

# MEETING — AGENDA —

*Ngā Take*

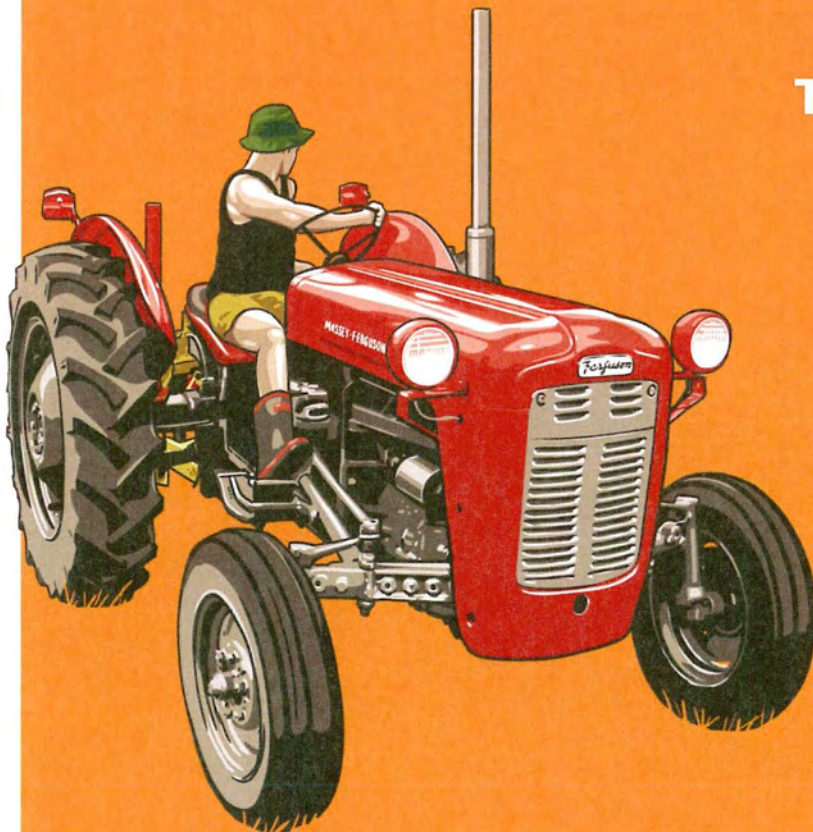
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# RURAL COMMITTEE

*Komiti Taiwhenua*

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**RUR12**  
**Thursday, 28 February 2019**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Barkes Corner, Tauranga**  
**3.00pm**

# Notice of Meeting No RUR12 Te Karere

## Rural Committee Komiti Taiwhenua

Thursday, 28 February 2019  
Council Chambers  
Barkes Corner  
3.00pm

His Worship the Mayor

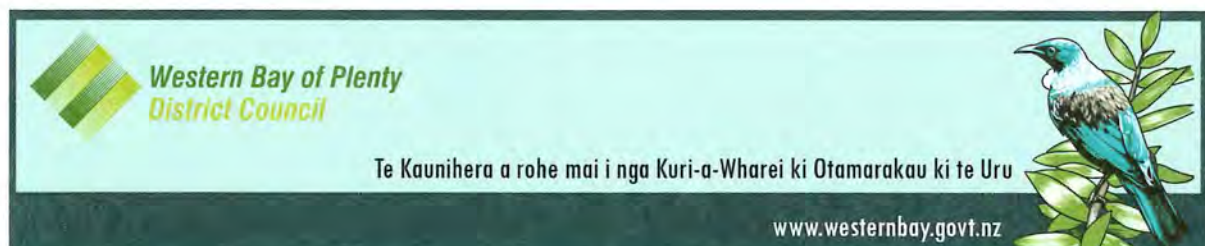
G J Webber

Councillors:

K Marsh (Chairperson)  
M Dean (Deputy Chairperson)  
G Dally  
M Lally  
P Mackay  
D Marshall  
M Murray-Benge  
J Palmer  
J Scrimgeour  
D Thwaites  
M Williams

Media  
Staff

Miriam Taris  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Western Bay of Plenty District Council**





# Rural Committee Delegations

## Mangai o Te Kaunihera

### Quorum:

The quorum for this meeting is six members.

### Role

Subject to compliance with Council strategies, policies, plans and legislation:

- To represent the interests of the rural community.
- To consider and report on any matter of interest or concern to the rural community.
- To undertake responsibilities as delegated by Council or its Committees.

### Delegated Functions

- To report and make recommendations to Council and its Committees in accordance with their delegated functions on issues facing respective rural communities to promote public participation and communication within respective communities.
- To undertake tasks, powers and functions as may be delegated by Council or its Committees in accordance with their delegated functions from time to time.
- To provide an effective mechanism for the rural community's feedback to Council on strategic issues (e.g. transport, fresh water, employment.)
- To develop relationships on behalf of Council with rural sector organisations including but not limited to:
  - Federated Farmers
  - Hort New Zealand
  - NZKGI
  - Avo Industry Council and NZ Avocado Growers Association
  - Te Puke Fruit Growers Association
  - NZ Deer Association
  - Rural Contractors (e.g. Maize, silage, kiwifruit, transport etc.)
  - Passionfruit Growers Association
  - NZ Foresters
  - Forest and Bird
  - Fish and Game Council
  - NZ Deer Stalkers Assn
  - Rural Tourism Operators (Including accommodation)
  - Road Transport Association

### Other:

The Committee may without confirmation by Council exercise or perform any function, power or duty relating to those matters delegated by Council in like manner, and with the same effect, as the Council could itself have exercised or performed them.

The Committee may delegate any of its functions, duties or powers to a subcommittee subject to the restrictions on its delegations and provided that any sub-delegation to subcommittees includes a statement of purpose and specification of task.

The Committee may make recommendations to Council or its Committees on any matters to achieve the outcomes required in the role of the Committee but outside its delegated authorities.

# Agenda for Meeting No. RUR12

Pages

**Present  
In Attendance  
Apologies**

## **Public Excluded Items**

The Council may by resolution require any item of business contained in the public excluded section of the agenda to be dealt with while the public are present.

## **Public Forum**

A period of up to 30 minutes is set aside for a public forum. Members of the public may attend to address the Committee for up to three minutes on items that fall within the delegations of the Committee provided the matters are not subject to legal proceedings, or to a process providing for the hearing of submissions. Speakers may be questioned through the Chairperson by members, but questions must be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker. The Chairperson has discretion in regard to time extensions.

Such presentations do not form part of the formal business of the meeting, a brief record will be kept of matters raised during any public forum section of the meeting with matters for action to be referred through the customer contact centre request system, while those requiring further investigation will be referred to the Chief Executive.

RUR12.1

## **Rural Committee 2019 Programme**

6-10

Attached is a report from the Deputy Chief Executive dated 18 February 2019

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## Western Bay of Plenty District Council

### Rural Committee

### Rural Committee 2019 Programme

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#### Purpose

To discuss with the Committee:

- Summary of work to date **Attachment A**
- The May Committee meeting and Forum - proposed feedback session to all presenters and industry including:
  - Council's role
  - Seasonal worker accommodation
  - Transport / logistics
  -

Discussion on format, who should attend, information to be provided.

Note: due to developments in the transport space, the focus and details of the Forum will evolve.

#### Recommendation

- 1. THAT the Deputy Chief Executive's report dated 18 February 2019 and titled, Rural Committee 2019 Programme be received.**
- 2. THAT the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.**



Gary Allis  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



## Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rural Committee September 2018 Update

### What's been happening?

Since late 2017, Council's Rural Committee has met with leaders from a number of primary sector organisations across the Bay.

We heard from representatives from the forestry industry, postharvest facilities, horticulture and agriculture growers' associations, agricultural businesses, industrial initiatives and research institutes. This update includes discussions with the apiculture industry, and further discussions with the avocado industry.

The Committee is grateful to everyone that took the time to present, discuss and share information in such an open manner.

### What Council heard

Activity across the sector is expected to grow substantially over the next 10 years. Some consider that automation could have a material impact, although the expense of automation is the limiting factor in adoption at this point. While the risk is acknowledged of diseases like Psa or some other event triggering an economic downturn, the current 10-year economic forecast for each industry is very positive.

Key opportunities and constraints the sector shared with Council:

#### Kiwifruit

- Gold has short harvest window. Volume of Gold to increase substantially, which will exacerbate short harvest issues
- Packhouse automation: very expensive, driven by difficulty securing suitable labour; on-orchard automation difficult
- Seasonal workers: increase by ~120% in 10 years, Accommodation scarce, safety issues with walking and cycling
- Postharvest Zone: Works well, requested increase in area and allow more accommodation numbers
- Transportation: Moving towards containerisation = more truck movements
- Efficient road network: orchard to packhouse to port is essential. TEL greatly improves this.
- Rail not generally seen as an efficient option
- Growth from 123m to 200m trays (NZKGI) by 2027; or to 253m trays by 2030 (IBR)
- Growth likely to occur in the Eastern area (from Te Puke)
- Communication: need better 4G and coverage
- Ageing growers: average age of growers is 68
- Kiwifruit still susceptible to PSA equivalent
- Kiwifruit economy growing from \$5.5b (2015) to \$12.9b (2029)

#### Forestry

- Innovation in transportation with larger trucks (50 MAX and HPMV) - increased productivity
- Innovation in trucking safety, including telematics, driver safety through monitoring blinking rates etc
- Healthy and safety issues driving mechanisation or harvesting
- Fumigation innovation - methyl bromide recapture or alternative treatment
- Log debarking an option, need area of land set aside / new facility
- State of local roads at harvest an issue. Industry currently works with four other councils on this

#### Agriculture

- Automation and smart technology changing farming
- Infrastructure to Port of Tauranga is vital
- Opportunity for cycleways over farms (tourism)
- Drystock farmers ageing: average in NZ is 57, but in WBOP is 70
- Dairy unlikely to increase in area in the Western Bay

#### Avocado industry

- 99.9% is Hass variety, now trialling new varieties including shorter trees
- Harvest period spread (unlike kiwifruit)
- NZ is 9<sup>th</sup> largest Avocado exporter worldwide. 80% of our exports go to Australia
- Most growth in avocado industry is generally in Northland

#### Kawerau

- Utilising rail: 7 trains per week, rather than 35,000 heavy vehicle movements per year or 700 per week; reduction of 16,000T CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Extensive growth in Kawerau industry, with focus on the Kawerau Container Terminal
- Relationship with iwi has been key

#### Apiculture

- Important pollinators: Worth \$5b to the economy
- Unregulated industry (so far)
- Issues with location of hives near residential areas
- Pesticide spray issues killing bees
- Winter food in short supply



### **Specific work the sector wants Council to consider**

During the meetings industry leaders advised Council to consider the following actions when planning for the future:

- Advocate for improvements to State Highways to improve transport efficiency
- Upgrade roads to pack houses in Te Puke to provide footpaths and street lighting to aid seasonal workers who walk and cycle to work
- Review post harvest zones to enable expansion
- Review temporary worker accommodation rules
- Opportunity to create cycleways over farms to encourage tourists to see New Zealand's well known agriculture first hand (and consider possible issues of liability)
- Advocate for the use of rail, as a more efficient use of transportation
- Advocate to the New Zealand Transport Agency for the upgrade of the intersection at Tauranga West Road (State Highway 2) and Dawson Road to mitigate hazards that the intersection currently presents
- Consider regulating number of bee hives near residential areas via District Plan rules
- Advocate for a variety of trees for the bees – suitable variety list at Trees for Bees programme

### **Where to from here**

There are two parts to this, the first relates to actions can Council progress on its own; the second is about potential options to address wider issues and opportunities facing the primary sector.

In terms of Council, here's what being planned for the 2018/19 year (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)

- Review the District Plan provisions for postharvest zone areas and seasonal worker accommodation
- Increase safety of cycleways and footpaths used by seasonal workers around postharvest facilities, particularly in lighting - \$100,000 per annum included in draft LTP 2018-2028
- Continue advocacy for improvements to the State Highway network and for better cellphone coverage to reduce black spots
- Work with farm owners to explore tourism opportunities by linking to Council's cycling network
- Brief SmartGrowth partners to ensure the issues you have raised are considered in future sub-regional planning. SmartGrowth is the 50 year planning strategy for Tauranga and the Western Bay and includes Western Bay Council, Tauranga City, the Bay of Plenty Regional Strategy, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and Tangata Whenua.
- Consider ways for council land to be more bee-friendly, such as implementing the Trees for Bees programme in the Natural Environment Strategy and Recreation and Leisure Strategy

With regard to other matters referenced on the previous page, Council believes there is potential to look at options to enable a more coordinated effort by a range of players.

This document will continue to be updated periodically as we hear from more industry leaders.



## WBOPDC Rural Committee – Industry research

### Transportation issues in the Western Bay of Plenty

Since 2017, Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Rural Committee has met with leaders from a number of primary sector organisations across the Bay including the forestry industry, postharvest facilities, and horticulture and agriculture growers' associations among others. From this we have learned of a number of transportation innovations and issues in our district:

#### State Highway network:

- T.E.L. has greatly improved network efficiency
- Need to advocate to the New Zealand Transport Agency for the upgrade of the intersection at Tauranga West Road (State Highway 2) and Dawson Road to mitigate hazards that the intersection currently presents
- Need to advocate for improvements to State Highways to improve transport efficiency
- Need to advocate change in road status from local road to State Highway along Totara St to Hull Road (as the port entrance)
- Totara St / SH2 intersection needs upgrading (vertical separation etc)

#### Truck movements:

- Larger trucks (i.e. 50 MAX and HMPVs) increase forestry productivity
- There is new innovation in trucking safety, including telematics, driver safety through monitoring blinking rates etc
- Kiwifruit expected to increase from 123 to 200 million trays by 2027 (62% increase); Change from curtain-side trucks to containers results in 27% increase in truck movements. Overall approximately 130% increase in truck movements by 2027

#### Rail network:

- Kawerau industry looking to invest in railway operations: 364 trains per year instead of 35,000 heavy vehicle movements per year (reduction of 60,000T CO2 emissions)
- Need to advocate for the use of rail, as a more efficient use of transportation

#### Other transport-related implications:

- Kiwifruit growth expected in eastern area (east of Te Puke)
- Orchard to packhouse to port needs to be an efficient road network.
- State of local roads at harvest an issue. Forestry industry currently works with four other councils on this
- The port is vital to the economy
- Upgrade roads to pack houses in Te Puke to provide footpaths and street lighting to aid seasonal workers who walk and cycle to work
- WBOPDC to increase safety of cycleways and footpaths used by seasonal workers around postharvest facilities, particularly in lighting - \$100,000 per annum included in draft LTP 2018-2028
- WBOPDC to continue advocacy for better cellphone coverage to reduce black spots

Infographic of transportation issues in the Western Bay of Plenty

