

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Minutes of Meeting No. RUR7 of the Rural Committee held on 20 February 2018 in the Council Chamber, Barks Corner, Tauranga commencing at 9.30am

Present

Councillor K Marsh (Chairperson), Councillors G Dally, M Dean, M Lally, P Mackay, D Marshall, M Murray-Benge, J Palmer, J Scrimgeour, D Thwaites, M Williams and His Worship the Mayor G J Webber

In Attendance

M Taris (Chief Executive Officer), G Allis (Deputy Chief Executive), P Hennessey (Strategic Advisor), S Stewart (Policy Analyst), R Woodward (Communications Advisor), and M Parnell (Democracy Advisor)

Other

A Sole (Waihi Beach Community Board Chairperson) and M Grainger (Omokoroa Community Board Chairperson)

Apologies

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Dally.

Resolved: Murray-Benge / Mackay

THAT the apology for lateness from Councillor Dally be accepted.

RUR7.1 **Rural Committee February 2018**

The Rural Committee considered a report from the Deputy Chief Executive dated 7 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda. The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Mayor, Chairperson and Chief Executive were in the process of following up with those who had presented to the Rural

Committee in 2017 to give feedback as to what Council understood of their presentations and how the Council might support them.

9.33am Councillor Dally entered the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive spoke to a powerpoint presentation that had been developed for presenting back to people who had previously presented to the Rural Committee discussing:

- The themes of the presentations received by the Rural Committee around growth, technology and innovation, land use and logistics and labour and skills.
- The industry expectations of Council and Council's response to this.
- The opportunity to provide feedback to Council's response.

In response to a question about whether there was anything that the presentation may have missed, the group discussed issues around labour. The Mayor advised of the intention to facilitate a meeting with members of the kiwifruit industry to enable them to work together and talk through solutions for the industry as a whole.

Dairy farming was also discussed and concerns were raised about the average age of dairy farmers and what farmers planned to do with their land if they were not able to stay dairy farms. Topics for consideration included climate change, growth areas, impacts of technology and growing methods on labour needs, what the current District Plan allowed for, the state of roading and bridges in the area considering the size of some of the heavy trucks on the road and environmental considerations such as pest control.

It was discussed that some feedback received from different members of the same industry was polarised, which made it difficult to provide solutions. Part of Council's role would be to get people together to help facilitate conversations and agreement.

10.21am Councillor Scrimgeour left the meeting.

It was raised that the solution of lighting and footpaths for packhouses in Te Puke could also be used between Katikati township and Seeka. There was also a suggestion that clip on footpaths on bridges could provide safe walkways for those who had to walk to bridges that did not have footpaths particularly those that were single lane.

Resolved: Williams / Mayor Webber

1. *THAT the Deputy Chief Executive's report dated 7 February 2018 and titled, Rural Committee February 2018 Update 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.*
3. *THAT the Rural Committee notes:*

The Rural Committee February 2018 Update has been provided to the primary sector organisations.

AND

THAT His Worship the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and Rural Committee Chairman will be having feedback meetings with a number of organisations.

4. *THAT the 2018 Rural Committee Programme include the following:*

Potential Presentations or Site Visits:

- *Avocado Industry re dwarf trees*
- *Modern Kiwifruit pack house e.g. Washer Road*
- *Iwi investors*
- *Pest control specific to the Kaimai Ranges*
- *Heavy transport - Ken Shirley - Road Transport Forum*
- *Environmental considerations - land use of productive land*
- *Honey Industry - (Beekeepers Association, Comvita etc)*
- *KiwiRail*
- *Robotics within kiwifruit industry and the potential to change demand for labour*
- *Climate change - potential for changing growing zones*
- *Quayside re Rangiuru Business Park development plan*
- *Mike Chapman - HortNZ, horticulture from a global perspective*
- *Tourism and cycle ways - a regional view of opportunities for the rural sector*
- *Port of Tauranga - freight volume and type forecast*

The meeting concluded at 10.29am.

RUR7