

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 16 September 2021

All members participating remotely via Microsoft Teams at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand (until 12.26pm)
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee (until 12.18pm)
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier

All members participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum as per clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

A group of residents from Mangaroa spoke to the Committee.

John Hill spoke on the historical background of the Mangaroa Valley.

Bob Anker spoke on people and communication.

Stacey Jack-Kino spoke to the residents' perspective.

Noted: With regards to the concerns raised by the Mangaroa residents, the Committee requested officers:

- engage with Mr Hill and visit his property to understand and provide advice on the consenting requirements for clearing drains
- provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting addressing the Mangaroa residents' concerns.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 August 2021 - Report 21.371

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Brash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 August 2021 as corrected - Report 21.371.

The motion was carried.

5 Update on progress of action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – September 2021 - Report 21.421 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, spoke to the report. The attachment to the report was tabled.

6 Environment/Catchment update – Report 21.412 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, and Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that a summary of Department of Conservation pest control activities in the Wellington Region be provided, and that the Department of Conservation be invited to present to the Committee on their activities in the Region.

The Committee Chair advised, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.6, that there will be an update on the Farming Sector, which was not on the agenda.

7 Farming Sector Update – Oral Report

Barbie Barton provided an update on the farming and rural sector.

Ms Barton advised that it is proving to be a difficult season with little grass growth. Demand for feed is high.

Ms Barton discussed the setting up of a steering group, which received funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries to support the set up and structures for catchment groups. The funding provided will be used for research into what is needed out of the catchment groups and to appoint a coordinator.

Ms Barton acknowledged David Boone and the team for the riparian planting.

Ms Barton also raised concern about the Wairarapa Water resilience and how this can be future proofed.

Ms Barton also requested that Greater Wellington restart testing on the carcasses of possums for TB.

The meeting adjourned at 10.54am and resumed at 11.06am.

8 Whaitua process update – Oral Report

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager – Whaitua, updated the Committee on the progress of the whaitua implementation programmes (WIPs).

Mr Sharp advised the Committee the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahi o te Wai will be presented to Council on 23 September 2021. The content is final but the final published version is not yet ready. Hutt City, Upper Hut City and Wellington City Councils are scheduled to receive the two documents as well. There will be a soft release until the design version is ready for publishing. The Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee will have a final meeting to close the process off, and this will be on Matiu/Somes Island.

Planning is underway for the Kāpiti Coast and Wairarapa Eastern Hills WIPs. It is expected that these WIP journeys will be shorter because of where the maturity of the process of thinking about water is at.

9 Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.409

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, introduced the report. Gareth Edwards, Project Manager – Whaitua Implementation, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Brash

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that a review has been undertaken on the business process for the implementation of WIPs.
- 2 Notes that the primary recommendation from the review is to articulate non-regulatory recommendations as tangible deliverables that can be commissioned through a project framework.
- 3 Notes that this will be the basis of better progress reporting in future.
- 4 Notes that a number of other improvements have been identified, including to governance and reporting.
- 5 Requests that officers report back to the Committee with an update on WIP implementation improvements including governance arrangements.

- 6 Requests officers to prepare a report for the Wairarapa Committee setting out a potential whitua implementation governance role.
- 7 Requests officers to work with Porirua City Council to report back on the status of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan and local governance arrangements for its implementation.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Regional Annual Asset Management Report 20/21 – Report 21.397

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, introduced the report. Jacky Cox, Section Leader, Operations Planning, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Lamason

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that at the 3 August 2021 Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee and the Wairarapa River scheme committee meetings held between 25 May 2021 and 13 August 2021, that the committees were satisfied that flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets for these catchments have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.
- 2 Agrees that the flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets on the 15 schemes across the Wellington Region have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Floodplain Management Planning Implementation Annual Report – Report 21.316 [For information]

Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, spoke to the report.

Councillor Lee left the meeting at 12.18pm at the conclusion of the above item and did not return.

12 Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary update – Oral Report

Councillor Nash spoke to the report.

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand left the meeting at 12.26pm at the conclusion of the above item and did not return.

13 Transmission Gully update – Oral Report

Shaun Andrewartha and Richard Percy spoke to the report.

Mr Andrewartha advised that they are continuing the close out tasks for the project. There is a need to determine whether these tasks are regulatory or project contract

requirements. The tasks can be categorised into four categories: storm water, planting mitigation, legal protections, retrospective consenting.

The more progress is made, the clearer the situation becomes that the tasks will not be completed prior to opening. Officers are looking at what tasks needs to be completed prior to road opening and what can wait.

Mr Andrewartha advised the Committee that officers will continue to engage with the project team, but the ability to meet timelines relies on the continued good and timely information.

14 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – Report 21.423 [For Information]

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, advised the Committee that Tim Porteous, Manager Biodiversity, is retiring on 6 October 2021. The Committee acknowledged Mr Porteous' work and support to the Environment Committee over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 12.47pm



Councillor P Gaylor
Chair

Date: 21 October 2021

