

**10.2 APPOINTMENT TO THE HOWARD ESTATE ADVISORY BOARD****File Number:** COU1-1400**Author:** Leigh Collecutt, Governance and Support Officer**Authoriser:** Monique Davidson, Chief Executive**Attachments:** 1. **Council Committee and Community Representation**

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to s48(1)(a)(i) of the *Local Government Act 2002*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

s7(2)(a) the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

**PURPOSE**

The matter for consideration by the Council is the appointment of the rural representative for the Howard Estate Advisory Board.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

That having considered all matters raised in the report:

- a) That Council accepts the panel's recommendation to nominate Richard Hilson as the Rural Bodies Representative to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.
- b) That Council directs officers to formally endorse the Council's nomination by way of letter to the Public Trust
- c) That this report be released as publicly available following this meeting

<b>COMPLIANCE</b>	
Significance	This matter is assessed as being of some importance
Options	<p>This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>That Council accepts the selection panel's recommendation to nominate Richard Hilson as the Rural Bodies Representative to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.</b></li> <li>2. <b>That Council does not accept the panel's recommendation and seeks to appoint another candidate to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.</b></li> </ol>
Affected persons	The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the Howard Estate Advisory Board, Smedley Station Cadets, Elected Members and the wider community.
Recommendation	<i>This report recommends option 1 for addressing the matter.</i>
Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan Implications	None

<b>COMPLIANCE</b>	
Significant Policy and Plan Inconsistencies	Minor inconsistency with the Council Committee and Community Representation Policy.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hugh Pearse has served as the Rural Bodies Representative on the Howard Estate Advisory Board since May 2006. Earlier this year, Mr Pearse resigned from the position.

This created a vacancy on the board which is required to be filled in accordance with the provisions set out in the Howard Estate Act 1978. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the recommendation of the selection panel (the panel) which was set up to represent Central Hawke's Bay, Tararua and Wairoa District Councils.

## BACKGROUND

Smedley Station was gifted to the Crown by the late Josiah Howard in 1919 for the purpose of training young people in practical farming. On the 24th of October 1919, the Howard Estate Act was passed providing that Smedley Station be held by Public Trust as a permanent endowment for agricultural education.

The purpose of Howard Estate Advisory Board is to advise the Public Trust on matters concerning the management and administration of Smedley Station and Cadet Farm. The board is made up by 6 members, each representing a specific interest.

The Act specifies that:

*1 member shall be appointed on the joint recommendation of the Central Hawke's Bay District Council, the Tararua District Council, and the Wairoa District Council (or their respective successors) and every Chamber of Commerce whose offices are within the district of any such council.*

Councillor Tim Aitken was nominated to represent Central Hawke's Bay District Council on the selection panel, along with His Worship the Mayor of Wairoa Craig Little and Tararua Councillor Jim Crispen.

The Chambers of Commerce were also given the opportunity to participate, but were comfortable with the process being managed by the panel formed by the three councils' representatives.

Expressions of interest were sought for the vacant board position, with advertisements in the CHB Mail, the Wairoa Star and Bush Telegraph. Seven applicants were then interviewed by the panel for the position. The preferred applicant was Richard Hilson.

This reports seeks Council's endorsement of the panel's recommendation to appoint Mr Hilson to the Howard Estate Advisory Board as the Rural Bodies Representative.

## OPTIONS

**Option 1** That Council accepts the panel's recommendation to nominate Richard Hilson as the Rural Bodies Representative to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.

- a) Financial and Resourcing Implications

There are no specific financial or resourcing implications of this option.

## b) Risk Analysis

There is no risk associated with this option.

## c) Alignment to Project Thrive and Community Outcomes

There are no specific Community Outcomes to consider for this option.

## d) Statutory Responsibilities

The appointment to the Howard Estate Advisory Board has been considered in accordance with the provisions set out in the Howard Estate Act 1978.

## e) Consistency with Policies and Plans

This option would require an amendment to the Council Committee and Community Representation Policy, where Hugh Pearce is listed as the representative for Howard Estate Advisory Board.

## f) Participation by Māori

No specific Maori engagement has is deemed necessary if this option is accepted by Council.

## g) Community Views and Preferences

It is expected that the Community would prefer a high calibre candidate is appointed to this role to represent the best interests of the cadets who train at Smedley Station. The panel determined that Mr Hillson possessed the ideal attributes for the position.

## h) Advantages and Disadvantages

The advantage of this option is that there would be no additional resources required to make an appointment to the board.

There are no obvious disadvantages with this option.

**Option 2** That Council does not accept the panel's recommendation and seeks to appoint another candidate to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.

## a) Financial and Resourcing Implications

There would be additional costs for re-advertising if further expressions of interest were sought. It may also be a challenge to reconvene the panel for further interviews. It would require additional staff resource to coordinate the ongoing process.

## b) Risk Analysis

There is potential risk around there being a vacancy on the Howard Estate Advisory Board for a longer period than desired.

i) Alignment to Project Thrive and Community Outcomes

There are no specific Community Outcomes that would be achieved by this option.

c) Statutory Responsibilities

Provided that each local body was still part of the selection process, this option would align with the Howard Estate Act 1978.

d) Consistency with Policies and Plans

Once a new appointment was made, it would require an amendment to the Council Committee and Community Representation Policy, where Hugh Pearce is listed as the representative for Howard Estate Advisory Board.

e) Participation by Māori

There is no specific participation by Maori considered necessary if Council chose to proceed with this option.

f) Community Views and Preferences

It is expected that the Community would prefer a high calibre candidate is appointed to this role to represent the best interests of the cadets who train at Smedley Station.

g) Advantages and Disadvantages

There is no obvious advantage to this option.

Disadvantages include potential additional costs, staff resources and the challenge around panel member availability.

In addition to this, both Wairoa and Tararua District Councils are working through processes to nominate Mr Hilson as their preferred candidate.

### Recommended Option

This report recommends option Option 1 **That Council accepts the panel's recommendation to nominate Richard Hilson as the Rural Bodies Representative to the Howard Estate Advisory Board** for addressing the matter.

### NEXT STEPS

Provided that the 3 Councils all endorse the recommendation of the selection panel, letters from each organisation would be written to the Minister of Justice (who oversees the Public Trust) to confirm their respective nominations.

The Public Trust would then work through a process to ratify Mr Hilson as a member of the Howard Estate Advisory Board.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**That having considered all matters raised in the report:**

- a) That Council accepts the panel's recommendation to nominate Richard Hilson as the Rural Bodies Representative to the Howard Estate Advisory Board.**
- b) That Council directs officers to formally endorse the Council's nomination by way of letter to the Public Trust**
- c) That this report be released as publicly available following this meeting**