

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 170th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 14th JUNE 2018 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Peter Storey, David Woolner, Alan Baird, Ken Coombes, and Annaka Davis (arrived 12.10).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Anthony van Dorp, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Matt Osborne, Carmel Veitch, Nigel Simpson, Lynne Sands and Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game)

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opening the meeting at 12.03pm and welcomed Councillors and staff. Murray informed Council of the recent passing of Colleen Bull and that condolences had been sent to Cr Sandy Bull on behalf of Council.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Laurance Tamati, Steve Scragg and Sandy Bull; Helen Neale and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation); Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Nicki Douglas (Te Arawa Lakes Trust); Matt McDougall (Eastern Fish & Game); and Ray Bushell. Cr Annaka Davis had advised that she would be delayed due to a prior commitment.

2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 170th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/06/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (5 APRIL 2018)

3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [18/06/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that Councillors contact the manager prior to a meeting's agenda being completed if they had matters arising from the prior meeting's minutes which might require a resolution to be passed, as this could only occur if the matter was included on the agenda for a meeting.

5.2 Cr Barry Roderick wished to confirm that proposed expenditure approved from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund and Non-Resident Anglers' Levy was in line with the purpose and objectives of these funds. Andy Garrick confirmed that the projects approved met the criteria associated with the reserves from which the funds were being sought.

5.3 Cr Murray Ferris queried whether the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Association had uplifted the funds approved for navigation markers? Andy Garrick advised that these funds had not yet been uplifted due to issues that had arisen he understood, in obtaining approval from Tuhoe.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Alan Baird - Swans Lake Taupo
- Cr Alan Baird - Hunter conduct in balloted wetlands
- Cr Alan Baird - Reporoa restricted season
- Cr Barry Roderick - Discovery of lake snow in Lake Taupo
- Cr Lindsay Lyons - Rotoiti catfish update
- Andy Garrick (from Cr Steve Scragg) - Forestry practices
- Andy Garrick - Electoral process
- Andy Garrick - Ballot holder submission re proposed management fee
- Andy Garrick - Update on Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council
- Andy Garrick - Council appraisal

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 Cr Barry Roderick questioned whether Cr Lindsay Lyons might be conflicted over Agenda Item 9.0 relating to the proposed 2018-19 Licence Fees given he had been involved with the proposals at NZ Council level. Lindsay agreed to register his potential conflict and his ability to vote would be determined by the Council.

8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.1 Andy Garrick updated Council on the changes that had been made to the 2018-19 Operational Work Plan since the last draft had been circulated. The amendments included the addition of two contestable fund bids that had been submitted and subsequently approved by the NZ Council (CPI increases to Salaries, and Compliance costs), and re-allocation of staff time within the plan. Andy advised that contestable fund bids for staff performance increases had been put on hold for all regions pending a national audit of staff salaries and conditions that the NZ Council had determined it would undertake. Andy noted that the proposed contestable fund allocations were subject to approval of the licence fees by the Minister.
- 8.2 Cr Peter Storey queried the reduction in staff input to the website. Andy advised that staff were keen to play a greater role in the management of content and administration of Eastern's webpages, but this was unlikely to be an option until a strategic view of the website was undertaken by the NZ Council Office in the year ahead.
- 8.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons /Peter Storey) that Council receives the latest draft budget and approves that it be circulated to clubs and interested parties for comment. [18/6/8.3]*

9.0 2018-2019 LICENCE FEES

- 9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that there were two matters to be considered, one being the proposal to increase licence fees by \$3 for the Adult Season Fish licence and \$2 for the Adult Season Game licence, the second being a proposal from the NZ Council to introduce new non-resident fish licence categories and also, to adjust licence fee ratios for three other fish licence categories for the 2018-19 Fishing Season. Council discussed the proposed licence fee increases and in particular, pricing structures for the various age groups. Some Councillors expressed their belief that the cost of licences is likely to be one of the barriers to increasing participation within some groups. Cr Peter Storey queried the background to the change which saw licences becoming inter-available throughout NZ rather than being linked to a specific Fish & Game region. Following some discussion Council asked if Kate Thompson

could look into and distribute some background information on the rationale for this change and what the consequences of doing so have been. Council also expressed its concern that the projected overspend of \$651,691 in this year's national budget for Fish & Game was due in part to North Canterbury's failure to operate within budget. Council also noted its concern about the magnitude of funding being directed to RMA/legal each year.

9.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2018-19 of \$130 (GST inclusive) for the adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$93 for the Adult Whole Season Game licence plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust (GST inclusive). Crs Peter Storey and Ken Coombes voted against the motion. [18/06/9.2]*

9.3 Council was supportive of the NZ Council's proposal to introduce new non-resident fishing licence categories but was divided on what those new categories should be, and what fees should be struck. Cr Barry Roderick moved and Cr Neal Hawes seconded, that a differential fee should apply to adult and junior licence categories for non-residents. This motion was lost. Council voted three for and five against, and Cr Lindsay Lyons abstained.

9.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council endorses the NZ Council's proposal to introduce new non-resident fishing licence categories. [18/06/9.4]*

9.5 The NZ Council's proposal to adjust licence fee ratios was discussed and Council agreed that a more in-depth review was needed to determine potential impacts of changing the fee ratios. Andy Garrick highlighted the NZ Council's approval of a contracted marketing person who would be looking at opportunities to increase participation and felt that the review of licence categories should be included as part of this process. Council supported deferring any changes to licence fee ratios and therefore fees until a review had been undertaken by the Licence Working Party. While Council noted that this would mean implementation of any changes to licence fee ratios and fees would effectively be held over until the 2019-2020 fishing season, Council wanted to acknowledge Noel Birchall's initiative and the thought that he had put into the proposal.

9.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/David Woolner) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council requests that any changes to licence fee ratios or fees be deferred until the proposal has been reviewed by the Licence Working Party. [18/06/9.6]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

10.1 Matt Osborne presented to Council the additional information and options that had been requested at the April meeting prior to finalising its recommendations for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice. Using a power point presentation Matt outlined staff recommendations for the removal of Fly Fishing Only (FFO) designation from some of the Rotorua lakes shoreline areas aimed at simplifying regulations and providing greater opportunity for all anglers.

10.2 Lake Rotorua

Staff recommended retaining FFO status within 200m of the Awahou Stream mouth landmark pole, and removing FFO status from within 200 metres of the Ohau channel landmarks. Council discussed the Awahou Stream mouth area and some felt that it saw similar levels of angler use to the Hamurana Stream mouth where fly and spin were permitted methods. With no particular concerns seen at the Hamurana Stream mouth it was suggested that the Awahou Stream mouth also be opened to fly/spin

methods, which would go further to simplifying regulations and provide opportunity to spin anglers and local children in the area. Council supported the removal of all FFO areas on Lake Rotorua shorelines on the basis that this could be reconsidered should concerns arise over conflict between methods.

10.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Alan Baird) that Council supports the removal of all “fly fishing only” areas on Lake Rotorua itself, and amends permitted methods to “artificial fly or spinner” on the basis that this can be reviewed if conflict arises between fly fishers and spin fishers. Peter Storey abstained. [18/06/10.3]*

10.4 Lake Rotoiti

Matt Osborne provided background to the staff recommendation to retain FFO methods at the Ruato Bay Stream mouth and “The Pipe” landmarks and to remove from all other locations. Cr Neal Hawes questioned whether Hauparu Bay should not also be retained for FFO due to the very small stream mouth and restricted area where fish sit. Staff advised, from surveys undertaken, that the area saw very little use in winter and this was probably due to the need to walk to the site rather than being able to drive to it.

10.5 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the staff recommendation to retain “fly fishing only” status within 200m of the Ruato Bay Stream mouth and “The Pipe” landmarks, and remove all other “fly fishing only” areas on Lake Rotoiti. [18/06/10.5]*

10.6 Lake Okataina

Staff recommended removal of FFO status from each of the currently gazetted fly fishing only areas, the rationale being that these areas see low to moderate pressure and are accessed and fished primarily by boat.

10.7 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the staff recommendation to remove “fly fishing only” status from each of the currently gazetted “fly fishing only” areas on Lake Okataina. [18/06/10.7]*

10.8 Lake Tarawera

Staff proposed retaining FFO status within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream and “The Landing” landmarks and remove this from all other locations. The rationale for retaining these areas is that these are the most intensely fished fly fishing locations where angler conflict could be an issue. Staff highlighted that shoreline surveys were undertaken throughout winter and any angler concerns that might subsequently arise would be detected or could be communicated through those.

10.9 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the staff recommendation to retain “fly fishing only” status within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream and “The Landing” landmarks, and remove all other “fly fishing only” areas on Lake Tarawera. [18/06/10.9]*

10.10 Prohibit the use of multi-point hooks within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters

Andy Garrick advised that Eastern Council’s wish to include the possibility of banning treble/multi-point hooks in the national review of the First Schedule of the Sports Fishing Regulations was discussed and noted at the recent meeting of managers. Cr Neal Hawes questioned whether this could be dealt with in the First Schedule which applied to all of New Zealand as there were significant differences between trout and salmon. Eben Herbert pointed out that the result of a national review may highlight that this is an issue specific to regions.

10.11 *Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that further discussion on the treble hook debate be deferred until the topic is discussed nationally during a NZ Council review of First Schedule Regulations. [18/06/10.11]*

- 10.12 *Amend the wording for 7.1(a) Use of Boats*
 Matt Osborne advised that this item was a housekeeping change i.e. a deletion of a rule that is superfluous and takes up space within the regulation guide.
- 10.13 ***Agreed (Peter Storey/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the deletion of Regulation 7.1(a) as it is covered in Section 3 Closed Waters and within Regulation 7, Note 1. [18/06/10.13]***
- 10.14 *Anglers Notice Policy*
 Andy Garrick noted that to accommodate the changes to the Fly Fishing Only areas previously discussed some changes to the Anglers Notice Policy needed to be made. Matt Osborne added that some elements of the Anglers Notice Policy (drafted 2003) also needed to be updated i.e. the inclusion of “scented soft baits” under the types of baits that can be used in bait fishing waters, and the months in which fishing from a boat is prohibited in winter shoreline areas.
- 10.15 ***Agreed (Peter Storey/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the recommended changes to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003. [18/06/10.15]***
- 10.16 ***Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Neal Hawes) that Council concludes the Anglers Notice process for the 2018-19 season. [18/06/10.16]***

11.0 AUCKLAND WAIKATO FISH & GAME STERILE TROUT TRIAL

- 11.1 Dr Adam Daniel, staff member from the Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Region, spoke to Council about his Council’s request for the hatchery to produce up to 2,000 sterile trout for liberation into Lake Arapuni. Adam provided background to the proposed trial, why it was being pursued, and what the outcomes were that they were hoping to achieve from it. After some discussion Council concluded that the request needed further discussion with input from Eastern staff and this item should be an item for discussion at the August meeting of Council. Cr Barry Roderick thanked Adam for his presentation adding that it was great to interact with staff from another region.

12.0 CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS AS A RECOVERY TOOL

- 12.1 Andy Garrick advised that while a resolution relating to this topic had been made at Council’s February meeting, it was being revisited as an outcome of Cr Barry Roderick’s request at Council’s last meeting where he had brought it up under matters arising from February’s meeting minutes. The resolution concerned was: ***“Agreed (Peter Storey/Barry Roderick) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels. Carried four/three, four abstained. [18/02/11.8]”***.
- 12.2 Barry noted there had been some confusion around the background to the discussion in February and what was meant in relation to the “recovery of wild populations that are at low levels”. On reflection he recognised the issue was about whether or not the release of CRMs was justifiable in circumstances in which there had been a major population collapse as a consequence of the likes of botulism, avian flu, or some other catastrophic factor. Council supported the passing of another resolution to supercede the original resolution made at the February meeting.
- 12.3 ***Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Eastern Fish and Game Council supports releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels and that this resolution overrides the resolution [18/02/11.8] passed at Council’s 15 February 2018 meeting. [18/06/12.3]***

13.0 INCREASING PARTICIPATION REPORT

- 13.1** Andy Garrick informed Council that the NZ Council had followed up on the report "Developing Revenue Through Increased Participation" provided in Papers for Information by establishing a working group comprising Martin Taylor, Steve Doughty, Robert Sowman, and four regional managers including himself. The primary focus of the group would be concerned with developing and communicating R3 strategies (recruitment, retention and re-activation) to all Fish & Game regions.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

Annaka Davis advised that many of the topics covered at the last Conservation Board meeting were of little or no relevance to Fish & Game, but reported that the fisheries team had recently completed an acoustic transect survey on Lake Taupo and the results of this had shown that smelt were abundant in the southern end of the lake and that they were looking forward to a good season. Cr Barry Roderick commented on the recent discovery of lake snow in Lake Taupo, and Andy Garrick noted that it was likely that it has been there for some time as it had been in Lake Waikaremoana.

14.2 *New Zealand Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons briefly reported on topics addressed at the recent NZ Council meeting including cost saving opportunities, licence fee ratios, and the decision to incorporate all Fish & Game staff into a review of salaries and remuneration which had initially been intended for managers only.

15.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME

Cr Murray Ferris asked that the Council agree to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

- 15.1** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Neal Hawes) that the meeting be allowed to proceed over the 3 hour time limit by an extra 10 minutes. [18/06/15.1]*

16.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 16.1** Cr Peter Storey asked whether the proposed research work and smelt study on Lake Tarawera was going to go ahead? Andy Garrick advised there had been delays and challenges in getting all of the parties together and securing the funding required to undertake the proposed programme, but with the new Lakes Chair (Prof. Troy Baisden) settling into his role at Waikato University this was about to be re-activated. A meeting was being convened with Prof. Baisden and Simon Stewart this month, and a meeting had also been arranged with Te Arawa Lakes Trust with this being one of the items to be discussed. Andy would be meeting with NIWA in Wellington in three weeks time to negotiate access to their echosounder transceiver and other assistance required from them in relation to smelt monitoring, and Matt Osborne had been having discussions with DOC Taupo in regards to the same. Smelt monitoring was tentatively scheduled to be commenced in November this year.
- 16.2** Cr Lindsay Lyons asked whether Fish & Game's concern over the catfish incursion in Lake Rotoiti had been documented? Andy Garrick advised that staff had attended minuted meetings with the Regional Council and other parties immediately concerned, and had contributed to discussions on what needs to be done in the short term.
- 16.3** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Annaka Davis) that Council wishes to record its concern over the catfish incursion in Lake Rotoiti. [18/06/16.3]*

- 16.4 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management Report and Licence Sales reports. [18/06/16.4]*
- 16.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/06/16.5]*
- 16.6 *Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance report and approves payments for March and April 2018 totalling \$263,429.24. [18/06/16.6]*
- 16.7 *Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the business Mastercard transactions for the period 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018. [18/06/16.7]*

17.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

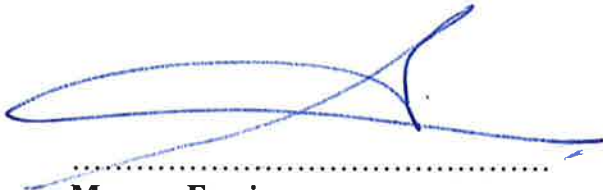
- 17.1 Cr Alan Baird informed Council of a build-up of swan in Stump Bay at the southern end of Lake Taupo, in an area which had a daily bag limit of two and asked whether this might be increased next season. Andy Garrick advised that this could be raised on the October agenda where initial proposals for the 2019 Game season would be considered.
- 17.2 Cr Alan Baird also wished to raise concern over hunter conduct in balloted sites and at Reporoa where it appeared that hunters were taking more than the daily limit. Cr Ken Coombes also highlighted issues with ballot holders not turning up to shoot. Andy Garrick suggested that these were management issues and staff would obtain further detail in relation to Councillors' observations following the meeting.
- 17.3 The Chairman noted that Cr Barry Roderick's item relating to the discovery of lake slime in Lake Taupo, and Cr Lindsay Lyons' relating to the Rotoiti catfish situation had both been addressed earlier in the meeting.
- 17.4 Following advice from Robert Sowman that local authority electoral wards in Wellington were up for change, and a suggestion that Fish & Game regions might wish to consider the same, Andy Garrick suggested that Council had an opportunity to review its own sub-regions ahead of this year's election. Council's consensus on the matter was that there appeared to be no concerns or issues in relation to how the current system worked in the Eastern Region, and that the six sub-regions provided for representation of both anglers and hunters, and regional fish and game resources.
- 17.5 Andy Garrick informed Council of the resignation of the Hawke's Bay Regional Manager in early May and that the Council chairman, Bruce Bates, was to take on the position of acting manager pending the appointment of a new manager. Andy advised that at this point in time there was no reason to believe this would lead to changes in our involvement with Hawke's Bay, as both regions had contracted to provide specified services to the other and that these were incorporated into both this year's and next year's Operational Work Plans.
- 17.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons advised the issues around forestry practices raised by Cr Steve Scragg were on the NZ Council's agenda, and queried whether this region wanted to lend support to that. Eben Herbert advised that National Environmental Standards relating to plantation forestry came into force in early May and that a large part of the East Coast sat within the "Red Zone" which meant that the area would be monitored much more closely. He said the real issue was with replanting which would be more effectively addressed in future as a result of the NPS and new standards. More immediately there will be an investigation into what has occurred by the Gisborne District Council. Cr Murray Ferris said it was encouraging to see that forestry companies were helping with the clean-up. Andy Garrick advised that Cr Steve

Scragg's point was that while it is entirely appropriate for Fish & Game to be focussing closely on agriculture, forestry practices are another issue that we cannot overlook.

- 17.7 Andy Garrick referred Council to page 72 of the Papers for Information regarding an email from a ballot holder outlining his concern over the proposed ballot management fee. John Meikle advised that he had contacted the writer and established that his fundamental concern was not so much about the proposed management fee but rather that some/many ballot holders do not do the work expected of them.

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 18.1 The meeting was closed at 3.19pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller loop and a final flourish.

Murray Ferris
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
2.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 170th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/06/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (5 APRIL 2018)**
3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [18/06/3.1]*
- 8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
8.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons /Peter Storey) that Council receives the latest draft budget and approves its circulation to clubs and interested parties for comment. [18/06/8.3]*
- 9.0 2018-2019 LICENCE FEES**
9.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2018-19 of \$130 (GST inclusive) for the adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$93 for the Adult Whole Season Game licence plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust (GST inclusive). Crs Peter Storey and Ken Coombes voted against the motion. [18/06/9.2]*
9.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council endorses the NZ Council's proposal to introduce new non-resident fishing licence categories. [18/06/9.4]*
9.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/David Woolner) that the Eastern Fish and Game Council requests that any changes to licence fee ratios or fees be deferred until the proposal has been reviewed by the Licence Working Party. [18/06/9.6]*
- 10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**
10.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Alan Baird) that Council supports the removal of all "fly fishing only" areas on Lake Rotorua itself, and amends permitted methods to "artificial fly or spinner" on the basis that this can be reviewed if conflict arises between fly fishers and spin fishers. Peter Storey abstained. [18/06/10.3]*
10.5 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the staff recommendation to retain "fly fishing only" status within 200m of the Ruato Bay Stream mouth and "The Pipe" landmarks, and remove all other "fly fishing only" areas on Lake Rotoiti. [18/06/10.5]*
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- 12.0 CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS AS A RECOVERY TOOL**
12.3 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Eastern Fish and Game Council supports releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels and that this resolution overrides the resolution [18/02/11.8] passed at Council's 15 February 2018 meeting. [18/06/12.3]*
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16.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 16.3** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Annaka Davis) that Council wishes to record its concern over the catfish incursion in Lake Rotoiti. [18/06/16.3]*
- 16.4** *Agreed (Peter Storey/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management Report and Licence Sales reports. [18/06/16.4]*
- 16.5** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/06/16.5]*
- 16.6** *Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance report and approves payments for March and April 2018 totalling \$263,429.24. [18/06/16.6]*
- 16.7** *Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the business Mastercard transactions for the period 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018. [18/06/16.7]*