

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING  
HELD AT THE RIVER ROAD COMMUNITY HALL, RIVER ROAD, REPOROA  
ON THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 5.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Kylie Leonard (in the Chair), Ms Evelyn Forrest, Mr Mark Wynyard, Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr John Williamson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager – Organisation Performance (S Matthews), Infrastructure Manager (R Stokes), Community Engagement Advisor Northern Taupō District (C Dredge) Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** 18 members of the public

Note: Ms Evelyn Forrest opened and closed the meeting with a karakia.

**1 KARAKIA**

**2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES**

**TERR202402/01 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr John Williamson

Seconded: Ms Evelyn Forrest

That the apologies received from Mr Patrick Hart and Mayor David Trewavas be accepted.

**CARRIED**

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202402/01 above.

**3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 13 DECEMBER 2023**

**TERR202402/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Mr Mark Wynyard

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the minutes of the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202402/02 above.

## 5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

### 5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

#### Ms Tina Shaw from River Road Community Group

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District introduced herself. Her involvement started in August 2023 when she came out to the community for pre-Long-term Plan 2024-34 engagement and a relationship developed from here. She introduced Ms Tina Shaw from the River Road Community Group. This was an opportunity to speak to the Committee about what the Community Group has been doing.

Ms Shaw explained that she joined the River Road Community Group after it had been formed. Department of Internal Affairs had a fund available to apply for called the Small Initiative Community Led Development Fund which would help the group do some improvements for River Road. They held a community barbeque where they received a lot of feedback about improvements the community would like for River Road, some of which would be suitable for the funding from Department of Internal Affairs.

Another goal was to get a defibrillator to place at the River Road Community Hall, the group was working with Taupō District Council and exploring different funding options available. In answer to a question, Ms Shaw explained that they had been quoted \$4,000 for the defibrillator including the lock box. It would also need to be serviced every four years with an estimated cost of \$500 per service. Ms Shaw explained that they had some good community fund raising ideas but they would also explore funding options from Department of Internal Affairs and Taupō District Council.

A member recommended reaching out to Tirohanga community about their defibrillator and how they manage the ongoing costs. They explained that since the Long-term Plan 2021-31 there was separate ward funding for Taupō East Rural. Members thanked Ms Shaw for providing the update and they appreciated the work being done in the community.

#### TERR202402/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Mark Wynyard

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives comments from members of the public.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202402/03 above.*

### 5.2 TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP INDUCTION OVERVIEW FOR 2024

The Senior Committee Advisor introduced herself and explained her role. She summarised the report and reminded everyone that there were opportunities for community members to have their say on Council's functioning.

#### TERR202402/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Ms Evelyn Forrest

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the information provided to support members in their role for the 2024 calendar year.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202402/04 above.*

### 5.3 ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### Community Engagement and Development

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō explained that along with Wairakei, River Road was a community she had been focusing on. Both communities were applying for the Department of Internal Affairs Small Initiative Community Led Development Fund.

Wairakei was in their budget phase and had some good ideas for the community such as a storage shed or a community garden. They were wanting to create a space that allowed the community to connect together. She explained that some of the things the community wanted were operational which was the responsibility of Taupō District Council (TDC) and the best way to get these actioned was to contact Council. There are many channels to contact TDC such as phone, antenno app, email, contact us form etc.

The Parks and Reserves team were interested in working with the River Road Community Group to get the boat ramp done.

Engagement for Long-term Plan 2024-34 was scheduled for May 2024 not April 2024 as previously planned. The Community Engagement team would be holding events with subject experts also in attendance, they would be helping the public with their submissions. A member encouraged community members to make submissions.

#### Update from the Chief Executive

The General Manager – Organisation Performance introduced herself and explained her role. The Chief Executive sent her apologies and she would provide the update. Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) continued to be a work in progress and they were balancing meeting communities needs and wants with the budgets. The financial aspect was taking longer than expected.

The water reform previously known as 3 Waters had been repealed, this meant the water services needed to be added back into the LTP which had an impact on rates and services provided by Council. TDC were required to follow the legislation set out by Central Government. She explained Council was working in an environment where the information was coming in parts. A member of public explained that he felt the water supply that the community owned and had paid for should not change ownership to Council. He expressed that the water supply in the area was supplied by local farmers and if other areas in the district were more expensive, he felt they should not have to pay for that. He wanted his objection to fluoride in all water supply noted.

Members clarified the following points:

- Reiterated that the decision was from Central Government not TDC.
- The water supply rate charged through rates was for maintenance and it was a flat charge across the district.
- Council had upgraded the local water treatment station due to health and safety requirements.
- There was enough water coming out of the local water treatment station that the community did not have to worry about access to water even if the community continued to develop further with more properties.

#### Transportation Update

The Infrastructure Manager introduced himself and explained his role and what his team does. He explained the water rates were a standard charge throughout the whole district. Water treatment plant had become a TDC asset which was funded and maintained by TDC, costs of this had increased due to the water treatment quality. In answer to a question he explained that you would not pay a wastewater charge if you had a septic tank.

His understanding was that if the water became a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) then ownership would be TDC rate payers but maintenance would be the responsibility of CCO.

The General Manager – Organisation Performance explained that under the Local Water Done Well Plan the next 12 months would involve putting a plan together which Council would plan to bring to the community. A member of the public was concerned that water was being taken off the local communities and a committee member explained that there would be a big cost involved if something goes wrong with the water supplied and if communities owned it, that cost would be charged to them to pay.

The Infrastructure Manager provided an update on the visibility issue of the LED street light on Broadlands Road and corner of River Road, he explained that it was focused on lighting up the intersection, not spilling

the light sideways. He suggested installing a sign saying something along the lines of 'River Road in 200m.' This would be on Broadlands Road which drivers would be able to see when driving from the south. If this was something the community wanted then the team were happy to do this. He explained that this would likely help the issue as there was currently no visible landmark for River Road so the sign could stop people from overshooting it in reduced visibility conditions such as fog.

Members of the public noted the following concerns regarding the intersection:

- Drivers on Broadlands Road were unable to see cars travelling out of River Road.
- Visibility was very low especially during winter time and in foggy conditions. Drivers had to put their windows down and turn off their vehicles to ensure that there was no other cars driving along Broadlands Road before exiting River Road.
- Drivers on Broadlands Road drove very quickly at all times of the day. It was scary and very dangerous.
- The new street light was not bright enough and they noted that the old one was great. They asked for a new one to be installed that was the same as the street light on the Tiverton Downs Road and Broadlands Road intersection.

Members asked the Infrastructure Manager to take the feedback received and to go away and look at solutions for this issue.

A sign would be placed before the Broadlands Landfill heading towards Taupō town advising that the landfill was coming up. This was to minimise drivers having to break suddenly as the landfill was not very visible. A member explained that the slip way was not long enough, a 100m slipway would be a safer solution to this problem. A member of the public agreed that the slipway was not long enough and explained that if someone was heading to the landfill, they had to slow down suddenly and any cars behind had to do the same which could be dangerous.

The Infrastructure Manager advised members of the public to think of various projects they would like completed as Council was currently in the middle of Long-term Plan 2024-34 and his team was working on that. They had asked for extra funding from both Taupō District Council and Waka Kotahi. He suggested using this process to speak as a group and determine what the group would like to see, one example was installing a footpath and improving drainage along River Road, some people were interested in this while others were not. In answer to a question from the public, he explained that rates would not increase for River Road residents because a footpath was installed, the cost would be spread across the district.

Seal and pothole repairs and shape correction maintenance for Broadlands Road were planned to be done before Supercars came to Taupō on 19 April 2024.

Waikato Regional Council staff were aware of the erosion in the riverbank reserves and they were planning to spray willows on the far side of the river as these were forcing the current to flow onto the reserve side of the river. A member of the public explained that this had been an ongoing issue for many years and there was a 35 year resource consent that was meant to be reviewed by the public every five years but it had not been done. The Infrastructure Manager explained that TDC staff were aware of this issue but it was Waikato Regional Council who had control over it.

The way solid waste was collected was under review, TDC was thinking about either introducing bins or keeping the current way of collection for bags. The nationwide standard was to go to bins. The community would be consulted before Council made a decision. A member noted that by law we had to separate food waste. In answer to a question, a member explained that the Ecowaste Reporoa Organics Processing Facility would not be able to pick up properties food scraps as it was not economical and they were funded by Auckland City Council per tonne.

Members thanked the officers for providing the updates.

#### **TERR202402/05 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Ms Evelyn Forrest

Seconded: Mr Mark Wynyard

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the Items of Interest information provided.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of*

resolution TERR202402/05 above.

#### 5.4 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following members' reports were received:

Ms Evelyn Forrest

- The Co-Governance hui between Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) and Taupō District Council (TDC) occurred on the 28 February. She explained that the Co-Governance developed as part of their settlement and they met two times a year to discuss where they are at. They had discussed the Local Water Done Well changes which had complications for marae in the area as they were not on Council water. They would not be compliant with Central Government's new water quality standards and it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to become compliant. The iwi were going to make a submission to Central Government to request funding to become compliant and they were going to speak with TDC to support them in the submission.
- The Waikato River Authority (WRA) was opening its funding in August 2024 and it was expected to close in October 2024. This provides the community the opportunity to get a project together to submit for funding. They did not receive many applications from the upper catchment. Cr Danny Loughlin who was on the WRA Board explained that it was government funded and they did restorations. He explained a lot of farmers apply for funding for fencing or planting projects to improve the water quality. Waikato Regional Council approach the WRA for funding for bigger projects. There were staff at the WRA that would be able to provide funding advice.

Mr Mark Wynyard

- 250m of Broadlands Road had been widened, while this was being completed there had been a stop/go traffic control which had continued to let traffic flow, there was still roughly 2km left to go. He noted that there were road signs that state to 'share the road' but he explained that the road needed to be bigger in order for the road to be shared. The Infrastructure Manager explained that funding had been requested for Broadland Road improvements in the Long-term Plan 2024-34. Funding from Waka Kotahi had also been requested but it was expected that Taupō District Council would find out how much funding had been allocated in May 2024. A member explained that in the past few years there had been reduced funding available for rural roads and the money had gone to state highways, when the funding disappears works scheduled needs to be reviewed.

#### TERR202402/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Ms Evelyn Forrest

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the reports from members.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202402/06 above.*

#### 6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 6.53pm with a karakia recited by Ms Evelyn Forrest.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting held on 2 May 2024.

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**