



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 18 February 2021, 9.30am

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Brash

Cr Hughes

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Laban

Cr Lamason

Cr Lee

Cr Nash

Cr Ponter

Cr Staples

Cr van Lier

Barbie Barton

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

Environment Committee

Thursday 18 February 2021, 9.30am

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

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2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 18 February 2021.

Report 20.439

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 26 November 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Brash (from 9.39am)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand (from 10.05am)
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter
Councillor van Lier (from 9.35am)
Barbie Barton

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga – Ngau mai e ngā hua.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Connelly

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Staples, and the apologies for lateness from Councillors Brash, Kirk-Burnnand and van Lier.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 15 October 2020 – Report 20.387

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Blakeley

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 15 October 2020 – Report 20.387.

The motion was **carried**.

4 Public participation

Christine Richardson and Marie Russell spoke about pest control.

Peter Chrisp, Chair, Predator Free Wellington and James Willcocks, Project Director, Predator Free Wellington spoke about the Predator Free Wellington project.

Councillor van Lier arrived at the meeting at 9.35am, during public participation.

Councillor Brash arrived at the meeting at 9.39am, during public participation.

5 Update on progress of action items from previous meetings – November 2020 – Report 20.425 [For Information]

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand arrived at the meeting at 10.05am, during the above item.

6 Waikanae ki Uta ki Tai – Oral Report

Mike Grace, Senior Policy Advisor, Mana Whenua; Steve Bielby, Community Ranger, Kāpiti, and Sharlene Moate-Davis from Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, spoke to the report.

Mr Grace introduced the report, and acknowledged and spoke of the catchment area.

Ms Moate-Davis spoke about the Treaty House partnership model and how that has facilitated discussions by placing value in a shared journey, while also acknowledging the knowledge and vision that each person brings. Ms Moate-Davis acknowledged that relationships are key, and that the sharing of narratives, knowledge, skills and experience is vital to inform future decisions.

Ms Moate-Davis spoke of māramatanga – that all knowledge, information, decisions and actions are well informed by the best local mātauranga Māori, science, models and technology, and the importance of utilising the strengths, knowledge and experiences of all to ensure diverse perspectives are considered, in order to create a collaborate action plan.

7 Wainuiomata Mainland Island threatened species sanctuary – Report 20.466

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

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes the discussions, work completed to date, and potential next steps related to a proposed fenced threatened species sanctuary in the Wainuiomata Water Supply catchment.
- 2 Establishes a Greater Wellington working group to explore the proposal further and to report back to the Committee in early 2021.
- 3 Appoints Councillor Nash, General Manager, Catchment Management, and Manager, Parks to the working group, with the Councillor appointee to be responsible for keeping the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee, and the Portfolio Leader, Parks, Forests, Biodiversity apprised of the work of the working group and any issues arising.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 10.59am and resumed at 11.10am.

8 Whaitua Implementation – Report 20.343 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management introduced the report; Alastair Smail, Programme Lead – Urban Water, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that officers report back on progress made on implementation and the issues encountered in implementation.

9 Whaitua update – Oral Report

Phil Barker, Senior Policy Advisor – Whaitua, updated the Committee on the progress of the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee (Whaitua Committee).

The Whaitua Committee had a refresh meeting on 30 October 2020, following a series of Zoom meetings due to COVID-19. The Whaitua Committee had a discussion on the goals and process ahead, and acknowledged that it is in the final decision making phase. Mr Barker advised that there are several meetings in December 2020 to progress the decision making process in time to complete the whaitua by April 2021.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga – Kia hora te marino.

The meeting closed at 11.40am

Councillor P Gaylor
Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 18 February 2021.

Report 20.438

Public minutes of the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Hearing Subcommittee meeting on Monday 23 November 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Nash

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Lamason

That the Subcommittee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Connelly.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Process for considering submissions and feedback on Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 – Report 20.427 [For Information]

4 Draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 – Report 20.430

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Brash

That the Subcommittee:

- 1 Considers the submissions on the draft Plan (Attachments 1 and 2) together with the officer comments (Attachment 3) in determining its findings and recommendations to Council.

5 Hearing of oral submissions

A timetable of oral submissions was circulated.

Submitters were scheduled in half hour blocks, and ran ahead of schedule. Oral submitters were heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
1	106	Russell Bell (Friends of QEP)
2	26/88	Pene Burton Bell (QEP Restoration Group)
3	62	Matt Hoffman (Porirua City Council)
4	113	Russell Bell on behalf of Friends of QEP
5	99	Suz Bassett (Battle Hill Eventing)
6	57	Ruth Halliday
7	186	Shelly Warwick
8	358	Diane Strugnell
9	90	Ellen Soulliere
10	260	Jennifer Walsh
11	18	Robert Hughes (Mana Cycle Group)
12	22	Karl Palamountain

Cora McCauley was unable to attend, but tabled written notes for the Subcommittee to consider.

The hearing adjourned at 10.44am and resumed at 11.14am.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
13	92	Jamie Stewart (Friends of Belmont Regional Park)
14	13	Dan Forster (BAMBA)

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
15	71	Steve Lewis (Kāpiti Mountain Bike Club)
16	336/77	Daniel Jones (Korokoro Environmental Group)
17	36	Jennifer Mason
18	92	Quentin Duthie (Pareraho Forest Trust)
19	101	Quentin Duthie
20	209	Paul Oliver
21	75	Ian Goodwin (Forest and Bird Wellington Regional Tramping Group)
22	46	Cathy Wylie (Tararua Tramping Club)
23	78	David Barnes (Federated Mountain Clubs)
24	51	Eraena Catsburg
25	94	Andrew Fuller
26	105	Chris Horne
27	384	Bev Abbott (Wellington Botanical Society)

The hearing adjourned at 12.50pm and resumed at 1.30pm.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
28	79	Owen Cox (Parawai Tramping Club)
29	246	Alan Smith
30	67	Ian Hutchings (Cross Country Vehicle Club Wellington)
31	97	Grant Purdie (NZ Four Wheel Drive Association)
32	87	Gary Ottman (NZ Game Animal Council)
33	282	Gwyn Thurlow (NZDA Wellington)

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
34	14	Dean Raymond (Heritage NZ)
35	32	Bryce Pender
36	85	Karen Yung (Zero Carbon Hutt Network)
37	385	Mike Sidebotham (Ixion MCC)
38	303	Mike Alexander

The hearing adjourned at 2.57pm and resumed at 3.25pm.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
39	93	Amelia Geary (Forest and Bird)
40	86	Caitlin Carew
41	72	Zoe Carew
42	74	Lee Hunter

Resolution to exclude the public

6 Exclusion of the public – Report 20.471

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Nash

That the Subcommittee:

- Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:
Submission #383 for the draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Submission #383 for the draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30	
<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>

Information contained in this submission relates to Police training exercises at Greater Wellington's Regional Parks. Release of this information would be likely to prejudice NZ Police being able to carry out these training exercises.	The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 6(a) of the Act (that the making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law).
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This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

2. Authorises that Reid Hodgkinson, NZ Police, be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the NZ Police training exercises. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because it is the subject of the submission.

The motion was **carried**.

The Subcommittee then heard the oral submitter for Submission #383 in public exclusion.

The hearing then return to the public part of the meeting.

The Chair advised that the hearing would adjourn and reconvene at 9.30am on Wednesday 25 November 2020. The hearing adjourned at 4.01pm.

Wednesday 25 November 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.34am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Nash

7 Hearing of oral submitters

An updated timetable of oral submissions was circulated.

Submitters were scheduled in half hour blocks, and ran ahead of schedule. Oral submitters were heard in the following order:

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
44	54	Paula Warren (Friends of Baring Head)
45	64	Linda Mead
46	114	Heather Phillips/Donald Love
47	35	Colin Ryder
48	70	Alan Smith (Wellington Tramway Museum)

The meeting adjourned at 10.15 and resumed at 10.35am

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
49	364	Damon Smith
50	27	Terry Webb (MIRO)
51	39	Kerry Kilmister
52	42	Lorena Crombie
53	29	Tim Lapwood

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
54	48	Felicity Rashbrooke (East Harbour Environmental Association)

A meeting adjourned at 11.19am and resumed at 11.34am.

Hearing order	Submission number	Name and organisation
55	115	Mike McCrombie and Paul Ward
56	47	Ngati Haumia

The Subcommittee discussed the approach to deliberations.

The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm and resumed at 1.10pm.

The Subcommittee then completed its deliberations and revisited Draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 – Report 20.430 (item 4) to address the recommendations.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Brash

That the Subcommittee:

- 1 Considers the submissions on the draft Plan (Attachments 1 and 2) together with the officer comments (Attachment 3) in determining its findings and recommendations to Council

The motion was **carried**.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Lamason

- 2 Recommends to Council changes to the draft Plan as agreed by this Subcommittee, as follows:

Changes as identified in Attachment 3, summarised as:

- a. Correction of spelling, grammatical errors and minor amendments as outlined
- b. Additional stakeholders added throughout the Plan including predator free groups
- c. Carrying forward Appendix 1 referencing master planning process into section 2.2
- d. Insert text at section 2.7 on walking, tramping, hunting, horse riding and mountain biking
- e. Prioritisation of the intensive management of pest/introduced animals in the Regional Parks

- f. Elaborate on pest plan and animal work programme connections
- g. Add KNE programme boundaries on maps
- h. Minor changes in Definitions

Policy changes

- i. Set riparian setbacks at 15 metres for Battle Hill, 10 metres for plantation forest and 20 metres for the Remutaka Rail Trail
- j. Ensuring farming activity practices protect soil, water and remnant native vegetation as stock grazing is phased out
- k. Exclude plantation forestry from new areas and refer to existing cutting rights
- l. Integrating proposed masterplans into the Plan following Reserves Act 1977 process
- m. Strengthen and prioritise pest animal management across parks

Key changes to Actions

- n. Investigate with equestrians access 'pass' (not 'permit') options
- o. Action amended to include possible collaborative working groups for specific topics/ recreation activities
- p. Add action regarding ecological corridors mapping, high level map in plan
- q. Work with others regarding predator fencing options where cost effective

Rules

- r. Backcountry camping – minor changes to Belmont (Allowed), Queen Elizabeth Parks and Baring Head (Managed)
- s. Fishing – eel and whitebait changed to Prohibited, with an exception for mana whenua customary harvest
- t. Firewood harvesting – include in Plan, prohibited, with the exception of ranger residences, mana whenua customary uses, art and education purposes
- u. Remove reference to East Harbour Hunting phasing out by 2025.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting closed at 2.46pm.

Councillor P Gaylor
Chair

Date:

Environment Committee
18 February 2021
Report 21.6



For Information

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS – FEBRUARY 2021

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the progress of action items arising from previous Committee meetings.

Te horopaki

Context

2. Items raised at the Committee's previous meetings, which require action by officers, are listed in [Attachment 1](#) – Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings. For all action items, the current status and a brief comment is provided on progress to date.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

3. There are no financial implications from this report, but there may be implications arising from the actions listed.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

4. All completed items will be removed from the action items table for the next report. Items not completed will continue to be progressed. Any new items will be added, following this Committee meeting, and circulated to the relevant business group/s for action.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao/General Manager Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua/General Manager Catchment Management
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee.
<i>Implications for Māori</i> Known implications for Māori are identified to the extent advised in Attachment 1.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Action items contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies and plans to the extent identified in Attachment 1.
<i>Internal consultation</i> There was no additional internal consultation in preparing this report and updating the action items.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts.

Attachment 1 to Report 21.6

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action	Status and comment
10 September 2020	<p>Whaitua Programme briefing – oral report</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>The Committee asked if the flyover could be published on Greater Wellington’s website.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Request has been made to Taranaki Whānui advisors on the Whaitua project team. There is quite a bit to do for the flyover and narration to be suitable and signed off by iwi for publishing.</p> <p>The flyover is in the work programme to be made available when the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP is completed.</p>
15 October 2020	<p>Update on progress of action items from previous meetings – October 2020 – Report 20.373</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that officers invite Wellington City Council officers to the next working group meeting between Greater Wellington, Wellington Water Limited, and Regional Public Health.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>WCC officials will be specifically invited to each session in 2021.</p> <p>Mike Mendonca from WCC will be attending the 18 February meeting to give an update on the Mayoral Taskforce.</p>
15 October 2020	<p>Update on progress of action items from previous meetings – October 2020 – Report 20.373</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that officers compile a list of environmental restoration and protection community groups in the Wellington Region and include the status of their engagement with Greater Wellington.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>A list was included in the Councillor Bulletin on 26 November 2020.</p>

Attachment 1 to Report 21.6

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

<p>26 November 2020</p>	<p>Whaitua Implementation – Report 20.343 Noted: The Committee requested that officer’s report back on progress made on implementation and the issues encountered in implementation.</p>	<p>Status Completed Comment Further update will be provided to the February 2021 meeting.</p>
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Environment Committee
18 February 2021
Report 21.51



For Information

CROWN FUNDED COVID RECOVERY PROJECTS – PROGRESS UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the Crown funded COVID-19 recovery projects.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Government announced infrastructure investment funding to create jobs and kick-start the COVID recovery. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) secured funding for regional projects, as outlined in [Attachment 1](#) – Crown funded COVID recovery projects – progress update presentation.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

3. The General Manager Catchment Management will speak to [Attachment 1](#) at the Committee's meeting on 18 February 2021.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Crown funded Covid recovery projects – progress update presentation

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatory

Writer	Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager Catchment Management
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<p>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>It is appropriate for the Committee to be informed of the Crown funded COVID recovery projects as the projects in the Wellington Region relate to Council's environmental strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives, which address environmental issues in the Region.</p>
<p><i>Implications for Māori</i></p> <p>Implications for Māori are advised to the extent described in Attachment 1.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The update contributes to the delivery of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project, Hutt River and Ruamāhanga River flood protection strategies, Predator Free Wellington, and 1 Billion Trees Partnership Project.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>All Crown Funded projects are reported to the Greater Wellington Crown Funded Project Board, comprising representatives from Catchment, Environment and Corporate Services.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no known risks or impacts.</p>

Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects - Progress Update February 2021



Jobs for Nature (J4N)

Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Expansion

- Fixed term Project Lead position advertised and Kereana Sims (seconded) started in the role 7 December
- The Wairarapa Moana Governance Group meeting held on the 15 December
 - Details of the expanded project including the formal role of the Governance Group were discussed
 - the Governance Group will approve PWER reports content before submission to MfE
- Agency staff, Mana Whenua, Māori community group Pae tū mōkai o Tairā and graduates of the MSD funded training initiative, Whangai Repo met with MfE communications and video crew at Lake Domain
 - A series of interviews were filmed regarding the \$3.5 million boost for the existing Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Restoration Project
 - The resulting videos and media statements were released by MfE to coincide with World Wetlands Day on 2 February. Positive feedback and interest from various media.
- Two community events scheduled at Lake Domain
 - The kākahi count 14 Feb in partnership with Riverscapes Ecology (postponement date is 21 Feb)
 - A community event 21 March 2021

Shovel Ready and J4N – Flood Protection

Project plans and payment schedules submitted to PDU and MfE in October now agreed. Funding agreements signed. \$10.7M for Shovel Ready and \$2.5M for J4N project. Projects underway.

Five Project Management fixed term roles advertised in November. Two further positions will be advertised later. Of the five positions, three have been filled, two for PDU and one for MfE. Start dates vary from mid January to early February 2021.

The programme consists of four projects receiving Crown funding:

- Project 1: Hutt River Erosion Edge Protection (IRG)
- Project 2: RiverLink, River Works from Mill Road to KGB (IRG)
- Project 3: Ruamāhanga River Scheme River Road and MDC transfer station and landfill bank edge protection (IRG), and
- Project 4: Ruamāhanga River buffer riparian planting (MfE).

All projects are priority maintenance projects in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan and Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan .



Predator Free Wellington (PFW) update

PFW has employed a Project Leader, three Field Supervisors, three Community Outreach Officers and four Field Operators.

The PFW team is now working on:

- The last remaining pockets of rat activity at Miramar
- South coastal bush areas, which are still quite active, but confident of achieving eradication

Once Miramar eradication is completed the team will concentrate on starting Phase 2 of the project, moving on to adjoining suburbs

Phase 2 will trigger employment process for an additional Field Supervisor and 12 Field Operators



1 Billion Trees Partnership Project

- \$1.3M Crown Funding supporting planting projects with Riparian, Regional Parks, and Biodiversity programmes, through winter 2024.
- Contract with MPI finalised in December.
- The grant will help fund the planting of 374,000 native plants in high priority sites across 170ha of land in the region including private and public land.
- Job creation required by contract, non-GW staff.
- Crown funding supports 1 FTE GW staff for project coordinator role.
- *Riparian/Parks/Biodiversity 1BT fund is in addition to Hill Country 1BT funding (\$7.6m) which was pre-COVID and not considered part of COVID recovery projects.*

