

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET SETTING WORKSHOP



At the **North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting** on **24 Jul 2024** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Thursday, 14 March 2024
Time:	6:31 pm to 9:55 pm (NZDT)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, GRAEME NAHKIES, KEN LLOYD, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	RASMUS GABRIELSSON, RICHARD COSGROVE
Apologies:	RICHARD O'KEEFE, TEHAU ANGLEM, CHRIS BRANKIN, ALAN STRONG (Chair)

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

As Cr Strong had been delayed on a flight, G Nahkies opened the meeting.

1.2 Karakia

G Nahkies read the Karakia in the absence of T Anglem.

1.3 Interests Register

No new interests were raised.

1.4 Council Discussion on Issues and Risks That May Require Council Attention

1. G Nahkies r stated the Minister for Hunting and Fishing had rejected Fish & Game's proposed game bird hunting regulation changes for the 2024 season. The implications for Fish & Game in the broader sense, were noted. As was the Minister's interest in Fish & Game's financials, especially the cost of labour. The NZC has informed regions the Minister may be looking at the possibility of delaying planned Council elections later of this year.

2. Cr Isitt raised the government's reclassifying "Significant Natural Areas," and what that could mean for the risks of further draining of habitats that are important to game birds and sports fish.
 3. Cr Coll raised the fast-tracking consenting bill – which was proposed on the 100th day of the new government. Essentially things can be added to the fast-tracking process by the three Ministers – once they approve them it will happen. A general interest in economic gains rather than environmental issues. This had serious implications for rivers with water conservation orders and other environmental outcomes that F&G advocate for. Have until April 14th to submit on it. NZC called an emergency meeting however was disappointed by the discussion. Minister McClay has indicated that he is seriously considering taking F&G's advocacy role away which would greatly reduce F&G's capacity to do work with positive outcomes. Can F&G influence the advisors to the minister? Ribbon cutting ceremony at Glenariffe with Todd McClay a possibility?
 4. Cr Barron raised that he feels there is general perception that Fish & Game was not active enough. The need to get more information out to stakeholders about what we are doing was important. A lot of stakeholders appear angry that Fish & Game aren't doing what individual stakeholders want.
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2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Proposed Baseline Budget and CF Bids

Budget Round

It was acknowledged that the Minister had indicated that he would not approve any licence fee increase for the 24/25 fishing and 25 gamebird seasons. A letter from NZC requesting regions reduce their budgets by 3% to allow an increase in available funds for contestable funding (CF) applications was discussed.

While everyone understood the financial constraints the organisation is under, concerns were raised about cutting budget by 3% as a big chunk potentially being may need to come from Reserves. Debate ensued about whether it was appropriate to give the decision to NZC on prioritising CF bids nationally between regions.

It was agreed that in principle every region, including NCFG could reduce their current baseline budget by 3% through cutting operational projects and/or asset replacement funding for example. If such reductions were to be made NCFG would need to put in CF bid for operational projects of high importance to the region, like fish releases and overhead costs for asset replacement.

After consideration the CEO recommended making the requested 3% budget reduction and elect not to put forward some of the proposed CF bids that were not urgent. These CF bids would be flagged for future years.

Contestable Funding Applications to be Considered:

1. Staff salaries adjustment in line with Fish & Game's remuneration policy and market evaluation.
2. Fish releases to support planned fish releases into Roto Kohatu lakes and a new planned stepping stone fishery that is currently being explored near Amberly. It was noted the CF application is for a modest number, and that is an important fund to stocking of stepping stone fisheries in and near Christchurch given licence sales analysis show the North Canterbury region is the residential home of 25% of Fish & Game's licensed anglers in the country.
3. Te Waihora/Muriwai payments into each Reserve to meet Treaty Settlement obligations.
4. Asset Replacement fund.
5. Designated Waters licence income to be used in the year after it was collected, essentially delaying expenditure of known income.

Contestable Funding Applications to be Withdrawn:

1. Replacement of jetboat for NC region: - delayed
2. Funding for regional Health & Safety Audit - to be funded from within the baseline budget.

It was agreed to review insurance costs.

The process around notification of spending from restricted and dedicated reserves was discussed.



Reduction in Budget by 3%

R Gabrielson to cut the NCFG budget for the 24/25 financial year by 3% by reducing planned budgets for asset replacement and fish releases.

Due Date: 22 May 2024

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Cr Strong arrived at 8:30 p.m. and was updated on what the Council had discussed and debated.

2.2 Game Bird Regulations 2024

An update was given on the Gamebird regulations review and, on the support, provided to NZC by staff from North Canterbury and Southland regions. It was advised that the Minister's decision to reject the proposed game bird hunting regulation changes for the 2024 season.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Confirm Minutes Dated 22 February 2024

The need for revisions of the draft minutes were discussed, and it was agreed they be revised accordingly.

3.2 General Business

The following topics were discussed:

1. Vehicle access restrictions to unformed legal road (ULR) along the back boundary of the Greenpark Sands area. The existing and well-established vehicle tracks along the ULR have a long history of being used as a vehicle track by both farmers leasing grazing land from DOC and public users such as game bird hunters and bird watchers etc. It was agreed that a letter be written to DOC about this matter, raising the councils concern about improper restrictions to legal public access.
2. The Winnemem Wintu Tribes upcoming visit, which includes a brief meeting with representatives from NCFG. Most of their time will be spent vesting Central South Island Fish & game region and Ngai Tahu representatives.
3. Discussion on what is reasonable costs associated with purchasing and transporting fish from Nelson/Marlborough trout hatchery to Christchurch for the Take A kid Fishing Trust annual event in September 2024. It was noted there may have been some misunderstandings around what the TAKF Trust need to pay for, and if this was the case, this should be clarified as soon as possible.
4. The NZC's processes for setting budgets and evaluating CF applications was discussed.



Vehicle Access Restrictions to Unformed Legal Roads

That R Gabrielson write to DOC raising the councils concern about improper restrictions to legal public access.

Due Date: 22 May 2024

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

4. PUBLIC SESSION

4.1 Public Session

5. Close Meeting

5.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner
2.1	Reduction in Budget by 3% Due Date: 22 May 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
3.2	Vehicle Access Restrictions to Unformed Legal Roads Due Date: 22 May 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Signature: _____

Date: _____