

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD AT THE THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016, AT 10.30AM

PRESENT:

Mayor Claire Barlow
Cr Graham Smith
Cr Murray Cox
Cr Russell Armstrong
Cr Noel Jackson
Cr Evan Williams
Cr James Leslie

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Barnett, Chief Executive
Paul Morris, Finance Manager
Toni Morrison, Senior Planner
Arlene Goss, Committee Secretary
Chris Hyde, Reporter Timaru Herald
Two members of the Tekapo community

OPENING:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

REPORTS:

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW – DELEGATION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

The purpose of this report is to amend the Delegations Manual to provide delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to temporarily close freedom camping sites under the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.

Cr Smith/Cr Jackson

2. That the Council agrees to amend the Delegations Manual to provide delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise functions in respect of Clause 9 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014; being:

Authority to temporarily close or restrict entry to any overnight freedom camping area or part of any freedom camping area where such restriction is considered necessary by the Chief Executive Officer to:

- (a) prevent damage to the local authority area or facilities in the area; or*
- (b) allow maintenance to the local authority area or facilities thereon; or*
- (c) protect the safety of persons or property; or*
- (d) allow or facilitate public access.*

Cr Smith/Cr Armstrong

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW – TEMPORARY CLOSURE HAMILTON DRIVE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the decision to temporarily close the freedom camping site at Hamilton Drive, Tekapo.

Cr Jackson asked if temporary closure was for a set period of time. The chief executive said the period of time was until the strategy was reviewed in April. If the review of the strategy recommends a review of the bylaw then it will remain closed until the bylaw is reviewed.

The Mayor asked Toni Morrison to explain the process of reviewing the strategy. This will be an opportunity for people to provide feedback.

Cr Cox said since the Hamilton Drive carpark was closed to camping more people were using the site during the day as it should be used. Cr Smith asked if freedom camping problems have broken out elsewhere. He said it's like a balloon, if you squeeze one area it pops out somewhere else. Cr Leslie said problems have occurred in Twizel.

The Mayor said Mayors are taking a coordinated approach with the government. She has been in touch with Mayors of other high tourism places and they are working together on the issue.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.

Cr Cox/Cr Armstrong

2. That the Council endorses the decision to temporarily close the freedom camping area at Hamilton Drive, Tekapo.

Cr Williams/Cr Leslie

Cr Leslie said now that resolution has been passed he requested that the chief executive close the freedom camping area at Lake Ruataniwha, as recommended by the Twizel Community Board at it's previous meeting. The chief executive said he would look into this. A member of the public said the Lake Alexandrina/Lake MacGregor area also needed to be investigated. The Mayor thanked the Tekapo residents who were present at the meeting, and others who had been very proactive and constructive on this issue.

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.40AM

MAYOR: _____

DATE: _____