Minutes of the

Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party Hui

held at Port of Tauranga, Salisbury Ave, Mt Maunganui

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

**Chair:** Graeme Marshall

**In attendance:** Joel Ngatuere (Whareroa), Emma Jones, Heidi Hughes (Clear the Air Mt Maunganui), Councillor Matemoana McDonald (BOPRC), Charlie Bourne (Ballance Agri-nutrients), Hayden Henry (Ngāi Tukairangi), Cat Lochore (Toi Te Ora Public Health), Mark Hollands (Waste Management), Dan Kneebone, Joey McKenzie (Port of Tauranga), Ashley Hart (Lawter), Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, Commissioner Bill Wasley (TCC), Dudley Clemens (J. Swap Contractors), Aroha Kopae (Ngāti Kuku), Nicole Smith (TMFAG); Councillor Paula Thompson (BoPRC); Janine Speedy (TCC), Megan Clarkin (Ballance Agri-nutrients)

**Support:** Sarah Omundsen, Stephen Mellor (BoPRC); Barbara Dempsey (TCC)

**Apologies:** Kiri Peita, Lindsey Webber (Western Bay Primary Health Organisation); Jim Miller (Toi Te Ora), Kate Barry-Piceno (TMFAG); Emily Gudsell (TCC tangata whenua); Pete Chandler (DHB); Dominic Adams (Ballance Agri-nutrients); Craig Duxfield (Lawter); Des Heke (Ngāti Ranginui); Pia Bennett (Ngai Te Rangi runanga)

**Scribe:** Reece Irving

**Opening Karakia** – Joel Ngatuere

**General Welcome** – Graeme Marshall

**Goals for this Meeting** - getting more information, maintaining momentum, getting answers and driving actions. It is time to get clarity and visibility on issues and actions and hold those responsible for air quality to account. Continue to seek ways to work collaboratively.

Explore what if anything has changed since the journey started. What progress is being made. Is there more than talk going on? What are we achieving?

**General Business**

**Introduction to new faces** – Megan Clarkin (Communications, Balance Agri-nutrients); Janine Speedy (Team Leader City Planning, TCC); Nicole Smith (TMFAG)

**Minutes of last meeting**. Unanimously accepted.

**Terms of Reference.**

Changes to the Vision and Mission Statement of the Terms of Reference were tabled by Whareroa hapū. The changes proposed were agreed and have been updated in the final Terms of Reference, circulated with these minutes.

**Key Actions arising from previous Working Party hui.**

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| Zoning | Assessment of what best practice looks like for industrial zoning using recent examples in mixed use areas (such as Tauriko) | TCC |
| Health | Understand the contaminants being discharged in the Airshed which may be harmful to health, and ensure GPs in the area understand the risks | DHB & BOPRC |
| Consents | Look into the feasibility of placing a moratorium on consents until cumulative impacts are better understood | TCC & BOPRC |
| Social license | Bring industry together and develop social license charter with the community | Led by Ballance |
| Monitoring | Specific site based monitoring to better understand discharge sources, potentially delivered through an industry owned fund | Led by Ballance |
| New rules for the Airshed | Set fit for purpose air discharge rules in the Airshed that ensure people and the environment are safe | BOPRC |
| Hearing panels | Ensure hearing panels for consents and plan changes include health professionals and cultural experts | TCC & BOPRC |

**Agency discussion around progressing key actions**

**Janine Speedy – Tauranga City Council – Zoning**

* TCC are in the early stages of reviewing the Tauranga City Plan.
* This involves Identifying key issues with the current city plan and what the options are to resolve these issues.
* Regarding industrial zoned land this will involve undertaking a spatial application of industrial land across the city.
* The Mt Industrial area is identified as a key spatial planning issue.
* Resolution with Western Bay regarding industrial zoning. Undertaking a stocktake of commercial and industrial zoning across the sub-region.
* National Planning Standards give a toolbox of commercial and industrial zones. Identifying what zones will look like and where these zones spatially sit across the region.
* Identify how these zones sit in practice on the ground.
* Need to ensure that sufficient commercial and industrial land is provided for future growth. Researching a number of councils across NZ to see how they have been undertaking zoning. Looking at reverse sensitivity and how this will be taken into account.
* RMA reforms raise a lot of questions about how the plan will look – however we do know that there will be just one Regional Plan for all TA’s and the Regional Council.

**Q & A regarding zoning**

*Is Ziwi Petfoods in the Mount Industrial airshed?* Yes it is.

*Are there different types of industrial zones, like light and heavy, and rules on where they should be located?* Yes, there are different zones and it is up to the Territorial Authority (City or District Council) to determine what is an appropriate location for different land uses. There are also Special Purpose Zones under National Planning Standards. Not all zones have to be used in a plan. TCC are determining how heavy industry differs from general industrial in the plan review.

*Does a Port Zone only include a port or also associated industries?* There is a current Port Zone in Tauranga’s City Plan and it allows for a variety of land uses associated with the Port.

*Is a stocktake of Industrial land uses being undertaken?* Yes TCC are looking at current land uses and resource consents to find out what activities are being undertaken where.

*What is the buffer between different zones?* Buffers between activities are determined by reverse sensitivity.

*Who sits where in reverse sensitivity – i.e does industry have precedence over residential areas?* There is a buffer zone between industry and residential, but this is to be reviewed. Roads and open space are considered buffers.

*What does reverse sensitivity mean for residents?* If you have an existing land use in an industrial zone and want to set up a new business or expand your current business, you will likely need to consider set-backs for your business if there will be an impact on residential areas.

*Will the new plan give more direction as to buffers for heavy industry and residential?* The plan is in the early stages and TCC have not got to that stage as yet to determine what the buffers will be. The council are at the stage of looking at what is occurring on the ground now to see how things will look in the future.

Any change in zoning would not affect existing business as they have existing use rights.

TCC is still in Stage One of this work and have not progressed to a point of engagement however are happy to come back to another working party meeting to flesh this out.

*How is Mātauranga being taken into consideration in this work?* There is a joint spatial plan and an iwi spatial plan which TCC will take into consideration and they will be fed into the city plan review.

*Where do local governments join when it comes to zoning and spatial planning taking air quality into account?* The new RMA reforms will have one plan for all TA’s and the Region. TCC also has regular meetings with BoPRC to discuss plan changes and reviews to ensure the agencies are working on the same page.

*How can the Working Party help with addressing the challenges around zoning and buffer distances?* TCC will inform the Working Party about what can be achieved and what cannot be achieved and outline how the working party can help input on actions that will be a challenge.

**Social licence and monitoring.**

**Charlie Bourne – Ballance Agri-nutrients**

The first industry led Mount Industrial Network meeting is being held on Thursday 20 May.

Industries “Social licence to operate” and developing an industry led and funded air quality monitoring network will be discussed. Ballance will report to the Working Party at the next meeting as to the outcomes of these discussions.

*Is social licence going to include industry’s impact on air land and water?* Yes industry will be looking at all of that.

**New air shed specific rules.**

**Sarah Omundsen – Bay of Plenty Regional Council.**

New rules for airshed (PC 18) are currently being written and a draft discussion document will be consulted on in late June / early July.

* PC13 Bulk Handling rule is still under appeal.
* MfE’s NESAQ are the national guidelines that direct our work. These are under review and are unlikely to be released until next year.
* Ideally PC13 appeals will be resolved before moving ahead with new rules for the airshed.
* The Working party members will receive an invitation to meet and discuss the draft discussion document.

Monitoring and measuring exceedances:

* We are seeing an improvement in air quality over time with fewer exceedances being recorded in dust and SO2– there have been real changes in business practice and there is an overall improvement in mitigations being undertaken.

**Q & A Airshed rules**

*Why are odours so difficult to describe as offensive or objectionable? Odours are a bigger issue for most residents than PM10. Odours need to be covered in plan changes. Will residents and this working party be consulted on new rules?* Yes the offer will be made to the group to be involved in the rule development and plan changes.

**Port presentation – Joey McKenzie.**

There are approximately six million tonnes of logs exported per annum from the Port of Tauranga. Around one million tonnes of logs are fumigated. Methyl bromide use has almost halved in the past 12 months to 160 tonnes of MeBr applied to logs. The Port is encouraging debarked logs by charging a lower rate to the exporters if there are debarked logs being brought onto the port.

The port is actively encouraging and incentivising off port debarking. This also uses less MeBr as debarked logs do not need to be fumigated.

Multiple other dust control measures have been implemented at the Port and new solutions are being trialled. The success of these controls can be measured by the noticeable drop in elevated PM10 recorded at the Rail Yard South Monitoring site. Please refer to the attached Port of Tauranga presentation slides.

There is an open invitation from the Port if anyone wants do discuss the on-going work and to explore other solutions.

**Q & A – Port presentation**

*Does Rail produce less PM10 in log transportation compared to trucks?* At present 50% of logs come in via rail and 50% via road. This transportation method depends on where the forestry is located in terms of transport solutions. Central North Island has rail. Coromandel for instance has no rail connection. It is likely PM10 from trains is less than from trucking for the same number of logs moved.

**Closing karakia.** Joel Ngatuere.

**Actions:**

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| **Action** | **Agency** | **Completed** |
| Updated Terms of Reference circulated with these minutes. To be adopted at the next Working Party hui. | BoPRC |  |
| Send a letter to MfE outlining they are an important partner in the Air Quality Working Party and their attendance at future meetings is considered a requirement for meaningful engagement. Ministry to present at next hui. | BoPRC |  |
| TCC to give a presentation on National Planning Standards at a future Working Party meeting. | TCC |  |
| BoPRC shows consents that are active, when they are coming up for renewal and where they are located. | BoPRC |  |
| Working Party to be provided monitoring information from BoPRC and industry. | BoPRC / Industry |  |
| Ballance will report to the Working Party at the next meeting as to the outcomes of the Industrial Network discussions. | Ballance |  |

**Attachments**

Terms of Reference (updated)

Port of Tauranga Presentation (Attached as PDF)