Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party – Questions & Answers

Apologies – Heidi & John Morris, as per Agenda

Congratulations to Reuben

Key – report by commissioners

Previous minutes – accepted

Actions arising – Manuwhenua looking forward to presentation

Health Act and RMA – feedback none sufficient understanding

* Note: there will be a follow-up re GP awareness – will this be reported back to us
* Yes template available.
* Clarify action done our outcome? – do GP’s know what to ask? Query what was presented to GPs and any feedback from GPS?
* Toi te Ora put together a statement to put out to GP network to report to office of health if any patients became ill. No feedback re this over the last few years.
* General concern re health or respiratory issues above the national standard. Broader than specific poisoning issues.
* Not a particularly efficient system. Issue around health risk is clear when you breach standards.

Comment on LIM

* Meeting scheduled later this week to have discussion and will report back to group on outcome

**HAPINZ**

MFE do not wish to be involved re report released in July.

Presentation of report.

Based on 2016 data. 3rd edition report to be published.

Focus on key manmade air pollution.

6 year lag – 2022 snapshot from 2016 – snapshot human produced particulate matter

MFE uncertain how NES might sit. 2023 until we are likely to see anything table in parliament by MFE.

* Is TCC/BOPRC coming together with MFE to put the lens over our area to extract data to help with decision making – specific follow-on for Mount Area
* Report did not delve exclusively to Mount – overview of full Tauranga area
* Will we go down that track with MFE?
* It would be helpful to get a more definitive set of data – will specifically ask that question
* We should be pushing this as Māori Representative
* Medical assessments not done at 3 maraes, (Whareroa Marae) who have collected information. Concerns re health checks and assessments not done
* Air quality – Totara Street issues
* Container park – air emissions
* Cruise Ships – air emission concerns
* What are we doing about this?
* Industrial emissions are .1% nationally but concentration of industry in this area need to look at this
* Emissions likely not gone down over 6 years specifically nitrous oxide from transport likely bigger than thought on health and wellbeing.
* Are we monitoring for nitrous oxide – we don’t know a lot about this – consideration needed
* 36600 restricted activities days TCC area – due to air quality – high
* Hayden raised point re medical testing – at start of this year working through goals and achievement, medical testing at marae raised as a point.
* Focus on mount monitoring important – specific data for this area required
* Mount is the most heavily monitored area in NZ
* The need for clarity on targets for emission reductions both short and longer term
* Challenge needed to address be very clear about what our targets will be for emission reduction particularly for Tauranga City
* Mindful we are talking about a complex range of contaminants
* Some we know little about some we know a lot about
* New pollutant Nitrous Oxide was a surprise the report writers – triple peer reviewed as not anticipated
* Approached a consultant to scale down this information – pm2.5 and nitrous dioxide for Mt Maunganui, Ōmanu, Sulphur Point, Tauranga port – Health numbers and premature deaths?
* No fumigation in empty containers area
* Fumigation of Methal bromide has 100% capture for a number of years now
* Cruise ships – utilise exhaust gas
* Introduction of MARPOL was a big win for the port – cleaner fuel oils – sulphur dioxide dropped off dramatically but not across all of the area
* POT undertake monitoring health of workers and employees – no concerns at this time
* Manu Whenua – how do we become proactive to do their own assessments
* This should be a key discussion point for the next meeting – put on agenda
* Mental health needs to be assessed – whole health testing of people and communities – mental and spiritual

**TCC**

What are TCC’s plans for mount industrial area and coastal strip

* Presentation – Development Vision is key
* Commissioners finish 2024 – how can you guarantee this work will continue>
* There are no absolute guarantees the work wont change course. What is key is that in terms of engagement with community groups/business – the more it is undertaken it become far more challenging to change directions – positive outcome for community is key
* Climate plan – recently started – within that are external agencies – MFE were not included – Manu Whenua
* Gaps analysis – how as Manu Whenua not part of this?
* Spatial Plan – pre-engagement but Manu Whenua have not had any engagement with spatial plan
* Through Smart Growth resource has been made available for iwi/hapū to form their planning

**CLEAR THE AIR Community Presentation – the lived experience**

* In terms of sufficient evidence for action – what will make progress ASAP
* The levers for change lie with TCC/BOPRC and industry.
* Standards of Evidence in Enviro. Courts – how much more evidence do you need.
* What actions are required based on the evidence we have? We don’t have a choice we need to be below national standards
* Responsibilities are clear – reduce pollution and meet the guideline values – this should be our goal, it wont be easy but this should be our aim
* Outcomes for the wellbeing of people is paramount – action is required
* Hot wind – no actions
* Western science and mautauranga do not align
* 80% are in full time employed jobs working in this area, we cobble together expertise, we don’t have the resources.
* The purpose of this meeting is to ensure industry/TCC/BOPRC have social licence to operate.
* Lots of talking – no action
* We need an expert fully paid by TCC/BOPRC/Industry to work for and on behalf of the community – to stand for them
* If we stay with the status quo there will be no change – be upfront on you position as a TA/Industry owner
* What is the future for this town – defined time frames
* Industry needs defined time frames to adhere to – transition plans
* BOPRC should not be the regulatory body for industrial area and port area. BOPRC majority shareholder in Quayside Holding – conflict of interest
* What is being put in place to make safe the community – what umbrella of safety is being implemented
* Agencies are obliged to provide a solution and we are listening
* Short term – working to guidelines and limits currently in place
* BOPRC medium term – better consents and new consenting
* Long term changes – we need better rules in this place
* Plan change 13 – still not decided as yet
* Support proposition Nicole raised – collectively work on public/working groups working full time and trying to manage community voice. A real need for legal support and expert opinion required for community – cost prohibitive
* Process for change is extremely challenging, more support for community group needs to be explored
* An independent person qualified air and water specialist Dr Julian. Engagement with him was almost non-existent from TCC/BOPRC.
* There is a sense of frustration too from commissioners – in order to make change we need to plan, good information and good evidence. Change takes collaboration to shift the dial. Decisions makers have to balance all perspectives and view. In terms of the RM reform please make submissions and push your case around change.
* The Port has been working hard to improve air quality, but recognise there is still more work to do – we are listening
* Not a lot of tangible evidence change is being made
* Are we making progress – through continued communication we can push forward
* Community resourcing is paramount for community advocates in this space

**Industrial Investment In Cleaner Technology Presentation - Ballance**

* Good to see genuine proactive investment to rectify issues
* How are the monitoring results for sulphur dioxide – localised impacts
* PM2.5 monitoring only recently installed – still collecting monitoring data
* SO2 monitor located in stack – levels consistently below resource consent requirements
* Consent wat 90kg of SO2 per hour, upgrade reduced emissions to about a quarter – 10-20 mark

**Key Odour Presentations from Conference – Sarah**

* Focused odour conference attended this year. Some key discussion points were around psychological/psychological health impacts
* Discussions around regulator response to complaints
* Discussions around supporting communities for focus on smells and sources - offensive and objectionable
* Presentations on how we can make better rules
* Germany new rules – move away from offensive and objectionable – their officers can come on site and say this smells and take action – not using ‘odour hour’ as acceptable

**Closure**

* MFE involvement
* Community Advocate
* HAPNZ report – further discussion around nitrous oxide data – this might be causing more ill health than we know – we don’t know enough around the levels in this area. More a transport than industry issue?
* Whaka Kothi need to be around the table for these discussions – this is a transport issue as well

**Farewell to Sarah**

**Closed: 11:30**