters more in-depth.

In summary there is not a significant departure from the current operative provisions, there are some slight differences, however mostly broadly in line. Mr Mactier went on to discuss Appendix 1 in the report which provides a summary of the recommendations for the District Plan provisions.

Mr Mactier discussed Federated Farmers late feedback to the Biodiversity Working Groups final recommendation. It was confirmed that Federated Farmers had a representative in the Biodiversity Working Group that made the recommendations.

Mr Mactier discussed the recommendation from the Biodiversity Working Group that subject to amended terms of reference, and consideration of the proposal by full Council the District Plan Committee supports the continuation of the Biodiversity Working Group to support Council with implementation of indigenous biodiversity related initiatives.

A Committee member supported the continuation of the Biodiversity Working Group, however had concerns over Fish and Game's involvement in the group given their advocacy role in protecting introduced species that predate on native biodiversity.

'Councillor Bland in 9.15am'

The Chair clarified that the continuation of the Biodiversity Working Group is not a decision for the DPC as there are workstreams involved that will go beyond the District Plan and that should be addressed at the full Council meeting.

(Recommendation from this committee is that this issue be considered at full Council meeting).

Discussions were held over concerns for the potential duplication of work that Environment Canterbury have already done and whether the working group should cover more than Biodiversity.

Mr Mactier clarified any duplication will be addressed at the integration phase, noting that one of the principles of the district plan review is not to duplicate the functions of Environment Canterbury.

A Committee member asked if there was any economic analysis presented to the Biodiversity group and raised concerns about Council not considering the impact of landowners at early stages.

The Chair clarified that the Section 32 work looks into the effectiveness and efficiency of the provisions including economic analysis.

Mr Rhodes added Council needs to determine what the provisions are first then economic analysis can be provided.

Mr Mactier spoke to his presentation titled 'Vegetation and Ecosystems Improved Pasture Alternative'. The problem with the current definition of improved pasture is the uncertainty the definition creates for the land user/landowner, the Council and associated agencies, resulting in additional time and costs for all parties of any investigation, some of which may not be warranted. The ultimate outcome of this uncertainty is the continued clearance of areas of indigenous vegetation, some of which may be deemed significant areas of indigenous biodiversity, which should be subject to assessment through a resource consent process.

The potential alternative is to identify and map areas of improved pasture and areas of high and moderate indigenous biodiversity habitat. Map examples and case studies of the alternative approach were presented to the committee. The pros and cons of the potential alternative was discussed.

Committee members were in support of investigating the feasibility of the alternative mapping approach which will provide greater certainty to landowners, Council and stakeholders about where vegetation clearance rules apply.

1. Moved – Councillor Lemon / **Seconded** – Councillor McEvedy

Recommendation

‘That the Committee:

- a) Notes the report.*
- b) Endorses the Preferred Options for ‘Vegetation and Ecosystems’ for further development and engagement, including:*
 - (1) Further refinement and integration of the recommended provisions outlined in Appendix 1 to the report;*
 - (2) The establishment of a parallel process to investigate the feasibility of an alternative to the proposed improved pasture definition to assist in managing and protecting indigenous biodiversity;*
 - (3) That, subject to the development of amended ‘Biodiversity Working Group Terms of Reference’ and wider Council initiatives, the District Plan Committee supports the continuation of the Biodiversity Working Group to support Council with the implementation of indigenous biodiversity related initiatives.*
- c) Notes the summary plan.’*

CARRIED