

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 181st MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ONLINE  
(VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020 AT 4.00PM**

**Present**

Crs David Woolner, Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Adam Rayner, Geoff Thomas, Alan Baird, Ken Coombes, Ngahi Bidois, Debbie Oakley, Laurance Tamati and Lindsay Lyons.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick (Manager, Eastern Fish & Game).

**1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA**

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Chairman) opened the meeting at 4.30pm, welcomed everybody, and thanked Cr Murray Ferris for his work as previous Chairman. Cr Ngahi Bidois delivered a karakia.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 The meeting was attended by all members of Council and there were no apologies, but technical issues meant several Councillors had difficulty joining the meeting which meant it was half an hour late getting underway.

**3.0 TELECONFERENCE MEETING PROCEDURES**

3.1 Cr David Woolner outlined teleconference meeting procedures, explaining that discussions could be difficult and chaotic, and it was necessary to keep some sort of order. He asked Councillors to work through the chair, and to state their name prior to being invited to talk. In response to a request for a volunteer to take notes Cr Geoff Thomas offered to do so.

**4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

4.1 No conflicts of interest were recorded from Councillors each of whom was individually asked as whether they had anything to declare.

**5.0 OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

5.1 Andy Garrick gave an overview of what had been happening since Council's last meeting, noting that it had largely been business as usual in the lead up to notification of the lockdown restrictions. Remedial work following the slip on late Xmas evening/early Boxing Day had largely been completed, the emphasis now being on what we could do to minimise the effects of a future event of this nature, and reviewing our contingency responses for events of this nature. A provisional budget for the 2020-2021 Operational Work Plan along with proposals for the use of non-resident reserve funds to support projects during the 2020-2021 year was prepared for collation with other Fish & Game regions' budgets (these to be presented to this Council for consideration at another meeting later this month), and maintenance and enhancement activities were undertaken in various reserves. Immediately after the country had been put into Alert Level 2, staff spent the best part of a morning reviewing upcoming projects and programmes already in place to determine what was or wasn't possible taking constraints imposed by Level 2 into account, and what safety measures we'd need to put in place. That afternoon the Government advised we were going to Alert Level 3 for 48 hours in preparation for the Alert Level 4 lockdown which would come

into effect at 11.59pm on 25 March. Staff prepared for working at home and organising whatever need to be done before all but hatchery staff vacated the premises for four weeks. Planned R3 and business development programmes were put on hold, aerial mallard transect counts and counts of black swan in Tauranga Harbour were cancelled, and over a day and a half period all liberations into the Rotorua lakes for March and April were fast tracked and released prior to the lockdown. This meant fin clipping and datawatch tagging had to be abandoned, but meant also that we wouldn't run the risk of not having sufficient food to feed these fish along with those to be released in spring if pandemic measures resulted in these fish having to be held at the hatchery for a much longer time than planned.

Since the lockdown has been in place, hatchery staff have worked a split shift with stringent disinfecting protocols put in place around entering and exiting the hatchery and undertaking all of the activities associated with feeding, cleaning and monitoring water supplies. Most other staff have been busy working from home on a variety of projects ranging from drafting national guidelines for CLE activities under various COVID alert levels, updating prosecution guidelines and the rangers manual, to ordering PPE items, processing consents, responding to other RMA related planning projects, liaising with staff from other regions and agencies, preparing and advocating for a 2020 Game Season of some description, developing an anticipated end of year budget based on no further income from non-resident licence holders, a reduction in income from resident anglers, and no income from game licencing, and attending to lots of projects that have been sitting in the background.

We've been running two video conference meetings involving all staff each week in addition to email communications, and one on one conversations or with small groups are a day to day feature. Staff morale is largely very good though we have several individuals who currently have some challenging issues in their personal lives and family situations.

## **6.0 NZ COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON 2020 GAME SEASON**

6.1 The Chairman introduced the main item for the meeting today and advised given the multiple layers of issues involved around politics, staff safety, and enforcement, it would be appropriate to move into public excluded.

6.2 Council resolved unanimously to move into public excluded at 4.45pm as follows:

**Resolved (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner):**

**“That the public be excluded from this part of the meeting to discuss the NZ Council’s request for feedback on the 2020 Game Season”. [20/4/6.2]**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Information provide in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PLAIN ENGLISH REASON</b>	<b>WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED</b>
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence...where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should be continued to be supplied.	Sec. 9(2)(b)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

#### **Note**

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

6.3 The following unanimous resolution was made at the conclusion of the public excluded session at 5.50pm:

**Resolved (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons):**

**“To move out of public excluded and back into a public meeting”. [20/4/6.3]**

#### **7.0 RESOLUTION FROM PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

7.1 It was agreed unanimously in the public excluded session of the meeting:

**Resolved (Ngahi Bidois/Murray Ferris):**

**“That the following resolution taken in public excluded be moved to the public minute”:**

***“That Eastern Fish and Game Council’s recommendation to the Minister via the NZ Council be:***

- (i) that no change is required to the 2020 Game Season as presently gazetted prior to its commencement on 2 May, and***
- (ii) it confirms its full support of the Government and its measures to combat Covid-19, and that the Game Season will be in accordance with the Covid-19 restrictions that apply at the time.” [20/4/7.1]***

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

8.1 Andy Garrick advised that the agenda for the next meeting of Council would include reviewing the minutes for its February meeting, receiving financial and licence sales updates and the usual Health and Safety and management reports, and seeking approval for payments relating to expenditure in January and February. A provisional budget for 2020-21 and associated proposals for use of non-resident levy funds prepared prior to COVID measures coming into force will also be presented.

8.2 Cr Debbie Oakley noted that much of this could be reviewed and approved by email, and suggested any questions that Councillors might have could be circulated in advance of the meeting which would make the meeting run much smoother. Andy agreed this was a good idea but commented he was fairly certain the standing orders didn’t allow for resolutions to be made via email.

8.3 In response to a request for a NZC update, Cr Lindsay Lyons advised there had not been much happening, but they had two meetings coming up as there was too much to consider in one video meeting. The first meeting would be to consider what had been discussed here today but an agenda had yet to be prepared for the second meeting.

8.4 It was agreed that the next online meeting for this Council would be at 7pm on Tuesday, 28 April.

8.5 In response to a request for any closing comments Cr Laurance Tamati said he would like to pass on Council’s thanks to staff in trying times, and all credit to them.

**9.0 MEETING CLOSED**

9.1 The meeting concluded at 6.00pm with a closing karakia from Cr Ngahi Bidois.

  
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**David Woolner**  
**Chairman**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 6.0 NZ COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON 2020 GAME SEASON

#### 6.1 *Resolved (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner):*

*“That the public be excluded from this part of the meeting to discuss the NZ Council’s request for feedback on the 2020 Game Season”. [20/4/6.2]*

#### 6.3 *Resolved (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons):*

*“To move out of public excluded and back into a public meeting”. [20/4/6.3]*

### 7.0 RESOLUTION FROM PUBLIC EXCLUDED

#### 7.1 *Resolved (Ngahi Bidois/Murray Ferris):*

*“That the following resolution taken in public excluded be moved to the public minute”:*

*“That Eastern Fish and Game Council’s recommendation to the Minister via the NZ Council be:*

- (iii) that no change is required to the 2020 Game Season as presently gazetted prior to its commencement on 2 May, and*
- (iv) it confirms its full support of the Government and its measures to combat Covid-19, and that the Game Season will be in accordance with the Covid-19 restrictions that apply at the time.” [20/4/7.1]*