



**greater WELLINGTON**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

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## **Climate Committee**

Tuesday 23 June 2020, 9.30am  
Via Zoom meeting

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### **Members**

Cr Nash (Chair)

Cr Lee (Deputy Chair)

Cr Brash

Cr Connelly

Cr Gaylor

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Laban

Cr van Lier

Dr Maria Bargh

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council**

# Climate Committee

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Tuesday 23 June 2020, 9.30am

Via Zoom meeting

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Climate Committee  
23 June 2020  
Report 20.113



For Decision

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE CLIMATE COMMITTEE

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose

1. To advise the Climate Committee (the Committee) on the status of the climate change work programme, and the current strategic framework for climate change, to enable the Committee to determine its strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium.

### He tūtohu

#### Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Notes** the current status of the climate change work programme.
- 2 **Notes** that the COVID-19 pandemic response will create challenges to progressing Greater Wellington's climate action as well as opportunities to strengthen its climate response.
- 3 **Notes** the current strategic direction for climate action as outlined in the Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme.
- 4 **Considers** the contributing elements to the Climate Committee's proposed strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium (paragraphs 2 to 43).
- 5 **Agrees** that the Climate Committee's strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium are *either*:
  - a Option One - Corporate activities (paragraphs 48 and 49)
  - b Option Two – Regional role (paragraphs 50 and 51) *or*
  - c Option Three – Outcomes (paragraphs 52 and 53) [Preferred].
- 6 **Agrees** that performance measures for these strategic priorities will be developed and reported back for approval to the Climate Committee's meeting on 22 September 2020.

## Te tāhū kōrero

### Context

2. Climate change is arguably the biggest environmental challenge New Zealanders have ever faced and it affects everyone in the Wellington Region. It is impacting our region's indigenous biodiversity, primary industries, biosecurity, fresh water security and wildfire incidence. Our coastal, low-lying and flood-prone communities and infrastructure are already being impacted. Rural and urban economies and communities in the Wellington Region will be more adversely affected as time goes on.
3. The Government's COVID-19 pandemic response has required extraordinary action by Council, including the cancellation of committee meetings. While the delay has impacted on the work of this committee, being a new committee and the first for this Council, it is also providing opportunities to leverage better outcomes for climate action. A separate report (COVID-19 Recovery and Climate Change – Report 20.201), also being considered at this meeting, provides related information.
4. The majority of our communities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Most of our urban centres are located, and the majority of our population live, on the coast or on the floodplains of our major rivers. Our communities and the built environment are exposed to flooding, sea-level rise, storm surge and inundation from rising ground water levels.
5. While climate change impacts affect us all, the population is not affected equally. While the coastal zone is home to some of our most wealthy communities, there can be inequitable access to protection or other compensatory remedies across poorer communities.
6. This general community profile also fits the situation for mana whenua and mātāwaka of our region. Approximately half of the many marae in the Wellington/Hutt Valley area are mātāwaka. In other parts of our region, the combined numbers are much smaller. However, of the mātāwaka marae, only Kokiri marae, in the Seaview area, is located near the coast.
7. All of these marae service the whānau, hapū and iwi who call on them. In general, these marae operate in parallel but come together in times of need such as life events including tangihanga and during civil emergencies such as the COVID-19 response.
8. It is anticipated that over this triennium Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) will work with both mana whenua and mātāwaka to better understand their climate change priorities.
9. Mana whenua are disproportionately impacted by the changing climate, with their economic interests predominantly in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors. These industries will be impacted by the effects of climate change as well as affected by the Government's climate change policies and resource management regulations. Additionally, mana whenua's traditional tribal lands (e.g. marae and urupā) are disproportionately located in coastal and/or flood prone areas, with limited options for retreat.
10. In 2018, Ara Tahi established an ohu network of three members. Each one represents a main catchment area in the region: East Coast (Wairarapa); West Coast (Otaki to

Porirua) and the Central Area (Wellington and the Hutt Valley). These ohu have been members of the Wellington Regional Climate Change Working Group since Greater Wellington appointed them in June 2018.

11. Although they have contributed to this working group, mana whenua have not yet formally recorded their own plans and aspirations in responding to climate change. Once they do, Greater Wellington will need to work with them directly to understand how we can work together to achieve shared outcomes.
12. Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and other legislation, local government is responsible for a range of functions that will be affected by climate change. For Greater Wellington, these functions include environment management, flood protection and land management, provision of regional parks, public transport planning and funding, and metropolitan water supply.
13. Particularly important are infrastructure and developments that will need to cope with climate conditions in 50 to 100 years' time. Examples include water supply systems and the public transport infrastructure traversing low-lying land already subject to flood risk.
14. In 2019, Local Government New Zealand reported on the quantum of local government infrastructure exposed to sea level rise. At the one metre increment, it was estimated that \$320 million of local government-owned infrastructure in the Wellington Region would be exposed.

#### ***The need for change***

15. There is a need for transformational change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also adapting to the impacts of climate change. The transformational change is needed to limit the impacts of climate change and reduce the damage it will bring to our people and places. This transformational change needs to start now. If we continue to take an incremental approach, our exposure to climate risks around the Wellington Region will only increase and eventually become too expensive for councils (i.e. ratepayers) to manage.
16. There will be challenges, but there will also be opportunities to deliver a cleaner and more resilient environment, both now and in the future, while ensuring solutions are fair and equitable. Greater Wellington has a leadership role to play in shaping this just transition to a low emissions economy.
17. We have an opportunity to be guided by mātauranga Māori in our work and to advance nature-based solutions. Restoring and enhancing coastal ecosystems, for example, will not only increase the resilience of our land to tidal storm surges; it also provides habitat for biodiversity, including some of our most threatened species, while storing carbon. We need to build our understanding of mātauranga Māori and how it relates to climate change. We have been enhancing our in-house capability in mātauranga Māori within our Environmental Science teams as opportunities arise. Officers recognise, however, that there are significant knowledge gaps in this area and that, at times, additional expertise will need to be acquired to build Greater Wellington's response capability. This approach will enable us to explicitly bring mātauranga Māori into Greater Wellington's decision making process.

18. In 2018, Ara Tahi appointed three mana whenua representatives as ohu (advisory group) who individually and collectively are recognised mātauranga Māori experts. They represent the three catchment areas of our region and work with the Climate Change Working Group. These representatives are:
  - a Ra Smith to the East Coast
  - b Mahina-a-rangi Baker to the West Coast
  - c Miria Pomare to the central area.
19. Since 2018, the ohu have provided advice on a range of climate change issues, including to:
  - a Improve knowledge and information systems and processes
  - b Achieve better planning and monitoring outcomes
  - c Consider the impact of climate change on iwi.
20. Ara Tahi have been asked to nominate one mana whenua representative for Council to consider appointing to support the work of the Committee. At the time this paper was finalised, that process had not occurred.

***Climate Committee's Terms of Reference***

21. The Terms of Reference for the Committee were adopted on 12 December 2019 (Committee and advisory body terms of reference and delegations for the 2019-22 triennium – Report 19.504).
22. The purpose of the Committee is to “oversee and inform the development and review of Council’s strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives from a climate change perspective”.

***Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme***

23. Council declared a climate emergency in August 2019. This decision responds to the urgency climate change presents and encourages a step change in how Greater Wellington addresses climate change, both corporately and in how it uses its influence in the region.
24. In order to demonstrate Council’s commitment to changing the status quo, the decision was strengthened by Council adopting two ten-point action plans - a Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and a Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan. These action plans are collectively referred to as the Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme (the Programme). The Programme will drive the changes needed to implement the action plans within Greater Wellington, with support from our Project Management Office.
25. The Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan includes a target to reduce Greater Wellington’s corporate carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, and a pathway to meet this target. This target was developed at a workshop attended by Councillors, executive leadership, management and officers. The idea was to gain consensus on a target at all levels in the organisation, reflecting the importance of the issue and that it requires a ‘whole of organisation’ response. It was unanimously agreed at the workshop that

Greater Wellington needs to demonstrate leadership by reducing corporate emissions if we are to have influence at a regional level.

26. The Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan supports activities to reduce emissions from the region as a whole and improve our resilience to the effects of climate change which are now unavoidable for the region.
27. Officers have provided a status report on progress with the Programme ([Attachment 1](#)). The overall status of the Programme is on track; though, given its scope, we need to continue to be deliberate with resourcing. By agreeing to its strategic priorities for the 2019-12 triennium, the Committee will be able to judge progress and to provide direction to the Programme on the desired focus, as required.

### ***Greater Wellington's climate change strategy***

28. Greater Wellington has had a Climate Change Strategy and a related implementation plan in place since 2015. The Climate Change Strategy has the following strategic objectives:
  - a Objective one - Mitigation  
Greater Wellington will act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all its areas of influence, including its own operations, helping to create the conditions for a smart, innovative, low-carbon regional economy
  - b Objective two - Adaptation  
Risks from climate change-related impacts are managed and resilience is increased through consistent adaptation planning and actions based on best scientific information
  - c Objective three – Awareness  
Community awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions increases, and organisations and individuals know what they can do to improve the long-term resilience and sustainability of the region.
29. The 2018 review of the Climate Change Strategy and the implementation plan found all related actions have been progressively implemented. While progress has been made in some areas, there are additional processes needed to mainstream climate action into all aspects of our work.
30. It is well recognised that our response to climate change must underpin all of our work and will require changes to the way we work. The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 changed the way that we incorporate health and safety into decision making and activities across the business. Similarly, we need to genuinely integrate climate action into our decision-making framework, and we are currently working on a review of our *Climate Change Consideration Guide*, which informs Council's decision-making.
31. The Climate Change Strategy 2015 has now largely been replaced by the Programme. One of the action points in the Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan is to revise Greater Wellington's Climate Change Strategy. The strategic priorities agreed to by the Committee will support the review of this strategy.

**Emerging direction**

32. The Government recently enacted the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 (the Zero Carbon Act). The Zero Carbon Act provides a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that:
  - a Contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
  - b Allow New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.
33. The Government is aligning land-based sector work programmes to ensure our natural resources are used sustainably. The Government's goals are focussed on taking a new approach to the Crown/Māori relationship for fresh water, restoring freshwater and waterways and sustainable high-value land use. This approach recognises that our land-based sectors comprise a significant proportion of the economy and are also at the heart of environmental issues such as water quality, climate change and biodiversity.
34. The Government is currently carrying out a comprehensive review of the RMA with a goal of addressing climate change issues that will increase local government's limited role in both mitigation and adaptation. Other RMA reforms underway, (including the freshwater reform, urban development and indigenous biodiversity) will impact our regional climate action. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is working on accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency which also includes RMA reform. The Government is also reforming the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme.
35. From the transport perspective, Greater Wellington is accelerating the decarbonisation of the public transport vehicle fleet. By June 2023, there will be 100 electric buses in the fleet. The next phase of 'Let's Get Wellington Moving' was adopted by Greater Wellington in December 2019, along with the bus priority programme and the bus network review for Wellington City. These initiatives signal Greater Wellington's commitment to decarbonising the bus fleet, strengthening its focus on the development of mass transit and the implementation of bus priority measures through Wellington City, as well as the progressive implementation of enhanced bus services. The Regional Transport Committee has already agreed its priorities and targets to reduce transport-generated emissions and increase walking, cycling and public transport mode share.
36. Greater Wellington is currently revising its 2011 Parks Network Plan, a composite statutory management plan that covers our eight regional parks, encompassing 33,000 hectares of public land. Through this process we are making a key shift in the way we manage our parks which will require significant land use changes. We are phasing out livestock grazing and replacing it with native ecosystem restoration activities. This change to the way we work will deliver many benefits for our region, including improved water quality, biodiversity, habitat connections and experiences for people in parks. These changes also provide significant opportunities to ramp up our climate action, by reducing our own carbon emissions (from grazing animals and drained peat wetlands), and increasing our carbon sinks, (through restoring peat wetlands and reforestation). These changes will also increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change.



### ***Mana whenua***

37. No formal work has been undertaken by Greater Wellington to research and synthesise the emerging directions of each of the six mana whenua of the Wellington Region in respect of their climate change plans and aspirations. Mana whenua have provided advice to help shape key policies and strategies either through collective forums like Ara Tahi or through their own iwi specific submission processes.
38. There are many challenges to being able to connect with mana whenua at the level required to take climate action in the Wellington Region.
39. The ohu have signalled the need for Greater Wellington and iwi to work together and generate new ideas and ways of thinking. This requires a Māori world view focus on possibilities (e.g. water and wetlands, carbon sequestration and green infrastructure research) rather than liabilities and an agile focus on quicker targeted action.
40. Comprehensive analytical frameworks (e.g. the 'ki uta ki tai' approach) that build on, incorporate and integrate issues of land, water and climate at a catchment scale are supported for climate work. The balance between mātauranga Māori and scientific knowledge is essential to fully understand the priorities of whānau, hapū and iwi who are contemplating effective responses to climate change. These responses include potential options for managed retreat of marae and urupā at risk should the circumstances demand it.
41. Taking te ao Māori view of climate change will improve environmental outcomes by acknowledging the interconnectedness and interrelationships between living and non-living things. An integrated approach may alleviate some capacity pressure for mana whenua and Greater Wellington in working together on issues of mutual benefit.

### ***Local councils and community pressures***

42. Greater Wellington is taking on more responsibility vis-à-vis mana whenua and the territorial authorities in the region for climate action through convening the Wellington Regional Climate Change Working Group. Climate change issues vary among councils in the Wellington Region, which are all at different stages in working up their programmes. The areas with the most obviously pressing issues outside of the Wellington Central Business District are Porirua City, Kāpiti Coast, Petone and Seaview.
43. There are an increasing number of concerned citizens in the Wellington Region. In Wellington, climate strikes brought record numbers of people out to protest the lack of action being taken by the Government and other actors to slow climate change.

## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

### ***Determining strategic priorities***

44. In determining its strategic priorities, the Committee should consider:
  - a The Committee's terms of reference and areas of specific responsibility (paragraphs 21 and 22)
  - b The scope of the Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme and strategy (paragraphs 23 to 31)

- c The emerging direction from central government, local government, mana whenua and other communities (paragraphs 32 to 43).
45. The Committee's strategic priorities should sharpen its focus on specific areas for this triennium. These strategic priorities are not intended to be exhaustive and can be adjusted by the Committee, as required. To achieve the desired focus it would be advantageous to have a smaller number of strategic priorities rather than a long list that repeats the existing ten-point action plans.
46. We intend reporting against the agreed strategic priorities (by tracking progress against the performance measures) at each meeting of the Committee. This will enable Committee members to judge progress and to provide direction on resourcing as required.

## **Nga kōwhiringa**

### **Options**

47. The strategic priorities have been considered through three key areas of focus:
- a Corporate activities
  - b Regional role
  - c Outcomes.
48. This consideration results in three options, each of which provides the opportunity for key performance indicators to be developed to measure progress.

### ***Option One: Corporate activities***

49. The following strategic priorities could be considered:
- a Drive the change needed from Greater Wellington's activities to achieve our 2030 carbon neutrality target
  - b Ensure Greater Wellington's climate change adaptation response and strategy meets our obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991; to consider the effects of a changing climate on our communities; and incorporate climate action into existing frameworks, plans, projects and standard decision-making procedures. A climate change perspective must now be integrated into activities such as flood management, water resources, planning, building regulations and transport.
50. The corporate-focussed option would provide clarity and focus for the Committee on ensuring Greater Wellington reduces its own emissions as well as ensuring we meet our obligations under the RMA. The focus would be on our own operations, those aspects we have under our direct control, and those aspects that we can influence. This would provide our communities with clear messaging about what is important to the Committee and demonstrate leadership by getting our own house in order. It would also provide direction to Greater Wellington's officers on the framing and implementation of activities to maximise their contribution towards meeting the desired outcomes.

***Option Two: Regional role***

51. The following strategic priorities could be considered:
- a Lead the regional mitigation and adaptation response in consultation and collaboration with others, by developing Council's position on the principles of approach (kaupapa) and actions (tikanga) to address climate change and ensuring other Council committees are aligned
  - b Lead regional collaboration in climate action through establishing strong relationships with central government and territorial authorities in the region to align action and develop good practice solutions.
52. This focus on taking a regional role would provide the Committee with a wider lens, and focus on the role of the Committee and Councillors in building relationships and providing leadership. This approach would provide the public with clarity on what Greater Wellington will do to progress the transition to a low emissions resilient region and takes advantage of Council's unique position to provide greater regional leadership on climate action. This option would mean the Committee would not be focussed on the corporate emissions reduction plan; but with the climate emergency declaration and establishment of the Programme, this could be considered to be in hand. It may, however, be harder to drive the internal initiatives needed to get the desired results within the organisation.

***Option Three: Outcomes***

53. The Committee could select priorities that result in both corporate and regional outcomes. The following strategic priorities based on each set could be considered:
- a Drive the change needed in Greater Wellington's activities to achieve Greater Wellington's 2030 carbon neutrality target
  - b Lead the regional sector in climate action, by building relationships with central government, other regional councils and unitary authorities, and mana whenua, to promote dialogue and the exchange of ideas and good practice, to strengthen alignment with our national climate change obligations
  - c Co-design Council's strategy and approach for the Wellington Region to mitigate, adapt and transition to a low emissions regional economy with mana whenua, ensuring that action is aligned across all Committees while also addressing our obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991.

***Performance measures***

54. Performance measures can be developed to assess the progress of these priority outcomes – this could be in the form of milestone reporting. The following key performance measures could be considered:
- a That carbon budgets and emissions reduction pathways are set for corporate emissions out to 2030 to enable progress to be tracked
  - b Greater Wellington holds a regional climate summit by October 2021.
55. In order to engender a genuine partnership with mana whenua to co-design our strategies, further discussion on that strategic priority, outcome and associated

performance measure/s must be developed and agreed with all mana whenua in the Wellington Region.

56. For this to become a reality mana whenua will require the capacity and resourcing to co-design these regional mitigation, adaptation and transition strategies, and be involved in developing appropriate performance measures to track satisfactory outcomes.

***Preferred option***

57. Option Three is the preferred option as it would:
- a Provide clarity and focus on progressing the transition to a low emissions organisation
  - b Take advantage of Council's unique position to provide greater regional leadership on climate action
  - c Position Council to work more collaboratively with central government by making a significant contribution towards meeting our national obligations under the Zero Carbon Act and New Zealand's international obligations under the Paris Agreement.
58. This option would also provide our communities with clear messaging about what is important to the Committee, highlight the need to forge genuine partnerships with mana whenua and others to make progress on climate action, and demonstrate our ambition to support central government's desired outcomes for climate change. It would not pre-empt what the strategic priorities are in respect of the mana whenua of the Wellington Region. It would also provide direction to Greater Wellington's officers on the framing and implementation of activities to maximise our contribution towards meeting the desired outcomes, some of which are yet to be agreed on.

**Ngā hua ahumoni**  
**Financial implications**

59. There are no direct financial implications from the matter for decision or this report. There may be financial implications over time as individual project analysis occurs, business cases are made and budget decisions taken. For the 2019-22 triennium, these will be considered during the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process.

**Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**  
**Consideration of climate change**

60. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington's *Climate Change Consideration Guide*.

***Mitigation assessment***

61. Climate change mitigation assessments are not required for this report. Officers note that the options provided include elements that will reduce net greenhouses gases for the organisation and ultimately the Wellington Region.

**Adaptation assessment**

62. Climate change adaptation assessments are not required for this report. Officers note that the options provided include elements that will improve adaptation planning across the Wellington Region.

**Ngā tikanga whakatau  
Decision-making process**

63. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government 2002.

**Te hiranga  
Significance**

64. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers consider that these matters are of low significance given their procedural nature.

**Te whakatūtakitaki  
Engagement**

65. Given the low significance of the matters for decision, officers considered that no related public engagement was required. As this report is about the priorities of the Committee, we have not consulted externally on these. While the Committee includes a member of Ara Tahi, who would have the opportunity to contribute here, this member has not yet been nominated for appointment by Council.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei  
Next steps**

66. Once the Climate Committee has determined its strategic priorities, officers will develop suitable performance measures to assess progress over time. These will be reported back for approval at the Committee's 22 September 2020 meeting.

67. At each subsequent Committee meeting, we will provide a report on progress against the agreed strategic priorities by tracking progress against the performance measures.

**Ngā āpitihanga  
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (June 2020)

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writer	Andrea Brandon – Programme Lead – Climate Change
Approvers	Tracy Plane – Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy – General Manager Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council’s roles or Committee’s terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Climate Committee’s approval of the proposed strategic priorities section fits with its specific responsibility to “oversee the development and review of Council’s... environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives”.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>The implications for mana whenua and Māori are significant and are described in relevant sections throughout this report. Representation for mana whenua is made through Ara Tahi, as this forum represents the regional voice of mana whenua. Until Ara Tahi nominates its representative to the Committee, and that representative is appointed by Council, the strategic priorities for the Committee will be missing the views, goals and aspirations of mana whenua.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The strategic framework provided by the existing Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme and Climate Change Strategy is outlined specifically in the Context section, and forms the basis of determining the Committee’s strategic priorities.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>Te Hunga Whiriwhiri and the Strategic and Corporate Planning team were consulted in the development of this report.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.</p>

## Attachment 1 to Report 20.113

## Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (June 2020)

## Corporate Carbon Neutrality Project

	Short description	Status last quarter	Status this quarter	Progress	Percentage complete
1	Introduce a carbon reduction policy to the organisation	On track	On track	Policy endorsed by ELT, support package to accompany policy in progress, and on track for 1 July 2020 launch.	90
2	Allocate responsibility for corporate carbon emissions and reduction targets to the Chief Executive, include in KPIs	On track	On track	Completed for 2019/20. Under consideration for 2020/21.	100
		On track	On track		50
3	Secure renewable electricity supply	On track	On track	Underway, on track.	20
4	Accelerate transition to fully electric bus fleet by 2030	At risk	On track	Work underway to increase electric bus fleet to 108 by December 2023. Planning for a fully decarbonised bus fleet by 2030 is underway.	25
5	Have a fully-electric corporate vehicle fleet by 2030	On track	On track	EV First Policy in place, and Optimisation strategy underway.	50
6	Find options for off-road and high performance electric vehicles	On track	On track	Research underway, and suitable vehicle supplier dependent.	5
7	Accelerate reforestation planting in regional parks	At risk	At risk	Work underway but requires clear direction, and significant funding, plus partnerships with others agencies. Belmont RP reforestation proposed for additional central government funding from COVID-19 relief environment package	5
8	Review grazing licenses in regional parks, and review options to use this land for native reforestation to earn carbon credits	At risk	At risk	Direction agreed in strategic framework for the draft Parks Network Plan. Implementation dependent on timing and funding, Belmont RP reforestation proposed for additional central government funding from COVID-19 relief environment package	0
9	Align our CCO's targets to reduce emissions with ours	At risk	At risk	Letters of expectation. Response not yet confirmed.	U
10	Sell down Greater Wellington's free allocation of carbon credits (NZUs) received for its pre-1990 forests to create a 'low carbon acceleration fund'	At risk	On track	Funding has been made available to start the fund on a temporary basis and applications are open; still to be approved through 2020/21 Annual Plan. Sale of emission units requires consultation through 2021-31 Long Term Plan process.	80



## Regional Climate Emergency Project

	Short description	Status last Quarter	Status this Quarter	Progress	Percentage complete
1	Establish appropriate governance	On track	On track	Climate Committee established.	100
2	Include robust analysis of climate change impacts, in decisions and policy development	On track	On track	Need to review tools and build capability/capacity across business. Carbon reduction policy drafted, and <i>Climate Change Consideration Guide</i> under review.	10
3	Review climate change strategy and assign a senior management champion for climate change priorities	On track	On track	GM Strategy is Programme Sponsor. New direction, set through the two ten-point plans, will provide components of a revised overall strategy.	50
4	Advocate to central government to ensure legislation enables Greater Wellington to take climate action	At risk	At risk	Occurring at officer level, level of engagement may need to be at a higher level (chief executive to chief executive ; Chair to Minister).	NA (ongoing)
5	Support territorial authorities with their adaptation programmes	At risk	At risk	Good relationships with territorial authorities, but no funding allocated to this; Greater Wellington's role not yet confirmed; constraints in capacity of mana whenua to partner and requires additional natural hazards advisory resource.	5
6	Undertake additional technical research: to support community engagement and infrastructure renewal; and to inform mapping of area's at highest risk of flooding	At risk	At risk	Work underway, responsibilities lie across teams and territorial authorities; and need for clearer alignment and resourcing.	20
7	Work with central government to identify funding for community engagement programmes and adaptation responses	At risk	On track	Increased funding being sought through central government environment package. Researching all potential funding opportunities underway.	10
8	Collaborate with key institutions and agencies to develop a Regional Climate Mitigation Plan	At risk	On track	Regional inventory completed for 2019, target may be informed by the Zero Carbon Act; two regional working groups established in previous triennium - WRCCWG (Councillor reps) meet quarterly; officer level equivalent meet six-weekly; there is interest in working together across the Wellington Region; working on value proposition for territorial authorities; and constraints in capacity of mana whenua to partner.	5
9	Build a regional afforestation brokering role, capitalise on the 1 Billion Trees Programme and expand permanent native forests	At risk	At risk	Funding sought through central government environment package and work underway with Greater Wellington parks and with Hutt City Council. But underlying issues remain including need to partner with iwi, territorial authorities, communities, Ministry for Primary Industries; and unclear who has lead responsibilities.	10

	<b>Short description</b>	<b>Status last Quarter</b>	<b>Status this Quarter</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Percentage complete</b>
10	Embed emissions reductions targets in key programmes and projects	At risk	On track	Good collaboration occurring with Regional Land Transport Plan and Regional Growth Framework, but still varied levels of climate change support within these programmes and LGWM; and potential to work with WREDA on the economic transition approach.	10

**Climate Committee**  
**23 June 2020**  
**Report 20.201**



**For Information**

## **COVID-19 RECOVERY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Climate Committee's discussion of the opportunities for the COVID-19 recovery to prioritise climate action and to explore the potential role of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to advocate for and deliver on such action.

### **Te horopaki**

#### **Context**

2. Left unaddressed, climate change is expected to have the same, if not larger, and repeated, sharp, destabilising and shocking impacts for the world, as we are currently experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. There exists a close relationship between climate change, other forms of environmental degradation and our vulnerability to viruses such as COVID-19. "Climate change, water pollution and the drivers of biodiversity loss, such as deforestation and illegal wildlife trade, may increase the risk of further pandemics, such as vector-borne or water-borne infections"<sup>1</sup>.
4. It has become apparent that the world was significantly under-prepared for the COVID-19 outbreak, with many countries found lacking in their disaster emergency reduction management approaches. As recently as September 2019, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, co-convened by the World Bank and the World Health Organisation, identified that "if a similar contagion [to influenza] happened today, it could kill up to 80 million people and wipe out 5% of the global economy"<sup>2</sup>.
5. Similarly, a report prepared for the British government by economist Sir Nicholas Stern, found that the cost of unconstrained climate change would be huge — up to a 20 percent drop per year in the world's Gross Domestic Product by 2050<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19), *From containment to recovery: Environmental responses to the COVID-19 pandemic*, April 20, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> CNN, *The risk of a global pandemic is growing - and the world isn't ready, experts say*, September 18, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> *What is the Economics of Climate Change?* Nicholas Stern, *World Economics*, Vol. 7, No. 2, April-June 2006.

6. In light of the extraordinary amount of government intervention underway to assist New Zealand to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, an opportunity is created to design the recovery in a way which helps build the resilience of our communities to be able to better cope with changes and shocks we now know are inevitable (due to carbon reduction and climate adaptation). However, there is also risk that in racing to address immediate response needs through economic stimulus actions, existing risks will be further entrenched and exacerbated through a pathway that compounds today's crisis. If done carelessly we will spend the next generation's money for short-term gain.
7. There has been significant commentary about the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions caused by the 'lockdown' policy progressed by central government in response to the threat of COVID-19. The global amount of emissions reduction, likely to be approximately 7 to 8 percent<sup>4</sup> when averaged across the year, is similar to the amount of reduction required, year on year, to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement. This emissions reduction has come at great cost, whereas responsible decarbonisation of the economy needs to be designed in such a way that the quality of life for our communities increases, rather than suffers.
8. However, we note the view that:

The emissions reductions caused by economic downturns tend to be temporary and can lead to emissions growth as economies attempt to get back on track. After the global financial crisis of 2008, for example, global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production grew 5.9% in 2010, more than offsetting the 1.4% decrease in 2009<sup>5</sup>. This rebound has been attributed to the recovery package that invested in activities featuring high levels of fossil fuel dependency<sup>6</sup>.
9. Recently, Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change when the Paris Agreement was achieved, said the \$10 to 20 trillion being spent globally on economic recovery packages around the world would not be repeated. She is quoted as saying:<sup>7</sup>

Those 10 years that we thought we had [the decade of climate action] have now been shrunk into basically anywhere between three to 18 months because by the end of those 18 months all the decisions, and in fact most of the allocations of the recovery packages, will have been made.
10. Internationally, a consensus seems to be growing that future stimulus spending should be leveraged to achieve climate goals. Calls and commitments for such a "green recovery" percolate through discussions of the post-pandemic future.

<sup>4</sup> Global Carbon Project, Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center.

<sup>5</sup> World Resources Institute, *Responding to Coronavirus: Low-carbon Investments Can Help Economies Recover*, March 12, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> *Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change?* Hepburn, C., O'Callaghan, B., Stern, N., Stiglitz, J., Zenghelis, D., Forthcoming in the Oxford Review of Economic Policy 36(S1), May 4, 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Radio New Zealand, *After the Virus*, May 29, 2020.

## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

11. In New Zealand, the 'Rebuilding Together' Budget 2020 was announced in May 2020. The Government is in discussions with the Sustainable Recovery Alliance, a bloc of countries pledging to a sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Climate Commissioner, Dr Rod Carr, has advised the Government to apply a 'climate lens' to its investments, starting with a set of principles. He has identified these principles as:
  - a Principle 1: Consider how stimulus investments can deliver long-term climate benefits
  - b Principle 2: Bring forward transformational climate change investments that need to happen anyway
  - c Principle 3: Prepare our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow
  - d Principle 4: Work in partnership
  - e Principle 5: Maintain incentives to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
  - f Principle 6: Change how we measure the success of economic recovery.
13. We consider that these principles provide a clear direction for how climate action could underpin the Government's investment through the Budget.
14. The regional sector has begun to develop programmes which embody these principles. Some have surfaced via the regional 'shovel ready' bid and the Environmental Enhancement Package, which Greater Wellington has been identified as being a key element that saw an unprecedented \$1.1 billion invested in nature-related projects via the Budget.
15. These projects, in addition to stimulating the economy and creating employment, will assist the Wellington Region in meeting the requirements of the:
  - a National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
  - b National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
  - c National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation
  - d Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.More specifically, some of these projects start to address the largest sources of the Wellington Region's greenhouse gas emissions, being transport, energy and agriculture. Projects proposed<sup>8</sup> include:
  - e Electrification and expansion of the rail network
  - f Acceleration of electrification of bus and light vehicle fleet encouraged by a robust and accessible charging network

<sup>8</sup> Informed by '[Restoring Aotearoa – a recovery for people and planet](#)', a letter drafted by EDS, WWF, Greenpeace, Generation Zero, Ecologic, and Forest & Bird to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, April 8, 2020.

- g Reducing commuting congestion through demand management
  - h Free and expanded public transport
  - i Funding for upgrade of water, sewage and storm water infrastructure, including expanded flood protection actions and potable water supply options designed to cope with enhanced climate change impacts
  - j Insulating every under-insulated property
  - k Establishing a dedicated fund for the transition to more sustainable agriculture
  - l Funding the surveying and protection / restoration of nature on private land
  - m Substantially increase regional pest and weed control
  - n Re-creation of a Conservation Corps
  - o Enabling the installation of new solar and wind capacity and upgrading the electricity grid
  - p Support development of the workforce to reskill and retool for a future proofed urban and rural economy – for a ‘just transition’, for example to enable the delivery of green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and smart renewable energy systems.
16. As identified in paragraph 15 of the Strategic Priorities for the Climate Committee report (Report 20.113), being considered at this meeting, there is a need for transformative change. This, within the context of the COVID-19 recovery, and the unprecedented level of government funding being invested, sharpens and accelerates this work.
17. Greater Wellington has demonstrated leadership by initiating a letter to the Government from the Regional Sector through Local Government New Zealand which offers support from the regional sector to central government in helping shape and deliver the country’s COVID-19 response and recovery effort towards a climate future. This letter, of 12 June 2020, was considered and agreed by the Regional Sector Chief Executives, Chairs and Mayors at their meeting on 10 June 2020 ([Attachment 1](#)).
18. Some of the opportunities for Greater Wellington could include the following:
- a **Regional leadership:** we are a regional partner in recovery and we will:
    - i Work with the territorial authorities and WellingtonNZ to define opportunities for regional collaboration in recovery that lead the Wellington Region towards a low carbon economy
    - ii Ensure climate resilience and low carbon principles are reflected through the Wellington Regional Growth Framework
    - iii Review Greater Wellington’s contribution to the Warm Greater Wellington programme within the context of the enhanced Warm Up New Zealand campaign
  - b **Advocacy:** we have an active voice and political connections to advocate to central government, and work in tandem with the territorial authorities. We will:
    - i Continue to advocate to central government for funding and joint work opportunities

- ii Continue to build relationships, policies and resources with the other councils via the Wellington Regional Climate Change Working Group and progress the opportunity to do the same through the Climate Change Special Interest Group
- iii Explore and consider the Wellington Region’s contribution towards increasing renewable energy electricity generation
- c **Get our own house in order:** we will spend our own money and make our own decisions to support recovery using a climate lens. We will:
  - i Develop a carbon reduction policy which improves our practice to seek out procurement options which contribute to Greater Wellington’s Corporate Carbon Neutrality target of 2030
  - ii Support three-waters investment that explores low carbon options and futureproofs to climate impacts
  - iii Invest in Regional Parks and public transport that drive carbon reduction outcomes

**Ngā hua ahumoni**  
**Financial implications**

19. There are no direct financial implications from this report. There may be financial implications over time as the ‘COVID-19 Recovery and Climate Change’ position of Council becomes clear.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**  
**Next steps**

20. We will seek to update the Climate Committee with progress on this work at the next meeting on 22 September 2020.

**Ngā āpitihanga**  
**Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Letter to Ministers - Climate safe recovery (12 June 2020)

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**  
**Signatories**

Writer	Suze Keith, Climate Change Advisor
Approvers	Tracy Plane, Manager Strategic & Corporate Planning Luke Troy, General Manager Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council’s roles or Committee’s terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>This report is consistent with the Climate Committee’s responsibilities to “consider regional, national and international developments</p> <p>This Report and analysis also aligns with the Climate Committee’s draft Strategic Priorities being considered at this meeting (Strategic Priorities for the Climate Committee - Report 20.113).</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>The implications for mana whenua and Māori have not been explicitly considered in this report, nor consulted, because of the rapid development required for this issue.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>There is currently no direct link to the Annual Plan 2020/21, nor the Long Term Plan 2018-28. However, when the role of Greater Wellington becomes clearer in the longer term COVID-19 Recovery, there could have implications for the Long Term Plan 2021-31.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The Strategic and Corporate Planning team were consulted in the development of this report.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.</p>



Who's  
putting local  
issues on  
the national  
agenda?

**We are.  
LGNZ.**

Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

12 June 2020

Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Hon Phil Twyford  
Minister of Transport  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Hon David Parker  
Minister for the  
Environment  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Local  
Government  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Hon Shane Jones  
Minister for  
Infrastructure  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Hon James Shaw  
Minister for Climate  
Change  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament  
Wellington 6160

Tēnā koutou Ministers,

### **Shaping a COVID-19 recovery consistent with New Zealand's climate goals**

On behalf of the chairs of regional councils and mayors of unitary authorities around the country, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in getting us through so effectively to Alert Level 1. Let me acknowledge the extremely difficult circumstances we all face at this time.

Around our communities and within local and central government organisations, people are stretched to the limit. Against this background, we offer our full support to you, as ministers, in addressing the twin challenges of crafting an effective recovery from COVID-19, while at the same time meeting our collective climate goals. This letter sets out our commitment to a partnership with central government to achieve these two imperatives and highlights some of the ways we can work together. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you at your convenience.

#### **1. Effective cooperation between the regional sector and central government**

The regional sector has been encouraged by the effective cooperation with central government, including the rapid development and submission of a major environmental jobs package. The announcement of \$1.1 billion in Budget 2020 for nature-based jobs signalled that ministers are serious about the partnership with local government. We are eager to continue this effective cooperation with ministers as you shape the remaining elements of the COVID-19 recovery. We are ready to move swiftly because - as recently noted by the architect of the Paris Agreement, Christiana Figueres - the scale and extent of COVID-19 economic recovery decisions being made now will compress the time available for the world to undertake the measures necessary to implement our emissions reduction commitments.

## **2. Support from the regional sector to central government on the COVID-19 recovery**

Through the COVID-19 recovery, regional councils and unitary authorities are uniquely positioned to support central government's work towards a resilient, low-emissions transition that is both equitable and swift. We have a range of climate-related workstreams and initiatives that, with government support, we can rapidly scale up and reach across the country, including to the regions hardest hit by the economic downturn. Partnership with our sector will act as a force-multiplier for central government spending on the recovery. It will also boost our ability to implement the work supported by new regulations on freshwater and biodiversity, for example. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund is a unique opportunity both to maximise the impact of government spending to increase employment and social outcomes, and to give meaningful effect and impetus to the Government's new environmental framework.

## **3. Applying a climate lens to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund**


The allocation of funds within the Government's \$50 billion COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund will determine the speed and effectiveness of New Zealand's climate response. The allocation of these funds should support a recovery from the pandemic that is consistent with our climate commitments. We endorse the advice from the Climate Change Commission in its letters of 7 April and 19 May to the Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw. In particular, we endorse the six principles outlined in the Commission's letter of 7 April "to help deliver an economic recovery that keeps New Zealand on track to achieve our climate goals." We encourage the Government to explore opportunities to direct spending in a way that builds our capacity as a nation to reduce emissions, to transition equitably to a low-emissions economy, and to plan and prepare for community resilience and climate change adaptation. We offer our support in identifying these opportunities at a regional level.

## **4. Investing for short-term as well as long-term benefits**

Regional councils and unitary authorities are in a position to help direct spending now to deliver both short-term gains as well as long-term benefits. We can help facilitate economic recovery, job creation and infrastructure investment while also building community resilience to natural hazards and climate change. Some broad areas include: flood protection and other adaptation work; public transport; regenerating native forests, wetlands and biodiversity; sustainable farming and land use; freshwater and coastal restoration; climate resilient public infrastructure; and home and commercial emissions. There are a variety of initiatives underway and ready to be scaled up within the regional sector to help support an effective recovery from COVID-19 that is also consistent with our climate goals. Individual councils have submitted a number of specific projects via the Crown Infrastructure Partners and via the nature-based jobs programme and we look forward to advancing these investments.

As regional sector chairs and mayors, we value our partnership with central government and we look forward to working closely with you to shape and deliver the best possible recovery from COVID-19 for New Zealand.

Yours sincerely



Doug Leeder  
Chair, Regional Sector  
Local Government New Zealand

**Climate Committee**  
**23 June 2020**  
**Report 20.213**



**For Information**

## **THE LOW CARBON ACCELERATION FUND: STATUS UPDATE**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Climate Committee on the status of the first application round to the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund and to outline the next steps.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Context**

2. On 21 August 2019, Council declared a climate emergency, set a target for carbon neutrality by 2030 and adopted two ten-point action plans to ramp up climate action.
3. Following this, Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) established a Climate Emergency Response Programme. We appointed the General Manager Strategy as the Programme Sponsor, along with a Climate Emergency Response Programme Board (the Programme Board), to oversee the delivery of the two ten-point action plans that Council adopted on 21 August 2019.
4. The Programme Board is made up of a subset of the Executive Leadership team and some tier three managers. These members are the General Managers of Strategy, Environment Management, Catchment Management and Metlink, the Chief Financial Officer and the Strategic and Corporate Planning Manager.
5. One of the actions adopted on 21 August 2019 was to establish the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (the LCA Fund) by selling down Greater Wellington's free allocation of carbon credits) received for its pre-1990 forests. As this is a significant strategic asset, officers will consult the community on this action through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process. However, due to the urgency required for taking action, Council agreed to start the LCA Fund through borrowing for the 2020/21 financial year.
6. The objective of the LCA Fund is to help Greater Wellington achieve the goal of becoming 'carbon neutral' by 2030 through funding projects that will reduce our corporate carbon footprint.
7. The first round of applications for the Fund were sought during May 2020 (see [Attachment 1](#) for further information for officers). There was a lot of interest in the LCA Fund, but just one complete application was received.
8. This application for the LCA Fund seeks a total of \$1,688,760 over the next five years, and will restore 101.1 hectares of peat wetland and dune forest at Queen Elizabeth Park.

## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

9. The application for restoration of grazing land at Queen Elizabeth Park would reduce Greater Wellington's corporate carbon footprint by 0.9 percent of gross emissions by 2030 and 1.2 percent of its net emissions by 2030. The amount relative to the emissions of the Wellington Region as a whole is 100 times smaller again. This would be achieved for an investment of \$1.6 million from the LCA Fund, currently valued at \$7.3 million, representing use of over 20 percent of the LCA Fund. Note that the forest planting will continue to sequester carbon after 2030 until it is fully grown. The total amount it would sequester is estimated at 16,212 tonnes, which is equal to 38 percent of a single year of Greater Wellington's current gross emissions.
10. The cost per tonne of carbon saved for the corporate carbon footprint to 2030 is \$240.92. Including all emissions saved to 2030 (including from the wetland restoration) and all the carbon sequestered by the new forest growing to maturity, the cost per tonne of carbon saved is \$65.69.
11. The application was assessed by the Programme Board on 5 June 2020. The Programme Board agreed that the project represents an excellent opportunity to make progress and demonstrate leadership on climate action, but believed further opportunities to make carbon savings could be explored.
12. A number of risks also need to be considered. Achieving the carbon reductions outlined in paragraph 9 requires science input and expertise in managing a complex restoration of this nature, including the restoration of the natural hydrology for the peat wetlands and the mitigation of edge effects for isolated planting areas. As the entire area of peat in the park is not being retired, this will make it more difficult to achieve from a feasibility perspective. The areas that will continue to be grazed will need to be kept above the water table while the areas being restored and are contiguous with the grazed areas will need the water table raised. It can also be difficult to successfully establish forests in the relatively small, isolated patches, as proposed here. The edge effects will be significant and are exacerbated by the proximity of this site to the coast where it is subject to natural coastal processes.
13. The effects of climate change will potentially impact on the restoration as proposed, notably rising groundwater, increasing temperatures, drier summers and more severe storms, which may threaten the viability of the proposed forest plantings. Extra care will be needed to ensure these plantings survive and realise their full potential to sequester carbon. As noted in paragraph 12, more joined up areas of planting could reduce its vulnerability to some climate impacts.
14. The Programme Board agreed that the proposal needs to be refined to reduce the risks and increase the carbon savings. One way this could be done is by increasing the area retired and establishing larger areas of forest. This could have flow on benefits that would improve the success rate of forest establishment, rewetting the peat and reduce the need for more fencing.

16. Queen Elizabeth Park is public conservation land. In order to claim the carbon sequestration from the new forests to offset our emissions, we would need to enter into a Crown Conservation Contract with the Department of Conservation. This is required before Greater Wellington can register these forests in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme and therefore earn carbon credits. The cost of these activities would represent better value for money if larger areas of restoration were involved.
17. On a minor note, funding has been included in the proposal for fencing (both for new fences and the removal of others), wetland board walks and interpretation signage. Some of these costs may not be eligible for funding as these will not have a direct impact on reducing our corporate carbon footprint.

**Next steps**

18. Once the matters outlined by the Programme Board have been addressed the application will be brought back to a subsequent meeting of the Committee, hopefully on 22 September 2020.
19. In August 2020, Council will meet at a workshop to discuss the potential emissions reduction pathways that could be taken within the context of setting five yearly carbon budgets for Greater Wellington, and setting parameters for what those budgets should be and how these should be managed. This workshop, scheduled to occur before 22 September 2020 Committee meeting, will provide important context for the decision making around approving funding applications. As the LCAF Fund is specifically designed to accelerate carbon reduction, this workshop will help provide us all with a better understanding of the size of the task ahead and how we can best reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	The Greater Wellington Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund for 2020/21 – information for officers

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Andrea Brandon – Programme Lead – Climate Change
Approvers	Tracy Plane – Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy – General Manager Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Committee's consideration of the LCA Fund application fits with its specific responsibility to "oversee the development and review of Council's... environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives".</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>There are implications for mana whenua and Māori. Representation for mana whenua is made through Ara Tahī, as this forum represents the regional voice of mana whenua. Until Ara Tahī nominates its representative to this Climate Committee, and the representation is appointed by Council, the implication of this report will be missing the views, goals and aspirations of mana whenua.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>This contributes towards meeting the Council's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The Strategic and Corporate Planning team were consulted in the development of this report.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.</p>

## Attachment 1 to Report 20.213

### The Greater Wellington Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund for 2020/21 – information for officers

#### Purpose

The Greater Wellington Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund is intended to help our organisation achieve the goal of becoming 'carbon neutral' by 2030 through funding projects that will reduce our corporate carbon footprint. ('Carbon' means all greenhouse gases, expressed in units of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent).

#### Who can apply?

Greater Wellington activity managers. Council-controlled organisations and CentrePort Wellington, while these form part of the corporate carbon footprint, cannot apply at this time.

#### What areas of Greater Wellington's activities are eligible?

Improvements to bus and rail assets, buildings, vehicle fleet, and Greater Wellington-owned and/or -managed land use change. Novel activities such as renewable energy investments will also be considered.

#### How much funding is available?

Approximately \$2 million will be allocated from the LCA Fund to projects in 2020/21. There will be up to four rounds of applications considered during 2020/21, although later rounds may not proceed if funding is fully allocated in earlier rounds. Subject to the outcome of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process, the LCA Fund may resume in 2021/22.

The LCA Fund is divided into these categories:

- 40 percent **Land sector** – changing land use and environmental restoration (e.g. tree planting)
- 40 percent **Energy and other** – electric vehicles, renewable energy, energy efficiency or anything that is not land sector
- 20 percent **Project development and feasibility** – for developing a project from a concept to a fully costed proposal/business case.

Note the percentages are a guide – Council is able assign the funding differently.

There are no maximum or minimum values set for applications, but decision makers may ask you to revise the amount requested depending on what other bids are received.

#### What are the assessment criteria?

Projects must represent additional activity and carbon savings that would not have occurred (or occurred as soon) without the LCA funding.

## Attachment 1 to Report 20.213

### The Greater Wellington Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund for 2020/21 – information for officers

Projects will be favoured if they:

- Have a high value of carbon saved per dollars of LCA funding relative to other projects
- Have additional benefits – e.g. biodiversity, flood protection, public amenity
- Are of strategic significance to achieving carbon reduction goals – e.g. may lead to further reductions by increasing capability in the organisation or testing a promising approach
- Have a high likelihood of being successfully delivered
- Can demonstrate real, measurable, permanent and additional carbon savings.

Note the LCA Fund focus is on projects that will reduce Greater Wellington’s carbon footprint. Carbon savings that would accrue to others from the project will be counted as an additional benefit but not included in the calculation of carbon saved per dollar invested.

#### Process

The Climate Change Team in Strategic and Corporate Planning will provide advice and technical support to applicants. Point of contact is the Programme Lead – Climate Change ([andrea.brandon@gw.govt.nz](mailto:andrea.brandon@gw.govt.nz)).

The Climate Emergency Response Programme Board will impartially vet the applications, and may choose to exclude some. The reasons for exclusion are:

- Proposal not sufficiently detailed
- Carbon saving per dollar of funding requested too low (dollars per tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e too high)
- Project would have happened anyway
- Risk vs. reward ratio too poor.

The Programme Board may also seek additional information or propose changes to applicants.

Funding applications and allocations will be reviewed by the Climate Committee and recommendations for allocations made to Council for adoption.

#### Applications

Applications must include the following information under these headings and in this order:

1. **Applicant:** The Greater Wellington team applying and the point of contact
2. **Project Proposed:**
  - a. A full explanation of the proposed project: what/when/where/who/how
  - b. An explanation of if or when the project could proceed if it didn’t receive LCA funding
  - c. How progress will be tracked.
3. **Carbon reduction:** An estimate of total carbon savings compared to ‘business as usual’. Distinguish between:
  - a. Carbon savings that would accrue to Greater Wellington (i.e. the amount by which our corporate carbon footprint will reduce)
  - b. Those carbon savings that would accrue elsewhere.



## Attachment 1 to Report 20.213

### The Greater Wellington Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund for 2020/21 – information for officers

These may be broad estimates for project development/feasibility applications. Guidance on how to assess carbon savings is provided ([Greater Wellington Emissions Measurement Guide](#)). Please contact the Climate Change Team (climatechange@gw.govt.nz) for assistance if required.

These calculations must be peer reviewed before submitting the application.

4. **Costs:** The costs of the implementing the proposal compared to 'business as usual'
  - a. Identify amount sought from LCA Fund and any other sources of funding
  - b. Provide some breakdown of costs e.g. project management vs. direct costs.
5. **Co-benefits:** Describe and if possible quantify any co-benefits.
6. **Risks:** Identify any risks to the project successfully delivering the estimated carbon saving. Rate their probability and impact respectively (low/medium/high). Guidance on how to rate risks can be found in the Risks and Issues Register (and assessment matrix) provided by the Programme Management Office (<http://qwennie/job-tools-and-guides/project-management/project-management-templates/>).
7. **Carbon calculations:** Please provide us with your carbon calculations required to complete step 3 and who peer reviewed these.

#### **Next steps**

Greater Wellington's Climate Emergency Response Programme Board vets applications and presents these to the Climate Committee to review. The Climate Committee then presents its recommendations to Council for adoption. You will be advised whether your bid made it through each stage as the assessment process progresses, culminating with the final Council decision.