Minutes of the Mount Maunganui Working Party Hui

held at BoPRC Council Chambers, Elizabeth Street, Tauranga

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

**Chair:** Graeme Marshall

**Attendees:** Aroha Kopae (Ngāti Kuku); Nathan James (Ngāti Kuku support); Jim Miller (Toi Te Ora); Bill Wasley (TCC Commissioner); Charlie Bourne (Balance Agri-nutrients); Awhina Ngatuere (Ngāti Kuku); Joel Ngatuere (Whareroa Marae); Kate Barry-Piceno (TMFAG); Dan Kneebone (Port of Tauranga); Cr Matemoana McDonald (BoPRC); Ashley Hart (Lawter); Joey McKenzie (Port of Tauranga); Kiri Petia (WB PHO); Dudley Clemens (J Swap); Cr Stacey Rose (BoPRC); Emma Jones (Clear the Air); Shad Rolleston (TCC Commissioner); Dominic Adams (Balance Agri-nutrients); Julien Huteau (Ecocific); Lindsey Webber (WB PHO); Cr Paula Thompson (BoPRC); Craig Duxfield (Lawter); Heidi Hughes (Clear the Air); Hayden Henry (Ngāi Tukairangi).

**Via Zoom:** Samantha Lay Yee, Rebecca Lloyd (MfE)

**Apologies:** Pete Chandler (DHB); Pia Bennett (Ngāi Te Rangi Rūnanga)

**Support:** Sarah Omundsen; Barbara Dempsey; Des Henry; Mel Jones

**Scribe:** Reece Irving

Opening karakia – Joel Ngatuere

Acknowledge Ngāti Tapū and Ngāi Tamarawaho who hold mana whenua over Te Papa where the Regional Council offices are located.

Chair welcomed all attendees and acknowledged that some agencies have not yet had an opportunity to present to the group.

Chair thanked all participants for their comments during individual catch-ups.

Acknowledgement that many have been involved in the air quality conversation for a long time.

The Aim of this meeting is to get to tangible action.

Huge amount of goodwill and commitment to the cause of dealing with air quality in Mount amongst members of the Working Party.

Different beliefs and allegiances but shared values around the tables. This is what we want to work with.

Building relationships with other Working Party members outside the hui has been heartening.

Trust and respect but do not need to agree on everything to make progress.

Group discussion format is the aim of today.

* **Previous minutes:** Taken as read. Accepted unanimously.
* **Outstanding business:** A rangatahi representative from Mt College could join the Working Party.
* **Terms of Reference:** Hayden Henry said that Ngāi Tukairangi were not at the inaugural meeting and believes all iwi and hapū need to meet together to agree on the terms of reference before they are adopted.

Terms of Reference were carried over until the next meeting for adoption. Iwi and hapū to meet prior to the next meeting to approve.

**Action:** Members to send any additional changes to Reece Irving reece.irving@boprc.govt.nz to incorporate into the draft Terms of Reference, which are attached.

* **Membership and size of the Working Party:** Proposed that one representative from each agency would help get numbers to a more manageable level. The consensus was to remain with numbers as they currently are.

Breaking into smaller groups at this meeting was helpful.

* **Next meeting** – Port of Tauranga. Date to be decided. Tour of the Port on offer.

Closing karakia – Hayden Henry.

**Round Table breakout discussions:**

The members present were separated into five smaller breakout groups, with each containing a member from local government, public health, business/industry, community network and iwi/hapū. Each group were given the same activities - to discuss issues and arrive at solutions.

Key points:

* Air Quality in Mount Maunganui is poor and is impacting human health
* Historical zoning and land acquisitions have caused the current issue
* Business / industry can do better, invest more and reduce their impact on air quality
* There is a traditional lack of urgency to address the issues
* Mount airshed specific rules to control emissions need to be adopted with urgency
* A moratorium on issuing any new discharge consents must happen
* Existing consents need to be reviewed so council can charge industry for the cost of monitoring
* More monitoring needs to occur, it should be independent but paid for by polluters
* Whareroa hapū will only accept a managed retreat of industry as the final goal

Three most important outcomes

* Urgency – identify what has already been achieved and outline what else can be achieved with immediacy to improve the air quality situation
* Rules – local and central government need to be reviewing legislation and regional rules to ensure they are specific and relevant to reduce air discharges in the Mount air-shed
* Zoning – industrial zoning near marae / residential areas needs to change.

**Appendix 1**

**Appendix 1: Collated table discussion notes**

**Table 1**

**The three things agreed on:**

1. There is a growing awareness and commitment of the Tauranga community to improve air quality at Mt Maunganui.

2. There is the ability and willingness for industrial operators located at Mt Maunganui to continue to improve their operations to reduce adverse air effects;

3. There is the acknowledgment and willingness for the government organisations who are part of this working party to continue with a stronger focus on their roles and responsibilities to reduce adverse air effects.

Other discussion points:

* Acknowledgement of urgency.
* Need to industry to be part of the discussion.
* Tangible actions and solutions.
* Need to understand/acknowledge Mt Maunganui’s working environment.
* Collective cumulative data/initiatives should be shared.
* Need for unity.
* Multi agency problem.
* Need to prioritise -low hanging fruit first.

**The two areas to focus on:**

1. Zoning – there has been a maturity around industrial planning in other cities, the standards in the Mount should be the same as other areas – best practice standards (e.g. Tauriko). *Action: Zoning/Rules-look at understanding/seeking public & community input into long term vision/changes for industrial zone area of Mt. Maunganui to reflect current best planning practise for industrial areas. Concept /Spatial plan-buffer zone of soft industrial. Responsibility of Regional and City Council joint report.*
2. Health – need more information to better understand the issues and how they can be mitigated. *Action: Health-educational role of DHB/Regional Council to provide information to public about the Mt Maunganui air shed, info to workers in Mt Maunganui airshed, DHB provide info to GPs –they be asked to include in their notes data from patients if they work in the airshed, if involved in recent incident etc.*

Other discussion points:

* Success/achievements-what does this look like, what timeframe is involved?
* Early wins that companies could achieve to control dust should be focus, Dominic Adams agreed to arrange and coordinate this.

**Table 2**

**The three things agreed on:**

1. Air quality needs to improve significantly.
2. Collective responsibility.
3. Many actions involved to sort the issues out.

(Mauri, Wairua, Kotahitanga)

1: Mauri: Quality

Quality- how do you define this (needs to be something you can measure)

Need to improve how to define quality

Need to prioritise on things that have most impact

Cumulative effects

Set emission targets (CO2) under climate change

2: Kotahitanga: Unity

Working together

Multi agencies

United with a common purpose

Whānau dynamics

All employees who are impacted

3: Wairua: Effects

Effects on individuals

NES standards - Need local agreement on what are acceptable standards

Pollution Index

Existing companies (consented) having to cope with new companies (unconsented)

Make data live (BOPRC air monitoring data)

Have a live tracking app –community reporting

**The two areas to focus on:**

1. Community: Why can’t Councils put a moratorium on consents? Need to push pause and take stock of what is happening in the area. Sort out what the real problem is and get a full understanding of the cumulative impact of health, environment and social.
2. Would like to put pause on new consents being accepted in the area

A panel of experts to view & discuss first

Needs to have greater discussion around the impact on health issues

Health against RMA

**Who to lead:**

Joint sponsorship taken by TCC & BOPRC to act on. Ensure right expertise is on panel especially health experts when accepting consents.

1. Community: What does social license mean to the industries here?

A) Social License – explore Social Contract!

 Four wellbeing’s – social, cultural, environmental, health – needs to be balanced

 Who contributes to what identified?

 Need someone to represent from each of above four wellbeing’s

 All to sign up to contract

 **Who to lead:**

Social Contract to be led by BOP Regional Council.

 Hold workshop – bring in reps from different groups, companies, iwi to represent above

**Table 3**

**The three things agreed on:**

1. There is a problem with air quality and we share the same concerns
2. The standards are not appropriate for the Mount situation – need to set appropriate standards
3. There is incompatible land use which exacerbates the problem

Other discussion points:

* Need to be able to identify all the different factors that contribute to the problem so everyone is clear on what needs to be done.

**The two areas to focus on:**

1. Social license: Industry needs to come together to understand what social license means to them, what are the issues, what they can do to improve the environment, what the short and long term solutions are and put pressure on each other. *Action: bring industry together, with a dedicated lead, look to develop a charter with the community*
2. Monitoring – need more site specific information to help understand the ambient AQ issues, but recognise many industries do not have the resources to do that. *Action: look at setting up a fund that industry own and allocate.*

**Table 4**

**The three things agreed on:**

1. Air quality is unacceptably poor. It is killing our Whānau, harming our community; we need to do something about it.
2. Share data/information:
* What are Council/industry already doing?
* Agree on a common data set
* All data and information should be on the table for trust, transparency and to assist in identifying any gaps; and
* Guidelines – aim to meet standards
1. Tangible actions and solutions with accountability and responsibility behind these.

**The two areas to focus on:**

1. New rules are needed to allow BOPRC to better enforce air quality and to set a new threshold for new industrial activities.

What is the cumulative effect/impact of the activity when assessing a new application or consent holders breaching conditions?

Responsibility: BOPRC.

1. Addition of Health Professionals/Cultural experts on Hearing Panels.

Responsibility: BOPRC and TCC.

**Table 5**

**The three things agreed on:**

1. Air quality in the Mount industrial area needs to improve. This is not under dispute.
2. Is the Mount fit for purpose for business and industry?
* Ports need to be located in particular areas. The Port wants to stay local.
* Industry can change and improve, but there will be low investment if there is no certainty around where they can operate.
* For Ngāti Kuku and Whareroa the zoning must change and industry must retreat, there is no room for negotiation on this stance.
1. Develop a set of rules specific to the Mount airshed

The key issues are:

* Rules
* Zoning
* Consents
* Hazardous management plans
* Buffer areas
* Monitoring

**The two areas to focus on:**

1. Currently a lack of understanding of who is polluting. Many permitted activity businesses have no monitoring data specific to their activity.
* Need to know the issue at an individual site level, who is contributing what?
* Who needs to monitor? Who pays for additional monitoring? Should there be a joint industry / council fund set up to undertake additional monitoring?
* If monitoring is to be undertaken by individual businesses there needs to be a **co-ordinated approach**. What **type** of monitoring, for what **duration**, using what **equipment,** with what defined **criteria**, who will **report** on the findings of the monitoring?
1. Develop Mount specific rules and standards that are stricter than the NES to protect human health.