

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Meeting with iwi		
Meeting Venue	Whakatane District Council Chambers		
Date Of Meeting	28 November 2007	Time Of Meeting	1-3pm
Chairperson	Carolyn Wratt	Recorders	Sharn, Tony and Carolyn

Project Details

Client Name Whakatane District Council
 Project Name Whakatane Rural Monitoring & Review
 Project Number Z1623600

Attendees

Ian Shearer
 Charlotte Skeet
 Derek Gosling
 Colin Sebou
 Tony Bullard
 Sharn Meekel
 Carolyn Wratt

What is good about the rural area?

Rural services eg school buses were once not enough people to support these services but increased rural population makes it viable

Cleaner, quieter, easier pace of life

Self determining, can decide what they do with their own land and the management of it

Hard working people

Less traffic

Greater distance between houses

Cooperative and collaborative communities

Rural people have a greater understanding of the land

Closer relationship and attachment between people and the land

Rural people have responsibility and pride in the land

Pride when others see / recognise what they achieved with their land

More awareness of property rights

Wider open spaces

Greater level of indigenous vegetation / pasture / exotic plantations

Uniform nature of plantations

Rural people are masters of their own domain

Rural towns are unique

Tremendous cost-benefits from living in a rural community, it is more affordable for young people than living in an urban environment

Pride in being rural

Can make a living off the land

What isn't good about the rural area?

Conflict of uses and reverse sensitivity eg piggeries

Attitude of people attracted to lifestyle blocks

Pollens

Council focuses on CBD, neglects the rural sector

Mind shift in Council towards rural life and rural towns

No attention to how people live in the rural towns eg Te Teko

Water supply dubious, rural water supplies need work

Wastewater systems insufficient

Not adequately budgeted

Rural roads and bridges need attention

People can't manage 10acres

Weeds

Forestry

Conditions of roads due to forestry trucks

Rural roads are not wide enough

Forestry is moving towards harvesting 24 hours a day

Longer travel required to get into town

Conversions of forestry to dairy – more adverse environmental effects associated with dairy including sediment into the rivers, practices of dairy

Need to protect native bush

Mind shift from production to retiring pieces of land

Little opportunity for work in rural villages

General Comments

CBD is restricted geographically and surrounded by multiply Maori owned land

Performance standards need to be right

Need to retain and protect native bush

With an aging population, there will be more retirement subdivisions

Use protection as guidance eg Ohiwa Strategy

Need to raise the awareness of RAP's and SNA's

Need to raise awareness of areas of significance through DP

Philosophical approach needs to be right – land first, then people

Maori owned land – need to get to know peculiarities of Maori owned land

Administrative difficulties with developing Maori land

Occupy and manage Maori land as a taonga into the future

Owners are caretakers

Maori tied to land, others are there to make a profit

How do you value land you can't sell? Eg rating of Maori owned land

Location of waste transfer station – it is a long way for rural people to come, leads to rubbish being dumped on the side of roads around the community

2 processes for development of Maori land – Maori Court and RMA

Council should have jurisdiction over functional things eg stormwater, wastewater, road access etc. Council shouldn't have any interest in who owns the land

Answers lie in performance standards and permitted activities

Land locking and access to water are the most difficult issues to resolve

Maori land should not be rated as if it could be sold on the open market

Pamphlets for rural subdivision are required so that people understand the rules. Need for a pamphlet outlining people's expectation when moving into the rural environment eg "so you're moving into the country?"

Distribute pamphlet package to rural real estate agents

Concerned that Government is claiming Maori owned native bush as their own for carbon credits

Add in new performance standards

Iwi wish to assist Council write rules addressing cultural issues eg recommending protection of a place or feature