

**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE REGULATORY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD AT THE HOKONUI RUNANGA, 140 CHARLTON ROAD, GORE, ON TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012, AT 6.23 PM.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Highsted (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dixon, P Grant, Redhead, Sharp and Watt.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Communications Co-ordinator (Mrs Sonia Gerken), and Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and three members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Crs Gover and D Grant apologised for absence.

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Cr Highsted called for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. REGULATORY BULLETIN (2.14.3)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive along with a schedule of building consents issued for July 2012, together with comparisons of the previous two years.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Redhead, THAT the information be received.**

2. SOUTHLAND AIR QUALITY - COMPLIANCE (11.19.3)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive together with notes from an air quality workshop held at Environment Southland on 10 July.

The Chief Executive said the issue could be a sleeping giant. It was a national environmental standard that Environment Southland needed to comply with in a short space of time. Some solutions were required and the public needed to be engaged to get exceedances down. It concerned him that although a collaborative approach was required it

was the responsibility of Environment Southland to be at the forefront leading the area to ensure the region was compliant.

His Worship said he was in total agreement with the Chief Executive. Although there was a desire to have a joint approach across Invercargill and Gore, the issue was a regional council responsibility and needed to be led strongly by the regional council.

The Warm Homes Trust had expressed an interest to be involved and there could well be an opportunity for that to happen down the track. However the issue needed to be led by the regional council, and nobody else.

Cr Watt said the Council was very much at the mercy of the statutory requirement that had been imposed upon it by Environment Southland. If so, what could the Council do about it.

Cr Highsted said he understood the risks to industry seeking a resource consent as the air shed was full. If a new industry came to town, or if an industry was seeking a renewal, there would be potential for a consent to be declined.

The Planning Consultant said the district had two air sheds and both had had exceedances. Commencing 30 June 2013, the Council could not issue new consents for open fires. Environment Southland was looking at what else would happen. The issue was a social issue as well as environmental. Some of the older homes in the district were coal fuelled. It was also an issue for the region's air plan that would need to be addressed, as some areas in the region did not come under the same restrictions. There needed to be a solution found for all areas.

In response to Cr P Grant, the Consultant said in some areas education would be the best tool to achieve that in all areas.

Cr Beale said the Council would not want to be involved in a heavy handed approach. Gradual steps needed to be put in place.

Cr Bolger said he would urge caution on whether standards should be region wide. He suggested sticking with the air sheds. An incentive scheme could sometimes act as a disincentive.

Cr P Grant said a fire had recently been lit in the Knapdale area. The smoke settled on the town of Gore for two days. That was why rural areas needed to be included as well.

Cr Sharp said he had seen smoke from a fire that had been lit near his property settle around the Hokonui's and over Cr Grant's property recently.

Cr Watt asked again if the Council was indeed at the mercy of Environment Southland and its statutory requirement, what could it do about it? He appreciated new businesses would be, however there were old buildings, as in Christchurch, that had caused pollution for many years that would cause exceedances and he wondered what could be done about it.

The Planning Consultant said before any changes could occur, the regional air plan would need to be reviewed and there would be a long public submission process. The recent meeting had been the first step in the process. It had the potential to have a big impact on the town. The requirement under the National Environmental Standard was that there were to be no more exceedances by 2016. Any exceedances would result in punitive action.

His Worship said the responsibility for the leadership role in the consultation process lay with Environment Southland. Territorial authorities would play a part at some point in time.

Cr Highsted said the focus on the minutes received were about capital costs. He wondered about the operational costs which were huge. It was a concern.

Cr Davis said the type of fuel burned added to exceedances but had not been addressed. It would be a social issue also. Heat pumps were not as cost efficient as first believed. She said a lot of people were burning their recycling, prior to the new refuse service that commenced in July. It could see an improvement in the exceedances. She supported that Environment Southland needed to lead the process. The Council had a responsibility to submit and respond on behalf of its ratepayers.

Cr Dixon said he had a problem with Environment Southland leading the issue.

In response to Cr Highsted, His Worship said the item was in the melting pot and the Council needed to aware of some of the ramifications that could be imposed on it.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the attached notes of the Air Quality Workshop held at Environment Southland on 10 July 2012, be received,**

**AND THAT it look forward to Environment Southland showing leadership in that area.**

In response to Cr Bolger asking what the penalty would be if the Gore air shed had a number of exceedances, the Consultant said the

regional council had the potential to deny a consent to new businesses, so that was a disincentive to not exceed.

The meeting closed at 6.43pm.