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**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

**9.15AM**

**Committee Room 1,  
Ground Floor, Council Offices,  
101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor Prendergast (Chair)  
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer (9.15 – 11.11am, 11.16 – 11.31am)  
Councillor Best  
Councillor Coughlan  
Councillor Foster (9.21 – 11.31am)  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Goulden  
Councillor McKinnon  
Councillor Pannett (9.19 – 11.31am)  
Councillor Pepperell  
Councillor Wade-Brown  
Councillor Wain

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Cook  
Councillor Morrison  
Councillor Ritchie

022/08P **APOLOGIES**  
(1215/52/IM)

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

- 1. Receive apologies for absence from Councillors Cook, Morrison and Ritchie.*

023/08P **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**  
(1215/52/IM)

**NOTED:**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

024/08P **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
(1215/52/IM)

**NOTED:**

1. Tom Law, on behalf of the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents' (FWPRA) Associations addressed the Committee on the outcome of discussions that the Federation had with Elected Members. He presented a document summarising these discussions and recommending changes that could be made.

(Councillor Pannett joined the meeting at 9.19am.)

025/08P **PETITIONS**  
(1215/52/IM)

**NOTED:**

The City Secretary presented a petition on behalf of Mr Kingsley Hannah, of Christchurch, titled "Don't kill the pigeons! Sign if you want the pigeon problem in Wellington City solved humanely". This petition had 770 signatures.

**Moved Mayor Prendergast, seconded Councillor Best the following motion:**

THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. Receive the petition and refer to officers to inform their work.

**The motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the petition and refer to officers to inform their work.*

(Councillor Foster joined the meeting at 9.21am.)

026/08P **ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE GROUP - UPDATE**  
Report of Ken Bowater – Senior Policy Advisor.  
(1215/52/IM) (REPORT 1)

**NOTED:**

Mike Ennis, Chair of the Environmental Reference Group was invited to join the meeting at the table and answer questions.

**Moved Councillor Wade-Brown, seconded Councillor Foster the substantive motion.**

**The substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that vacancies have been advertised publicly and new members appointed to the Environmental Reference Group.*
3. *Note that amendments to the Terms of Reference will be considered later this year within the wider review of the Council's advisory/reference groups initiated in 2007.*

027/08P **ELECTION SYSTEM FOR FUTURE LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS**  
Report of Ross Bly – Special Projects and Electoral Officer.  
(1215/52/IM) (REPORT 2)

**Moved Councillor McKinnon, seconded Councillor Best, the substantive motion.**

**Moved Councillor Wade-Brown, seconded Councillor Pannett the following amendment:**

Replace officers' recommendations 4 and 5 with -

- “4. Note that the current electoral system will continue in effect for all subsequent elections until a resolution of the Council to change its electoral system or a poll of electors takes effect, whichever occurs first.
5. Recommend to Council that a sum of \$185,000 be provided for in the 2008/2009 annual budget allocated to Democratic Services for the

costs of running the poll in the event a successful demand is received from electors by 28 February 2009 for a poll to be held.

6. Recommend to Council that, if as a result of a successful demand, a poll of electors is held and the result of that poll is to revert back to the FPP electoral system, consideration be given to undertaking another representation review in 2009.
7. Recommend to Council that a poll of electors be held in conjunction with the 2010 triennial elections to determine what electoral system will be used at the 2013 and 2016 local authority elections.  
Note: This poll will not be necessary in the event a successful public demand is received before 28 February 2009 requesting that a poll on this issue be held prior to the 2010 triennial election.”

**The amendment was put and DIVISION called:**

Voting for: Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Foster, Pannett, Pepperell and Wade-Brown.

Voting against: Mayor Prendergast, Councillors Best, Coughlan, Gill, Goulden, McKinnon, and Wain.

Majority vote: 5:7

**The amendment was declared LOST.**

**Moved Councillor Foster the following amendment:**

Replace officers' recommendation 4 with -

“4. Recommend to Council that it determines the method of voting for the next election.”

**The amendment FAILED for want of a seconder.**

**The substantive motion recommendations 1, 2 and 3 were put and declared CARRIED.**

**The substantive motion recommendations 4a, b, c, d, e, f, and 5 were put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED AND RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*

2. *Note that changes to, or retention of the current electoral system for the 2010 local authority elections can be initiated by the Council, or its community, in the following ways:*
- *Council can resolve by resolution (no later than 12 September 2008), to change or retain its current electoral system. Electors have the ability to challenge that decision and can force the Council to hold a poll on the matter, the result of which is binding for the next two triennial elections and any associated elections.*
  - *The public can demand by way of a petition (to be received by 28 February 2009) that a poll be held to decide which electoral system should be used for the 2010 election.*
  - *The Council can itself resolve to hold a poll on the issue, the result of which is binding for the next two triennial elections and any associated elections.*

*Any poll held under these provisions must be held no later than 21 May 2009 in order to take effect at the 2010 triennial elections.*

3. *Note that Council must give public notice, on or before 19 September 2008, of any resolution passed by 12 September 2008 and of the right of 5% of electors to demand that a poll be held to determine the electoral system to be used for the 2010 local authority elections.*
4. *Recommend to Council that:*
- (a) a poll of electors be initiated to determine the electoral system to be used at the 2010 and 2013 local authority elections*
  - (b) the poll be held on Saturday 27 September 2008 and be conducted using the postal voting method*
  - (c) the poll be conducted using the First Past the Post electoral system.*
  - (d) a sum of \$185,000 be provided for in the 2008/2009 annual budget allocated to Democratic Services for the costs of running the poll*
  - (e) the Electoral Officer be permitted, subject to strict compliance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, to progressively process the voting documents during the three week period prior to 12 noon on polling day (Saturday 27 September 2008).*
  - (f) the wording of the electoral system proposal, to be included on the voting documents, be as follows:*

*“The Local Electoral Act 2001 gives local authorities a choice of two electoral systems for electing its members. The two options are the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system.*

*The Wellington City Council has used the STV electoral system to elect its members, and the members of its two community boards, since 2004. The Council has decided to hold a poll of electors to determine which system will be used to elect its members at the triennial elections to be held in 2010 and 2013.*

*If a majority of the votes cast in this poll are in favour of the present STV electoral system, as provided for in the Local Electoral Act 2001, the method of electing members of the Wellington City Council and its community boards at the 2010 and 2013 local authority elections will remain by way of the STV electoral system.*

*If a majority of the votes cast in this poll are in favour of the FPP electoral system, as provided for in the Local Electoral Act 2001, the method of electing members of the Wellington City Council and its community boards at the 2010 and 2013 local authority elections will be by way of the FPP electoral system.*

*To vote, place a “√” clearly within the box next to the option you wish to vote for. You can vote for only one (1) option.*

*I vote for the **Single Transferable Vote (STV)** electoral system*

*I vote for the **First Past the Post (FPP)** electoral system”*

5. *Recommend to Council that, if a poll of electors is held and the result of that poll is to revert back to the FPP electoral system, consideration be given to undertaking another representation review in 2009.*

(The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.31am and reconvened at 10.48am.)

028/08P **PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE 63: GENERAL AND MINOR AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT PLAN TEXT AND MAPS**  
Report of Jason Jones – Planning and Resource Management Technician.  
(1215/52/IM) (REPORT 3)

**Moved Councillor Foster, seconded Councillor Wain, the substantive motion.**

**The substantive motion as amended was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*

2. *Agree to publicly notify the proposed plan change (DPC63), as set out in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, in accordance with the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
3. *Adopt the Section 32 Report attached as Appendix 2 to the officer's report.*

029/08P

**LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH BYLAW REPORT BACK AFTER CONSULTATION**

Report of Mathew Powell – Senior Policy Advisor.  
(1215/52/IM)

(REPORT 4)

**Moved Councillor Best, seconded Councillor Pannett the substantive motion.**

**The substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED AND RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that 8 written submissions were received and that 1 oral submission was heard by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 5 December 2007.*
4. *Agree that the special consultative procedure has been completed pursuant to sections 86 and 156 of the Local Government Act 2002.*
5. *Agree that the Bill of Rights Act 1990 implications have been considered for the proposed Local Public Health Bylaw and that the bylaw is appropriate in accordance with section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002.*
6. *Recommend to the Council that it:*
  - a. *Note that the Strategy and Policy Committee considered the submissions received in response to the Statement of Proposal for the proposed Local Public Health Bylaw.*
  - b. *Agree that the special consultative procedure has been completed pursuant to sections 86 and 156 of the Local Government Act 2002.*
  - c. *Agree that the Bill of Rights Act 1990 implications have been considered for the proposed Local Public Health Bylaw and that*

*the bylaw is appropriate in accordance with section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

- d. *Agree to revoke the following parts of the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw attached as Appendix 3 - Part 22 – Food Premises (incorporating amendment no 5), Part 9 – Commercial Pools and Saunas, and provisions pertaining to public pools in Part 16 of the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 1991 –and resolve to make the Local Public Health Bylaw attached as appendix 1 to the officer’s report.*

030/08P **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

(1215/52/IM)

(REPORT 5)

The Chair indicated that Report 6 – “Submission on Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill” be taken next followed by Report 7 – “Ministry of Youth Development Ministerial Forum for Youth Councils, Rotorua, 29 February 2008” and Report 5 – “Quarterly Report: October – December 2007”. There were no objections.

The meeting then sought further clarification from officers’ on Report 6 so Report 7 was taken next.

031/08P **MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL FORUM FOR YOUTH COUNCILS, ROTORUA, 29 FEBRUARY 2008**

Report of Nicola Hay – Committee Advisor.

(1215/52/IM)

(REPORT 7)

**Moved Councillor McKinnon, seconded Councillor Gill the substantive motion.**

**The substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of Councillor Wain at the ‘Ministry of Youth Development’s Ministerial Forum for Youth Councils’ to be held in Rotorua on 29 February 2008 and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that there is a Positively Tourism Board meeting and a Funding and Activity Working Party meeting scheduled for Friday 29 February 2008.*

4. *Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting in accordance with Council policy.*

032/08P **QUARTERLY REPORT: OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2007**  
Report of Frances McCarthy – Business Advisor.  
(1215/52/IM) (REPORT 5)

**Moved Mayor Prendergast, seconded Councillor McKinnon the substantive motion.**

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer left the meeting at 11.11am.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer returned to the meeting at 11.16am.)

**The substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*

033/08P **SUBMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (EMISSIONS TRADING AND RENEWABLE PREFERENCE) BILL**  
Report of Zach Rissel – Policy Advisor.  
(1215/52/IM) (REPORT 6)

**Moved Councillor Ahipene-Mercer, seconded Councillor McKinnon an amended substantive motion.**

**The amended substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

*THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:*

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the submission on the Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes as amended.*

3. *Agree to delegate to the Climate Change Portfolio Leader and Chief Executive the authority to make any minor drafting changes necessary before forwarding the submission to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee.*
4. *Note that a report will be presented to this Committee in April that will outline options for putting Council land into the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and into the government's Permanent Forest Sink Initiative.*

**NOTED:**

The committee added the words in **bold**.

The meeting concluded at 11.31am.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
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## APPENDIX 1

### SUBMISSION

## Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill

**FEBRUARY 2008**

### Introduction

Wellington City Council (the Council) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill ('the Bill'). This submission outlines the Council's key comments on the Bill.

### Comments

Addressing the challenges of climate change is critical for the future economic, social, and environmental well-being of New Zealand. The Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions ('emissions') for both our own operations and the wider community. The Council is acutely aware of the urgency necessary to reduce emissions on a global scale in order to control the effects of climatic change.

The Council supports the development of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in that it provides incentives to reduce emissions by making investment in low-emissions technology and energy sources more rewarding and beneficial. The development of emissions trading will be instrumental in leading to both national and global reductions in emissions.

The Council supports the government's move to include all sectors of the economy (through a phased approach) and all gases in the ETS. This is an equitable and balanced way to introduce a carbon price signal into the economy. The costs associated with climate change policy should be shared across producers and consumers and should apply to all sectors.

#### *Forestry*

The Council supports the proposals for forestry including the free allocation of emissions units, which will be phased out over time. This allows landowners the time to develop appropriate land-use plans for pre-1990 and post-1989 forests.

The Council is strongly supportive of including indigenous forests in the ETS with a level of free allocation. Landowners who have made forward thinking decisions to preserve and protect indigenous forests (especially in urban areas) should be acknowledged for contributing to the removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

The Council supports the options of afforestation grants or 'carbon sink credits' for new forests, as well as the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) that has already been proposed.

***Waste***

The Council is supportive of the government's approach of assessing the effectiveness of the proposed waste levy before developing obligation details relating to the waste sector. The Council believes that if the waste levy is effective in reducing waste-to-landfill (and associated landfill emissions) then it would be prudent to rely on waste levies as *the* price signal as opposed to introducing a second price signal, which could make landfill administration unnecessarily complicated.

It is important that landfill owners and local government are given regular updates and opportunities to provide feedback on this matter as this will assist with short and medium-term planning decisions.

***Energy and the ETS***

The Council is supportive of introducing a price signal for fossil fuel based energy sources and acknowledges that a price signal on carbon will help with the transition to low-emissions energy sources and technology. While the Council is a relatively significant energy consumer (and is therefore likely to face increased costs as a result of the ETS), it welcomes the incentive to move away from fossil fuel usage in concert with the rest of the nation and the world. In time, the costs of transitioning to low-emissions energy are expected to be balanced by the economic benefits of mitigating climate change.

***Impacts on low income families***

The Council understands the government will be providing support to low-income families and individuals that might be heavily impacted by even modest increases in energy prices. As a large provider of low-income housing, the Council is seeking more clarification on the proposed actions to assist low-income households following the introduction of the ETS. The Council strongly advocates that adequate government transitional support is provided to low-income households that cannot afford the increased costs of energy and goods as a result of the introduction of the ETS. The Council believes that any assistance should be targeted on the basis of income rather than influencing the price of energy.

***Agriculture***

The Council currently leases land to farmers for grazing purposes. While the Council understands the agriculture sector will not be included until 2013, the Council is supportive of the point of obligation for agriculture resting with the owner of stock as opposed to the landowner. The Council feels this is a more direct approach for providing incentives for low-emissions farming practices.

The Council acknowledges the significant contribution of the agricultural sector to New Zealand's GDP, economic growth and identity. The Council believes that because the sector is the largest contributor to New Zealand's total emissions (49%) it is imperative that the sector begins to transition to more sustainable farming practices as early as possible.

***Comments on the Renewable Energy Preference Part of the Bill***

The Council acknowledges the significant benefits derived from renewable energy in New Zealand, specifically reducing national carbon emissions associated with energy consumption, reducing New Zealand's dependence on fossil fuels and also reinforcing

New Zealand's image as a sustainable country. The government's aims to increase renewable energy generation are in line with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and associated emissions targets.

The Council has adopted District Plan provisions to help process renewable energy resource consent applications (specifically wind). The Council supports a resource consent process for renewable energy projects that proceeds in a timely manner but also considers issues of local importance and significance. The Council would like further clarification of how the Resource Management Act will be amended (if at all) or how the Council's involvement in resource consent decisions might change to allow for:

- the provisions of the moratorium on new fossil fuel electricity generation
- increased numbers of resource consents for renewable energy.

The Council supports the provisions that address security of supply issues by enabling exemptions from the restriction for new fossil fuelled thermal generation. The delivery of a secure and ongoing electricity supply is vital to Wellington's and New Zealand's economy. The Council's support for this part of the bill is conditional on maintaining security of supply.

The ten year moratorium on fossil fuel electricity generation will likely lead to electricity price increases. The Council would like to reiterate the points made in section 2.3 relating to support for low-income households if the moratorium results in significant increases in electricity costs.

### ***Renewable energy and local environmental impacts***

The Council wants assurances from the government that part 2 of the Bill will not allow renewable energy projects that lead to significant negative environmental impacts. The Council acknowledges that most forms of large-scale energy generation will have some level of impact on the local surroundings. The Council has demonstrated a balanced approach in assessing resource consents for renewable energy (Project West Wind): accepting that the benefits of the wind farm outweigh the impacts to the local area.

The Council would not support legislation that prioritises renewable energy generation projects at significant cost to the local environment. This particularly applies to hydro-schemes that have the potential to significantly alter the character, amenity values and public access to nationally significant waterways and the land surrounding them.

### ***Distributive generation and projects that reduce emissions***

The Council believes additional support and incentives for small-scale micro-generation projects is necessary. Currently, most of the incentives are provided for large-scale renewable energy applications. While the Council acknowledges large-scale renewable energy developments have a greater impact on the national energy supply, smaller developments can play an important role in easing energy demand and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Modest incentives would assist councils, businesses and other organisations in investigating and implementing potential distributive generation projects. These projects also have the potential to foster community interest and pride in renewable energy and deliver on the government's renewable energy goals.

## **Conclusion**

The Council is generally supportive of the Government's proposed direction on climate change with the ETS and the moratorium on fossil fuel electricity generation. Notwithstanding this general support, there are many details yet to be resolved with respect to the further development and implementation of the proposals, and the local government sector needs to be actively involved in discussions on these details. Option preferences for forestry, waste and agriculture have been identified and additional points specifically relevant to the Council and Wellington residents have been raised.