

MINUTES
NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING

30 May 2017

Crowne Plaza, Queenstown

Board Members: J Forbes (chair), P Brown, P Mudford, B Stuart and R McNeill.

In attendance: E Pyle (chief executive), R Cullinane (operations manager), N Varuhas (acting corporate services manager), P Culling (corporate service manager from 21 August 2017) and Ange van der Laan (RFA for Southland)

Opening Comments

The meeting commenced at 11.45am.

The Chair welcomed Board members and staff and with Eric Pyle introduced N Varuhas and P Culling, and invited Peter Brown to open the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

Conflicts of Interest

The Chair declared a conflict with agenda item 11, EAF grants.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

2. Confirm Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Wellington on 8 March 2016 were circulated and read.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the minutes of the 8 March 2017 meeting as being a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chief executive's report

The Board discussed the chief executive's report for May 2017.

E Pyle reported on the Hunter Valley OIO application. The OIO accepted two of the Commission's nine recommendations on the Hunter Valley Station. The Commission recommended managed vehicle access up the Hunter Valley, OIO did not accept this recommendation. The Commission, with the support of the Minister's Office has sought a legal opinion relating to easements as a mechanism for defining the OIO's "acting reasonably" in relation to applicants.

The Commission continues to work with the Matakana Trails Trust and is continuing to work with NZTA on compensation funding for the severance of the Moirs Hill Walkway. On Friday, 19 May the NZTA agreed to compensation of \$800,000. Once the compensation has been received the Commission will establish a project working with Auckland Council and the community group.

On 22 May, Peho Tamiana, P Brown and E Pyle attended a hui with the landowners, the Gibbs family, to discuss the Whitecliffs Walkway. The local iwi Poutama have a marae on part of the land, deemed reserve land, and are looking to a managed walkway in the future. The local politics involved may take some time to work through and there may be other options to access the walkway. The Commission will raise with the local council the need to carry out some work on the Whitecliffs Walkway.

The *Access Me* report prepared by a student as an Aspinall Scholarship has been received on a web-based system for requesting and granting access over private land.

E Pyle outlined the risks the Commission is currently facing, and the actions the organisation is taking to mitigate these risks.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the chief executive's report for May 2017.

Moved P Brown **Seconded** P Mudford **Carried**

4. Accommodation

E Pyle reported that the Commission moved into the new office accommodation on 21 April, co-locating with NZTE (also a crown entity) in the Majestic Centre Willis Street. The staff are very happy with the office accommodation.

Action: The Board

- a) **agreed** to the Commission co-locating with NZTE.
b) **notes** the elements of the co-location agreement with NZ Trade and Enterprise (paragraph 6 of the paper).
c) **notes** that the Commission will not be sharing accommodation with Sport NZ for the foreseeable future.

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

5. Overseas Investment Office (OIO) cases

The Commission has opened 248 OIO cases, 181 have been completed with access recommendation reports developed, and 61 are currently in progress. Of the 181 completed cases, 79 (44%) recommended new access and 102 (56%) did not recommend any new access.

Eight OIO “implementation cases” have been completed – creating a total of five new walkways and several esplanade/access strips.

As at the end of March 2017 the Commission had 47 implementation cases open. Resolution of OIO implementation cases is outside the Commission’s direct control. Where the purchase is essentially for private purposes, public access of any type is generally strongly opposed. The Commission has no coercive power to require applicants to implement access. The power to enforce consent conditions rests solely with the OIO. The OIO’s current priority is resolving the cases where overseas investment has not been processed through the OIO.

Overall, it is estimated OIO case consume more than 20% of the Commission’s operational resource. The Commission is at the start of the upward trend of the implementation curve and can expect the number of active OIO implementation cases to grow.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** the Commission is carrying an increasing number of ‘OIO Implementation’ cases and that around 50% of these could require significant effort to get across the line.
- b) **discussed** the Commission’s approach and options for managing complex ‘OIO Implementation’ cases.
- c) **recommended** that a briefing paper be prepared for the incoming CEO at the OIO
- d) **recommended** that the Chief Executive undertakes a review of the Commission’s OIO process as well where the Commission links in to the OIO process, and reports back to the Board.

Moved

B Stuart

Seconded

P Brown

Carried

6. Strategy narrative

The Board discussed the draft vision and strategic plan, and the strategic narrative.

E Pyle reported on the progress on the draft strategic vision and plan and the considerable consultation that has taken place with key stakeholders, including the Board and Minister Upston, as well as regional field officers and staff.

The Board gave feedback on some of the wording and wish to discuss further the vision and parts of the narrative.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the updated strategic plan and narrative, with a particular focus on the vision statement, and any crucial gaps remaining in the narrative.
- b) **agreed** that the vision and strategic narrative be discussed further at a workshop during the next board meeting in July.

Moved

Seconded

Carried

7. Agile access

E Pyle described the concept of agile access, and opportunities for proposed development. Agile access was the outcome of a joint workshop with the Commission, the School of Surveying at University of Otago and LINZ, and could enable the Commission to provide landowners with flexibility in regards to the placement of easements and walkways over their property, while maintaining the intent of the access. There is support from the Office of the Surveyor-General and School Of Surveying at the University of Otago for this work.

The Board noted the opportunities and recommended that initial meetings with key parties early on could be useful.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the proposed development of agile access.
- b) **approved** the Commission doing more work on this.
- c) **noted** that this is an issue that could lead to proposals for changes to the Walking Access Act.
- d) **noted** the Commission will run a workshop to further develop the thinking.
- e) **noted** the support of the Office of the Surveyor-General and School of Surveying at the University of Otago.
- f) **recommended** that the Chief Executive consult with key parties on agile access and report back to the Board.

Moved

J Forbes

Seconded

R McNeill

Carried

8. Statement of Performance Expectations

E Pyle reported on the process for the development of the 2017-18 Statement of Performance Expectations, and the thinking behind a 1-year SPE, during which time the Commission's strategy is revised. This has led to identifying new measurement possibilities such as measuring the amount of access that exists in New Zealand, which in turn requires an understanding of how accurate the cadastre is and measuring the access that exists currently.

The Board noted Audit New Zealand's comments on the SPE and performance measures.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the Statement of Performance Expectations for 2017-2018;
- b) **agreed** that John Forbes (chair) and Penny Mudford (board member) sign the Foreword and Statement of Responsibility; and
- c) **noted** that management will deliver the 2017-2018 Statement of Performance Expectations to Parliament for tabling following the Minister's approval.
- d) **noted** that management will seek the views of the Board should any substantive feedback be received from the Minister's office or MPI.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

9. Digital Strategy Update

E Pyle gave a progress update on planning towards an enhanced digital presence for the Commission. In March 2017, a paper Towards a digital strategy was discussed with the Board and since then further discussions have been held with staff, and external parties on the requirements for a future Commission web presence, and the opportunities for the Commission to leverage and enhanced web presence to achieve its strategic goals.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** progress towards the creation an enhanced digital presence for the Commission.
- b) **noted** the communications manager will run a workshop for the Board during the July meeting to further explore ideas for the Commission's digital presence.

Moved B Stuart **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

10. Legislative Compliance

E Pyle presented the 2017 legislative compliance review report to the Board.

A review of the legislative compliance checklist took place during May 2017. The checklist sets out key statutory requirements and compliance measures for significant legislation, and additional statutes that are pertinent to the Commission's operations.

Action: The Board

- a) **approved** the 2017 legislative compliance review

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

11. Enhanced Access Fund (EAF) - 2016 Round Tranche 2

The Chair declared an interest in one of the grant applications and passed the Chair to P Mudford for the agenda item.

The Board received the recommendations of the assessment panel for the 2016 round tranche 2. Eight EAF grant applications were received for Tranche 2, with six applications totalling \$29,420 were recommended for funding.

The Board:

- a) **approved** funding for six applications from Tranche 2, totalling \$29,420 exclusive of GST, as recommended by the EAF grants assessment panel.
- b) **agreed** that the chief executive advises all applicants of the Board's decision, and invites the successful applicants to confirm their agreement to any conditions set by the Board.
- c) **directed** the chief executive to consider appropriate timing of the release of decisions and participation by interested Board members and regional field advisors in local announcements.
- d) **noted** that the funding for EAF grants for the 2017-18 financial year previously approved by the Board for the 2017-18 budget is \$100,000.
- e) **agreed** that EAF grant applications be invited for two tranches in the 2017-18 round, with close dates for receipt of grant applications on 30 September 2017 and 30 March 2018 respectively.

Moved B Stuart **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

12. Quarterly reporting – 1 January to 31 March 2017

E Pyle reported on the Commission's Quarterly Report to 31 March 2017, including the quarterly operations report and financial report.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the Commissions Quarterly Report for the period ending 31 March 2017

Moved P Mudford **Seconded** J Forbes **Carried**

13. Significant correspondence

Inwards

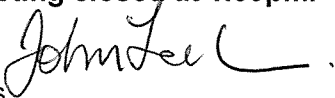
Letter of Expectations from Hon Louise Upston, the Associate Minister for Primary Industries, dated 27 March 2017.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Wellington on 26/27 July 2017.

The Chair invited P Brown to conclude the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.


J Forbes
Chairperson

Notes:

Monday 29 May, Queenstown, Board and Management: Field trip to Lake Hayes Rec Reserve, Roaring Meg, Glencoe Road/Barley Farm, Tobins Track, Arrow River access; Stakeholder meetings: Local Government Forum and Public Forum.

