

Policy/Planning

Tabled Documents

21 March 2019

Item 6

Chairs Report

Item 16

Draft submission to Horizons Regional Council's 2019/20 Annual Plan

Welcome to the policy and planning meeting for March 2019

The year is flying and we are already into our annual plan process and associated resident's survey work. Along with that is submissions to other neighbouring organisations such as Horizons regional council where their policy and operational activities have an influence on our district as a whole. I hope that you have all had a chance to quickly browse the submission that has been prepared to submit to Horizons RC on weed control funding (old man's beard) and targeting some SLUI (Sustainable land use initiative) towards treating local government infrastructure, roads, with the same level of focus as on farm infrastructure and waterway protection.

On a more local note, there is an item late in our order paper regarding potential district plan review items and most specifically the minimum lot size for subdivision on our high quality class 1 and 2 soils. This is an issue that I have pondered as the owner of a rural business, and an observer of what has been happening around many of our larger cities. Many councils like ours have used planning tools to try and protect valuable soils by restricting the minimum lot size to one that allows for intensive horticulture 5-10 ha with the view that the new owners of a once larger farm will naturally see the wisdom of growing fruit or vegetables instead of pursuing their current day job. The reality is that the previous 100 ha farm that was all devoted to production agriculture or horticulture gets subdivided into 10 or 20 pony paddocks or motorbike play pens, with none having the critical mass to achieve anything and with all the reverse sensitivity issues that closely packed lifestyle blocks lead to. I wonder if we should have an alternative regime where we designate a maximum number of dwellings per unit of area, BUT allow a very small lot size, so that the maximum amount of high class soil is retained in primary production, and the minimum amount is wasted as forgotten pony paddocks growing weeds.....there ends the rant.

Angus Gordon

Chairman policy and planning

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at Policy / Planning
on 21 March 2019.

File Ref: 3-OR-3-12

22 March 2019

Bruce Gordon
Chair
Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Manawatū Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at Policy Planning
on 21 March 2019.

By email: haveyoursay@horizons.govt.nz

Dear Bruce

Annual Plan for 2019/20

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft 2018/19 Annual Plan and for the specific consultations you have undertaken with subscribers in the Makirikiri and Haunui Schemes. At a broader level we support the continuing work which you plan in freshwater improvements and your involvement in regional transport initiatives. We also appreciate the positive engagement of your staff over the consents we need for water takes and waste water disposal, with emergency management and, more recently, with our standing Iwi Advisory Committee, Te Roopu Ahi Kaa.

There are two matters which we wish to raise

Old Man's Beard Control

We support the proposed increase in 2019/20 of \$70,000 to manage the spread of Old Man's Beard. However, we are wondering how this will impact on the Rangitikei District.

Recently we received a request (attached) to help fund spraying of Old Man's Beard in the Otuareiawa and Kokopunui Streams. Up until now, the costs have been met on a one-third basis by the ten properties that border the streams, the Department of Conservation and Horizons Regional Council. However, the Environmental application scheme at Horizons is no longer available to the Group, being focused on fencing freshwater, tree-planting and erosion control. We decided against making a grant and, instead, put the matter to you.

We do not know the reasons for the change of focus in your Environmental Grants Scheme. Nor do we know the extent of other local initiatives in the Rangitikei to control Old Man's Beard apart from the work being done by the Rangitikei Environmental Group, which both our councils support. It seems to us that there should be a further increase in funding by Horizons for Old Man's Beard so that work done on the Otuareiawa and Kokopunui Streams is supported (\$6,600) and perhaps more to promote local programmes elsewhere within the region.

Climate change

We acknowledge and support the considerable achievement in reducing soil erosion in the region through the Sustainable Land Use Initiative. We would like to suggest a complementary dimension to this important programme.

In our submission last year to the draft 2018-28 Long Term Plan, we noted that we would be keen to work with your staff to encourage greater information sharing for the management of our roading assets, in particular the knowledge your staff have about geology and erosion of land, to ensure the most cost-effective maintenance of the roads. We think this is increasingly important with the greater frequency of extreme weather events arising from climate change. We are making greater budget provision to improve culverts and drainage on local roads, but suggest that investing in greater awareness of where landslides could occur (and taking appropriate measures) would be likely to reduce the incidents of blockage, delays for vehicles and costs to repair roads. As this issue is not unique to Rangitikei – it applies to other districts in the region as well – we suggest that Horizons takes a lead in convening a working party to consider how best to approach this issue.

I would like the opportunity to talk to the Council about these issues. Please arrange the time with Alyssa Takimoana, Executive Officer – alyssa.takimoana@rangitikei.govt.nz – phone (06) 327-0099.

Yours sincerely

Andy Watson
Mayor of the Rangitikei District

3-EP-3-8

Otuareiawa Old Mans Beard Control Group
C/o Jock Stratton
RD3
Taihape
15/01/2019

Mr Andy Watson
Rangitikei District Council
Marton.

Re, Old Mans Beard control in the Otuareiawa and Kokopunui Streams.

Dear Andy,

Starting in January 2016 and including Jan 2017 and Jan 2018, the above group has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Horizons, on a third share basis, along with administrative and technical assistance from the Rangitikei Environmental Guardians, to spray Old Mans Beard by helicopter in the above named streams.

The farmer contributions come from ten properties that border the streams, which are levied on a per hectare basis. In year one approx \$ 40,000 was spent and in the subsequent two years \$ 20,000 per year was spent. The first three year program has finished and we are now starting the second three year program of which, we as landowners, hope will be a long term partnership to ensure that Old mans Beard does not become established in these catchments.

Due to a policy change at Horizons the Environmental application grant scheme is no longer available to us which leaves a funding shortfall of approx \$ 6600 per annum.

Would the Rangitikei District Council be able to assist financially, to help with the second three year program. Annual inspections by people representing the above three bodies have shown great results in the reduction in Old Mans Beard in the approximately sixteen kilometers of stream in the group control area which lie in between the Pukeokahu and Taoroa districts.

If necessary, I would be willing to come and speak at any meeting to help with any decision.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Jock Stratton



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