

Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Friday 21 April 2023, 9.30 am
- Venue:** Council Chambers, Regional House, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga
- Chairperson:** Mayor Tania Tapsell – Rotorua Lakes Council (appointed at the meeting)
- Deputy Chairperson:** Mayor Victor Luca – Whakatāne District Council (appointed at the meeting)
- Members:** Chairman Doug Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Commission Chair Anne Tolley – Tauranga City Council
Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council
Mayor David Moore – Ōpōtiki District Council
Mayor James Denyer – Western Bay of Plenty District Council
- In Attendance:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Chief Executive Fiona McTavish
Kawerau District Council: Chief Executive Russell George
Ōpōtiki District Council: Chief Executive Stace Lewer
Rotorua Lakes Council: Chief Executive Geoff Williams
Tauranga City Council; Chief Executive Marty Grenfell
Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Chief Executive John Holyoake
Whakatāne District Council: Chief Executive Stephanie O’Sullivan
- James Hughes – Tonkin & Taylor (via Zoom), John Hutchings – Hutch Consulting Ltd and Graeme Campbell – Greater Wellington Regional Council (via Zoom), Nic Newman – Climate Change Programme Manager, Jane Palmer – Senior Planner Climate Change, Steve Perdia – Whakatāne District Council (via Zoom); Tone Nerdrum Smith – Committee Advisor
- Apologies:** Mayor David Trewavas and Acting Chief Executive and Julie Gardyne – Taupō District Council

1. Opening and Welcome

Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive Bay of Plenty Regional Council opened the meeting, welcomed those present and advised that she would chair the meeting until the Chairperson had been appointed.

Noted that the Mayoral Forum would be recorded, but not livestreamed, and that the recording would be uploaded to the Regional Council's website after the meeting [Mayoral Forum Zoom Video Recording - 21 April 2021 - YouTube](#)

A karakia was provided by Chief Executive McTavish.

2. Apologies

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Mayor Trewavas and Acting Chief Executive Gardyne - Taupō District Council for absence tendered at the meeting.**

**Tapsell/Tolley
CARRIED**

3. Items not on the Agenda

Three Waters Discussion

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Includes Three Waters in the Workplan Discussion.**

**Tolley/Leeder
CARRIED**

4. Minutes

Minutes to be Confirmed

4.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 8 June 2022

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 8 June 2022 as a true and correct record.**

**Tolley/Tunui
CARRIED**

5. Reports

Decisions Required

5.1 Appointment of Chairperson for the 2022-2025 Triennium and Other Mayoral Forum Matters

Chief Executive McTavish facilitated the process for appointing a Chairperson for the Mayoral Forum.

Nominations for Chairperson:

Nominations were called for the appointment of the Chairperson.

Mayor Tania Tapsell was nominated for the Chairperson position. No further nominations were received.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Appointment of Chairperson for the 2022-2025 Triennium and Other Mayoral Forum Matters;**
- 2 Appoints Mayor Tania Tapsell - Rotorua Lakes Council as the Chairperson for the 2022-2025 triennium;**
- 3 Notes that the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Triennial Agreement was signed by all Bay of Plenty local government councils on 27 February 2023, and the Protocol for Bay of Plenty Resource Management Act Policy and Plans has been updated and also signed by all Bay of Plenty local government councils and the Minister of Local Government.;**

**Denyer/Tunui
CARRIED**

Members agreed that it would be appropriate to also appoint a Deputy Chairperson for the 2022-2025 triennium.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Appoints Mayor Victor Luca - Whakatāne District Council as the Deputy Chairperson for the 2022-2025 triennium.**

**Tapsell/Moore
CARRIED**

Chief Executive McTavish **vacated** the chair and Mayor Tapsell **assumed** the chair.

5.2 Bay of Plenty Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment

Presentation - BoP Climate Change Risk Assessment pdf - 21 April 2023 Mayoral Forum: Objective ID A4356804

Presented by: James Hughes -Tonkin + Taylor via Zoom.

Nic Newman - Climate Change Programme Manager and Jane Palmer - Senior Planner Climate Change attended for this item to respond to any questions.

Key Points of Presentation:

- Would cover the following in the presentation:
 - Purpose and objectives of risk assessment

- Approach
- Regional summary of risks
- District summary of risks
- Sectoral summary of risks
- Next steps.

Key Points - Members:

- Acknowledged the industries and organisations already operating in this space, e.g. Zespri and Horizon
- Queried if risk had been underestimated, i.e. that thinking was too linear; cascading risks; mass migrations; water shortages; increasing temperatures causing changes such as algae bloom
- Sought clarification around the Kawerau involvement in the risk assessment project
- Although infrastructure appeared resilient, cumulative effects could cause significant and unexpected issues.

In Response to Questions:

- Modelling of climate risk featured a high level of uncertainty and if 'tipping points' were introduced, the projections were likely to become unreliable
- Some community self-management was required in the climate change impact space
- Design standards for new/urban developments was an ongoing challenge due to existing vs projected climate change impacts and requirements
- A range of specific risks could be extracted from the assessment and be assessed at a local level through the respective councils' work programmes
- Avoiding building communities in at-risk areas would significantly assist in addressing future issues.

Key Points - Staff:

- Noted that a number of councils were already progressing and prioritising this work, in particular Tauranga City Council.

Next Steps:

- Issue a joint media release regarding this work stream, then provide information to all councils to enable the necessary conversations
- Major outputs would include the progression on Regional Spatial Plans; the Regional Land Transport Plan and the future development plans being undertaken in parts of the Bay of Plenty region
- Ask the technical working group to continue the work for report back at the Mayoral Forum on 11 August 2023 on the respective councils' perspective on using the risk assessment outputs and intended next steps at a local level.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment;**
- 2 Confirms public release of the risk assessment outputs;**

**Luca/Tunui
CARRIED**

3 Agrees the following next steps for Mayoral Forum involvement in work based on the risk assessment outputs:

- **Technical Working Group to continue the work for report back at the Mayoral Forum on 11 August 2023 on the respective councils' perspective on using the risk assessment outputs and intended next steps at a local level.**

**Tolley/Denyer
CARRIED**

10.20 am – The meeting adjourned.

10.30 am – The meeting reconvened.

5.3 Mayoral Forum Workplan Discussion

Key Points - Members:

- Commission Chair Tolley introduced the Three Waters discussion, seeking that staff provide an update on what was currently taking place and its impact on local government, including legislative changes
- Substantive workstreams were currently taking place within councils across the region
- A key message from Water Entity B was retaining the momentum; showing leadership; and achieve best outcomes for the community
- Long Term Plan deliverability was significantly affected across the wider regions due to the recovery work required following Cyclone Gabrielle
- Encouraged thinking 'beyond the political' and working both across the region and nationally
- Councils needed to decide whether to be early adopters vs late followers
- Noted that the Forum's workplan would include:
 - Three Waters
 - Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Continues the collaborative Three Waters work across the Bay of Plenty by local authorities to develop operational synergies and capability with an update scheduled to be presented to the Mayoral Forum;**
- 2 Agrees that governance requirements for the establishment of the regional entity be reported and presented to the Mayoral Forum by an appropriate member of the National Transition Unit;**
- 3 Schedules an informal meeting of the Mayoral Forum to be held within one month for the purpose detailed above.**

**Tolley/Denyer
CARRIED**

5.4 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Work Plan for 2022-2025 Triennium

Steve Perdia – Whakatāne District Council attended for this item (via Zoom).

Chief Executive McTavish introduced the report.

Key Points - Steve Perdia - Whakatāne District Council:

- Provided an outline of the establishment of the Environment Canterbury (ECan) Mayoral Forum
- Annual work programmes were agreed to
- It was challenging for mayors to operate and act across the region, and significant discussion and agreement regarding how this would work had been important
- Being allocated a portfolio/responsibility had provided mayors with the ability to work cross-regionally and start thinking regionally, rather than locally
- The independent secretariat role at ECan had proven highly effective as it went beyond administration, and rather provided advice and direction for the Mayoral Forum.

Key Points - Members:

- Unlike Canterbury, there were five new mayors across the Bay of Plenty Region, which carried its own challenges with regards to a portfolio approach
- Considered there might be times where local requirements would trump mayors prioritising regional issues and interests
- Advocating on behalf of the Bay of Plenty region represented an opportunity for the Mayoral Forum as a regional approach would more likely have an impact on central government
- The 'Future Proof' initiative in the Waikato region (similar to SmartGrowth) was expanding into spatial planning due to the Region's continued growth and the need for increased funding towards infrastructure and services
- Suggested that the portfolio approach, drawing on each Mayor's strength and local needs, could have merit but also be challenging to deliver effectively.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Work Plan for 2022-2025 Triennium.**

**Moore/Luca
CARRIED**

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 2 Agrees to discuss and develop a Mayoral Forum work plan, with initial discussions starting at the April 2023 Forum meeting;**
- 3 Notes that the Mayoral Forum may consider portfolios as part of how they wish to progress their work plan;**
- 4 Notes that the Forum may need to reconsider the Regional Planning Committee after the Resource Management legislation is passed;**
- 5 Progresses discussion at the informal meeting to be scheduled in a month's time.**

**Luca/Tunui
CARRIED**

5.5 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Independent Secretariat for 2022-2025 Triennium

Key Points:

- Noted that as the establishment of an Independent Secretariat would require funding in the BOPRC 2023/24 Annual Plan, and that this would have to be taken into account in the timeframes.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Agrees that this matter be left to lie on the table for discussion at a future meeting.**

**Tolley/Tunui
CARRIED**

5.6 Before the Deluge: Co-Investment with Central Government

Presentation - Before the Deluge Co-investment Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum 21 April 2023 pdf: Objective ID A4361866

Presented by: John Hutchings - Hutch Consulting Ltd and Graeme Campbell - Greater Wellington Regional Council (via Zoom).

Chairman Leeder provided an introduction of this item.

Key Points - Members:

- Commission Chair Tolley, as the local government representative on the Kānoa Community Resilience Advisory Board, welcomed and encouraged the opportunity to work with the Mayoral Forum and the presenters on this matter
- Recognised this was a matter of risk *management*, rather than risk *elimination*, which was not a viable concept
- A number of the flood management solutions were relatively old, i.e. 50-60 years, when engineering practices were less stringent than what was required today
- Flood protection/resilience - e.g. flood walls - could only be built/developed to a certain level after which they became non-sustainable
- Recognised the challenge of not allowing people to rebuild homes damaged through flooding/weather events due to being too high risk
- Regional Council was working with communities regarding affordable options in areas where the '1 in 100 weather event' levels of service were not currently met
- The Kawerau community supported the approach and concept of the proposed risk management
- Suggested that the presenters could favourably connect the recently established Tarawera Restoration Strategy Group and the Regional Transport Committee

- Increasing debt within river schemes meant management and intervention would have to be seriously and cautiously considered.

In Response to Questions:

- Would circulate the summary of the Shovel Ready project prioritisation to the Mayoral Forum
- Noted that there were four Shovel Ready projects located in the Bay of Plenty, pertaining to stopbank upgrades and river/flood management
- If funding was not forthcoming, the projects would still proceed at a slower pace
- Prioritisation of flood protection programmes was a challenge, in particular following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

Receives the report, Before the Deluge.

**Tolley/Leeder
CARRIED**

6. Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tapsell.

12.05 pm - the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED

Mayor Tania Tapsell
Rotorua Lakes Council