

**File: E/12/01/04**

**Report 13.1049**

## **Wellington Regional Council**

### **Minute extract from meeting held on 12 December 2013**

**Notice of motion – Cr Paul Bruce**

**Report 13.1049**

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*Moved*

*(Cr Bruce/ Cr Wilson)*

*That the Council expresses concern at the lack of information available to it regarding the potential implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement for the roles and responsibilities of local government in general, and the Wellington region in particular, and conditions its support for the agreement and other similar agreements on being satisfied, after effective consultations, that it complies with all the following conditions:*

- 1. Continues to allow the Greater Wellington Regional Council and other Councils, if they so choose, to adopt procurement policies that provide for a significant degree of local preference; to choose whether particular services or facilities are provided in house, by council-controlled organisations (CCOs) or by contracting out; or to require higher health and safety, environmental protection, employment rights and conditions, community participation, animal protection or human rights standards than national or international minimum standards.*
- 2. Does not give overseas investors or suppliers any greater rights than domestic investors and suppliers, such as special protections for investments or access to Investor-State Dispute Settlement, or reduce our ability to control overseas investment or finance;*
- 3. Will be subject, before it is signed, to a full and independent social, environmental and economic impact assessment that is then opened for public submissions; and*
- 4. Will not be ratified until the text has been tabled in the House and the appropriate select committees, including the Local Government and Environment Committee, have had adequate time to consider the parts that are relevant to their responsibilities, call for and hear submissions, and report back to the House on whether any amendment is required, and for a vote.*

*Moved as an amendment (to replace the original motion)*

*(Cr Laidlaw/ Cr Aitken)*

*That the Council expresses concern at the lack of information available on the potential implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement for New Zealand and for local government and, while accepting that treaty negotiations are generally confidential:*

- 1. Notes public reports that the New Zealand negotiators, along with those from other like-minded countries, do not agree with a number of proposed measures including those pertaining to pharmaceuticals, intellectual property protection and environmental measures;*
- 2. Notes that the TTP, as with all trade agreements, will go through the full parliamentary process and, once that is complete, any law changes necessary to ensure New Zealand's compliance with the Treaty must be passed by Parliament; and*
- 3. Urges the government to instruct its negotiating team to continue to oppose measures that would have unjustifiable negative impact on the ability of local government to make decisions on a range of options, including procurement, that are currently available under New Zealand Law.*

The amendment was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was **CARRIED**.

**Noted:** Councillors Bruce and Kedgley requested their votes against part 2 of the motion be recorded.

**Noted:** With the consent of the meeting Cr Wilde tabled information on the process that would be followed after any Cabinet decision that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement should be signed.