

MINUTES	EXTRAORDINARY MEETING	TIME
COUNCIL	THURSDAY 30 JULY 2020	8:30 AM

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 30 July 2020, commencing at 8:30am in the Manawatū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Mayor Helen Worboys	(Chairperson)
	Cr Steve Bielski	
	Cr Stuart Campbell	
	Cr Shane Casey	
	Cr Michael Ford	
	Cr Heather Gee-Taylor	
	Cr Grant Hadfield	
	Cr Hilary Humphrey	
	Cr Phil Marsh	
	Cr Andrew Quarrie	
	Cr Alison Short	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Richard Templer	(Chief Executive)
	Shayne Harris	(General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory)
	Hamish Waugh	(General Manager - Infrastructure)
	Frances Smorti	(General Manager – People and Culture)
	Rebecca Bell	(Strategy Manager)
	Catherine Knight	(Senior Policy Adviser)
	Allie Dunn	(Governance Team Leader)
	Steph Skinner	(Governance Officer)
	Jo Botha	(Maintenance and Operations Manager)
	Karel Boakes	(Regulatory Manager)
	Paul Greig	(Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader)
	Andrew Royds	(Compliance and Enforcement Officer)
	Chris McRae	(Compliance and Enforcement Officer)
	Chris Wisnewski	(Alcohol Licensing and Monitoring Officer)
	Michael Hawker	(Project Delivery Manager)

MDC 20/345 MEETING OPENING

Her Worship the Mayor, Helen Worboys opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

MDC 20/346 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 20/347 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Andrew Quarrie, Cr Steve Bielski, Her Worship the Mayor Helen Worboys, Cr Heather Gee-Taylor and Cr Phil Marsh declared a general interest as farmers in relation to the bylaw and policy being discussed.

MDC 20/348 HEARING OF WRITTEN AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS STOCK MOVEMENT AND GRAZING BYLAW

Report of the General Manager – Community and Strategy dated 17 June 2020 providing the Council with a copy of the written submissions received in relation to the following draft Manawatū District Council Bylaws and Policy, and to enable those

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submitters who wished to be heard to present their views and verbally interact with the Council:

- Stock Movement and Grazing Bylaw 2020
- Revocation of Part 5 of the Traffic Safety and Road Use Bylaw 2015
- Stock Underpass Policy 2020

RESOLVED

That the Council receives the report on the Hearing of Written and Oral Submissions on the Stock Movement and Grazing Bylaw 2020, the revocation of Part 5 of the Traffic Safety and Road Use Bylaw 2015 and the Stock Underpass Policy 2020 and hears from the 19 submitters who have indicated that they wish to be heard.

Moved by: Her Worship the Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Ford

CARRIED

SUBMISSION 055 – FEDERATED FARMERS, CORALEE MATENA

With Coralee Matena present, Mike Hoggard spoke on behalf of Federated Farmers acknowledging the need for Regulations but expressed that all farmers had a common law right to move stock on a road.

He voiced concerns regarding the proposed Traffic Management Plan and level of Traffic Management in the current bylaw. He also discussed the proposed Stock Underpass Bylaws and roadside grazing.

SUBMISSION 056 – RANGIWAHIA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Fiona Morton spoke on behalf of the Rangiwahia Community Committee, noting that Federated Farmers had covered all their discussion points and she had nothing further to add to their submission.

SUBMISSION 036 – ANDREW AND FIONA MORTON

Fiona Morton spoke to their submission regarding the Traffic Management Plan and the incorrect cross-referencing of bylaws with other current Traffic Management Plans, highlighting clauses 19.3 and 19.18. She requested the Traffic Management Plan be removed entirely from the Stock Movement and Grazing Bylaw.

SUBMISSION 049 – KOHI LANDS LTD, SHELLEY DEW-HOPKINS

Shelley Dew-Hopkins advised they were happy with parts of the bylaw and advised several clauses they were already doing. She noted stock movements were strictly managed due to the large amount of traffic on roads surrounding their farm. They supported a Traffic Management Plan if there was no intrusion for farming business, noting they already coordinated with neighbours when moving stock. She pointed out that stock droving was popular with visitors to the area being able to see this first hand, taking photos and videos, and stopping to chat.

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SUBMISSION 031 – RICHWYN FARM LTD, SHELDON AND NICOLA MARTIN

Sheldon Martin talked about their submission highlighting that stock movements could be up to ten times per day at busy farming times of the year and asked how Council were going to process the permits Farmers would be requiring.

He noted that farmers in the area were already under pressure and did not need any further compliance requirements. He felt that visitors/tourists to the area caused more problems with droving stock by stopping in the wrong place to take photos.

Councillors asked the following questions to Submitters for general discussion:

- How does current Traffic Management plan work - the functionality in practice for farms.
- Do stock crossing permits happen?
- Are Stock numbers limited?
- Insurance / public liability – how does this fit for Farmers?
- Are fencing standards covered in farm Health and Safety plans?
- How do public Cycle and Car rallies (eg: Targa) get relayed to farmers?
- Could generic Traffic Management Plans for a set period work for farmers?
- Do farmers read or use the current bylaw as it is?
- Cost of installing a stock underpass?
- Split purchasing of property with underpass already installed – who owns this?

SUBMISSION 041 – JAMES STEWART

James and Dave Stewart spoke to their submission noting they were generational farmers with a split boundary between Palmerston North City and Manawatū District Councils. They did not support a change and wanted to keep current provisions under the existing bylaws. They were concerned consents/permits would come with costs. Their farm Health and Safety Plan covered moving stock including the use of high visibility vests and pilot vehicle flashing lights.

Their farm had an underpass and it worked well when used at various times through the year. The Stewarts were concerned about the new Ring Road and the impact it would have on their day-to-day farming operations and also supported the submission made by Federated Farmers.

SUBMISSION 054 – MCDUNHAVEN DEER PARK, ANGELA MCINTYRE

Angela McIntyre spoke to the submission for McDunhaven Deer Park and had researched “Feilding” online pointing out that Feilding was known as a “Rural Farming Community”. As examples she noted the Stock Sale Yards and the drover monument outside the police station on Kimbolton Road as being iconic to Feilding and its farming history.

She noted that during stock movement, she felt that the main problem was with vehicle drivers and their “alertness, attention and reaction” to what was happening on the road around them. She commented that beacon lights would not work on horses which were used for moving their stock, and the Traffic Management Plan law change would not work for smaller farms/blocks. Angela McIntyre suggested farmers deserved a pat on the back rather than more rules.

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SUBMISSION 067 – MCDUNHAVEN DEER PARK, ALEXANDER MCINTYRE

Alexander McIntyre was unable to attend the hearing of submissions.

Councillors asked the following question to Submitters for general discussion:

- Logging Trucks – do they take notice of 8km traffic signage used by farmers?

The workshop adjourned at 9.29am and reconvened at 10.30am.

SUBMISSION 028 – DAVID SKIFFINGTON

David Skiffington spoke to his submissions noting he was a small-scale beef and dairy farmer who used droving as a critical tool for his business. He spoke against the proposed changes, saying that no problems existed and that the changes would be an intrusion of unnecessary regulations and an enormous amount of work for council to administer.

He noted he moved cattle on the roads with no issues, and said it was not practical to know 10 days in advance for permits. As an example he mentioned Weather, animal health, pasture and stock levels were all unpredictable and played a significant part in stock movement.

He asked Council to look at Droving within the Manawatū as an asset and part of the history of the District.

SUBMISSION 032 – TONY AND LYNDA GRAY

Tony and Lynda Gray noted they had farmed in the Pohangina Valley for 15 years with 5 to 6 km of road separating their farm, which was on either side of the road. They were looking for bylaws that were practical and said they often did not know 10 days in advance, what their plans for moving stock would be. They said they have a Traffic Management Plan in place as part of their farm Health and Safety Policy. They felt the proposed bylaw was not practical and would unreasonably impact on them.

They noted they often had cycle races past their property with tourists stopping for photo opportunities.

SUBMISSION 033 – LYNDON LAND CO, IAN WILLIAMSON

Ian Williamson advised that the previous speakers had covered his discussion points, which were that the proposed bylaw changes were unworkable, that they could not 100% forecast when they needed to move stock and the only option for his farm was droving.

He was also uncertain why council wanted to know when farmers were droving stock.

SUBMISSION 034 – FORBES CAMERON

Forbes Cameron spoke in support of previous speakers' comments and submissions. He noted that their farm had a Health and Safety Policy in place, which covered a full Traffic Management Plan. He noted that farmers required roads and bridges to be available for moving stock. The requirement for 10 days' notice prior to stock movements would mean permits 364 days a year which was impractical. He noted that weekends in

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summer with heavier traffic movement on the roads meant stock movements were done either early morning or late evening to mitigate any holdups to motorists.

SUBMISSION 038 – WESTVIEW FARMING PARTNERSHIP, SHANE CARROLL, NICOLA SHADBOLT, MATTHEW CARROLL

Shane Carroll spoke on behalf of the Westview Farming Partnership, noting they had 33 years in farming, 14km of road fronting, 52 gates, with five farm blocks spread over 6000 acres.

He noted that droving saved the cost of truck movements. Their Traffic Management Plan included a pilot vehicle and they had no issues with traffic. He believed the draft bylaw was poorly planned. As an example he noted stock would not stay to the left hand side of the road and cleaning effluent after droving was impractical.

He said that farming was unpredictable in general and a 10-day permit rule would be prohibitive. He suggested Council consider an annual permit with a Traffic Management Plan supplied in support.

SUBMISSION 073 – GRASSMERE DAIRY, MATHEW HOCKEN

Mathew Hocken spoke to his submission noting his farm was on Colyton Road with 130 years of farming history in dairying and droving stock. They did not see any problems with the current bylaw and did not support the proposed bylaw changes. They had a Traffic Management Plan in place and moved stock either early morning or late evening when there was less traffic on the roads to reduce risk to animals and employees.

He said the proposed changes could add costs to business, extra time filling out permits and paperwork which would also increase stress to busy farmers.

In conclusion he spoke about the historic nature of Stock Droving in Feilding, the connections it provided and how it was the fabric of the Manawatū community.

Councillors asked the following questions to Submitters for general discussion:

- Are road gates used?
- Stock Underpasses – what are submitters’ thoughts on their installation and use?
- What can we do to assist with Droving guidelines – Traffic Management in front and back and the control of animals?
- What are the traffic volumes are you experiencing in your area?
- Do all farms have a Health and Safety Policy that includes a Traffic Management plan?
- Could a generic Traffic Management plan cover several years?

Submitters expressed concern that the online submission form limited the space available for them to type in.

SUBMISSION 030 – WARREN MUDFORD

Warren Mudford talked about Stock Underpasses and asked the question that if a farm was sold to different buyers on either side of the road connected with an Underpass – then who owned the Underpass.

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He noted there were costs for ongoing maintenance, which could be high and asked whether it was council's responsibility to maintain an underpass once completed. He noted the Underpass subsidy was good, but suggested sealing the surrounding road would be more appropriate.

He made comment regarding lifestyle owners needing to move stock down roads to neighbouring farms with stockyards for stock pickup and drop off. He also noted roadside grazing should only be directly outside the owners property.

Councillors asked the following question to Submitters for general discussion:

- The new Underpass Bylaw was discussed covering Covenants on Ownership.

The meeting adjourned at 11.25am.

SUBMISSION 037 – ANDREW MACDONALD

Andrew MacDonald emailed his apologies as he was unable to attend in person for the hearing of verbal submissions.

SUBMISSION 069 – PETER WELLS

Peter Wells emailed his apologies as he was unable to attend in person.

SUBMISSION 057 – RACHEL MCHARDY

Rachel McHardy did not attend the hearing of verbal submissions.

SUBMISSION 062 – KELLY BOLD

Kelly Bold did not attend the hearing of verbal submissions.

The meeting resumed at 12.05pm.

MDC 20/349 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.06pm.