

If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Climate Committee

Tuesday 17 August 2021, 1.00pm

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

Members

Cr Nash (Chair)

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Brash

Cr Gaylor

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Laban

Cr Lee

Cr van Lier

Dr Maria Bargh

Climate Committee

Tuesday 17 August 2021, 1.00pm

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

Public Business

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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Climate Committee meeting on 17 August 2021.

Report 21.219

Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on Tuesday 25 May 2021

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 1pm.

Members Present

Councillor Nash (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Brash (until 3.16pm)
Councillor Gaylor (until 2.18pm)
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Dr Maria Bargh

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Brash

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillors Kirk-Burnnand and van Lier.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Kate Day, Rayne Aldridge, Olivia Hartfield and Mika Hervel, Christians for Climate Justice, spoke on a pilot of free public transport for Community Service Card holders and students in the Greater Wellington area.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 23 February 2021 – Report 21.70

Moved: Cr Brash / Cr Lee

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 23 February 2021 – Report 21.70.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on progress of action items from previous Climate Committee meetings – Report 21.100 [For Information]

Andrea Brandon, Programme Lead – Climate Change, spoke to the report.

6 Climate Emergency Response programme status update – Report 21.176 [For Information]

Andrea Brandon, Programme Lead – Climate Change, and Jake Roos, Climate Change Advisor, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that new actions or initiatives related to Greater Wellington’s climate response arising from the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 are reported on in future programme status updates.

7 Consideration of Climate Risk in Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Planning and Reporting Processes – Report 21.184 [For Information]

Suze Keith, Strategic Advisor – Climate Change, spoke to the report.

8 Research into the transition to a low emissions economy– Report 21.189

Andrea Brandon, Programme Lead – Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Dr Bargh

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes the intention to undertake research on key topics to inform policy development
- 2 Notes that it has a leadership role in shaping the just transition to a low emissions economy.
- 3 Notes there has been considerable research into the transition at the national level
- 4 Notes that the Wellington region has a unique emissions profile, which is relatively low emissions compared to the rest of New Zealand

- 5 Recommends that officers' commission research in partnership with WellingtonNZ into the economic transition to inform the Regional Economic Development plan and direct action specifically for the Wellington region, that takes account of the nature of our economy and that supports a just transition.
- 6 Considers any future priorities for future research.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 2.18pm and re-convened at 2:23pm. Councillor Gaylor left the meeting at 2.18pm and did not return.

9 Report back on Wellington Regional Growth Framework climate change project Terms of Reference workshops – Oral Report

Kim Kelly, Project Director, Wellington Regional Growth Framework, provided an oral report and tabled a Power Point presentation.

Ms Kelly outlined the key objectives of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and confirmed that in terms of strategic planning this includes a mix of transport and urban developments. The process with the climate change projects has and will continue to include partnering between iwi and the Crown and engaging with various sectors and Government departments such as Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and Ministry of Transport. A range of spatial and other initiatives are being proposed as projects from the Wellington Regional Growth Framework including transport, spatial and climate change projects.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43pm and re-convened at 2:57pm.

10 Update from Lets Get Wellington Moving and discussion on climate issues related to the programme – Oral Report

Andrew Bowman, Economic and Evaluation Advisor (Interim) and Adam Nicholls, Technical Director, Lets Get Wellington Moving (LGWM), provided an oral report and tabled a Power Point presentation.

Mr Bowman and Mr Nicholls outlined that the board of LGWM and the Governance Reference Group members reviewed the suggested changes and propose to amend the following objectives to 'Liveability' and 'Reducing carbon emissions and car reliance.' The change in these objectives may re-define the work programme which is closely aligned and integrated with government and regional priorities. The presentation included an evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and the three ways the Carbon Assessment Tool for Investments works in evaluating and classifying the GHG and the climate impact of emissions. Next steps for LGWM will include analysis of emissions and climate resilience for the short-listed options and detailed analyses for the final programme.

Councillor Brash left the meeting at 3:16pm during the above presentation and did not return.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 3.38pm.

Councillor T Nash

Chair

Date:

For Information

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – AUGUST 2021

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose

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

Te horopaki Context

2. Items raised at Committee meetings, that require actions by officers, are listed in the table of action items from previous Committee meetings (**Attachment 1** - Action items from previous Climate Committee meetings – August 2021). All action items include an outline of the current status and a brief comment.

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

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Climate Committee meetings – August 2021

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki/General Manager Strategy
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**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference

The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee.

Implications for Māori

Māori have a vested interest in climate change issues to the extent identified in **Attachment 1**.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Action items contribute to Council's and Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies, and plans to the extent identified in **Attachment 1**.

Internal consultation

There was no internal consultation.

Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.

There are no known risks.

Action items from previous Climate Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action	Status and comment
8 December 2020	<p>Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Update – Report 20.281</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that officers collate the Wellington Region’s territorial authorities’ aspirations for climate action, and provide an update to the Committee on what regional actions are signalled across the Wellington Region’s territorial authorities’ Long Term Plans in relation to climate change to assess synergies and gaps.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>A summary of the Region’s councils LTP outcomes is included in Report 21.347</p>
23 February 2021	<p>Application to the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund February 2021 – Report 21.49</p> <p>Resolution:</p> <p>Requests officers to provide a more detailed budget for 2020/21 and how it is split between planning and Mana Whenua engagement, building on the experience of the Parks network planning process.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>More detail is provided in Report 21.351 regarding the parks restoration projects funded by the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, including the recently awarded contract for a parks restoration plan and mana whenua engagement. Acting Parks Manager, Jimmy Young will verbally brief the Committee on the programme’s progress and introduce the new Parks Lead for Restoration.</p>
25 May 2021	<p>Climate Emergency Response programme status update – Report 21.176</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that new actions or initiatives related to Greater Wellington’s climate response arising from the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 are reported on in future programme status updates.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Report 21.347 provides a summary of the climate change actions contained in the Long Term Plan 2021-31 for the Committee’s information. The key targets from the LTP: a decarbonised bus fleet and</p>

Action items from previous Climate Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action	Status and comment
		parks reforestation are measured in the Programme status report.
25 May 2021	<p>Research into the transition to a low emissions economy– Report 21.189</p> <p>Resolution:</p> <p>Recommends that officers’ commission research in partnership with WellingtonNZ into the economic transition to inform the Regional Economic Development plan and direct action specifically for the Wellington region, that takes account of the nature of our economy and that supports a just transition.</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Discussions with WellingtonNZ are ongoing to ensure close alignment between the RED Plan and this piece of research. Later in August WellingtonNZ are employing an additional person to write the plan, which will assist. We’ve also met with Auckland Council to gain insight in to their climate change and economy research to help identify what approaches will be most valuable.</p>

For Information

CLIMATE ADAPTATION, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFORM AND TE TIRITI O WAITANGI – BACKGROUND TO PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR CATHERINE IORNS MAGALLANES

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide background to the presentation to be given to the Climate Committee (the Committee) by Professor Catherine Iorns Magallanes at the Committee meeting on 17 August 2021.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Professor Iorns Magallanes is a Professor of Law at Victoria University of Wellington and has a research focus on Environmental Law and Management, Indigenous Rights and Statutory Interpretation¹.
3. She has been invited to address the Committee and provide insight into the roles and responsibilities of local government in climate adaptation planning, informing the Committee and Council as it considers Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington's) response to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) reform programme and the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 (CCRA).
4. **Attachment 1** provides a high-level summary of Professor Iorns Magallanes research and work on climate change and government reform, with references to her full reports. It also summarises key findings from the Resource Management Review Panel.

Review of the Resource Management System

5. A comprehensive review of the resource management system is underway, led by the Ministry for the Environment. Reform is based on the findings of a report titled *New Directions for Resource Management in New Zealand* (otherwise known as the Randerson Report) produced by the independent Resource Management Review Panel in 2020.
6. The Randerson Report focuses on reorienting the system towards delivery of specified outcomes, targets and limits in the natural and built environments, and looks to

¹ [Catherine Iorns Magallanes Profile | Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington \(wgtn.ac.nz\)](https://www.victoriawellington.ac.nz/about-us/people/catherine-iorns-magallanes)

improve integration across the RMA, Local Government Act 2002, Land Transport Management Act 2003 and the CCRA.

7. Key drivers for reform include:
 - a New Zealand's natural environment is under significant pressure
 - b Urban areas are struggling to keep pace with population growth
 - c An urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change
 - d The need to ensure that Māori have an effective role in the system, consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - e The need to improve system efficiency and effectiveness.
8. In line with the recommendations in the Randerson Report, the Government will repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation: the Natural and Built Environments Act (NBEA), the Strategic Planning Act (SPA) and the Climate Adaptation Act (CAA). The CAA will support New Zealand's response to the effects of climate change and address the complex legal and technical issues associated with managed retreat and funding and financing adaptation.
9. Greater Wellington recently submitted on the NBEA. The key points of relevance to this report in the submission were:
 - a Recommendation that a long-term programme to increase the capability and capacity of mana whenua and councils to partner and new central government funding to resource mana whenua to be active Treaty partners be included in the new system
 - b Clarification as to whether local government is, or is not, a Treaty of Waitangi partner as part of this reform. If the Crown does redefine councils as being Treaty partners, then councils will require new Crown resourcing to deliver their new responsibilities.
 - c Under environmental outcomes, underline the criticality of ensuring planning appropriately reduces contribution to, mitigates effects of, and adapts to climate change (such as spatial planning, subdivision, use and development and development and use of rural and marine areas and resources); and recognise the role of ecosystems in attenuating and mitigating the effects of climate change.
10. In addition to RMA reforms, the CCRA requires that New Zealand develop a National Adaptation Plan to create an all-of-government response to the risks identified in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment. The National Adaptation Plan will set out the Government's adaptation work programme for the next six years and will be consulted on in early 2022.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

11. Engagement on the CAA and the National Adaptation Plan is scheduled to occur in early 2022, with formal consultation on the CAA early 2023. This gives Council time to make submissions and advocate so that the other resource management reforms are

complementary to climate change adaptation, including building a position and messaging on the most effective roles and responsibilities of local and central government.

12. Greater Wellington’s involvement in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee provides ongoing opportunities to consider how adaptation planning and reduction of climate-related damage is addressed via green field developments and existing land uses, structure planning, and the 3-waters strategy. The multi-year project “Regional approach to planning for and managing climate change impacts” running concurrently to the engagement on the CAA provides an opening to identify necessary alignments. Direct engagement with central government and iwi through the Leadership Committee will assist with this.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Summary of Professor Iorns Magallanes and the Resource Management Review Panel key findings on RMA Reform, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Climate Change

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Suze Keith, Kaitohutohu Strategic Advisor – Climate Change
Approvers	Jake Gilmer, Whaitaki Kaupapa Rautaki Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

Under the terms of reference for the Climate Committee, points 2.4-2.7 direct the Committee to consider legislative frameworks and their implications for climate change action and advocacy for the alignment and advancement of central government's climate change initiatives, including a more comprehensive set of climate tools for applications by local authorities.

Implications for Māori

As described in this report, and will be traversed by the associated presentation, climate adaptation has significant implications for Māori, and the resource management reform provides the opportunity to seek to address these implications.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The focus of this research aligns with Council's overarching strategic priority to respond to the climate emergency.

Internal consultation

As a research summary no internal consultation was required.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

As a research summary there are no risks or impacts.

Summary of Professor Iorns Magallanes and the Resource Management Review Panel key findings on RMA Reform, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Climate Change

Summary of Professor Iorns Magallanes key findings on RMA Reform and Climate Change

1. **Local government lacks national direction and guidance on adaptation and natural hazard risk management.** Best-practice adaptation mechanisms could be developed to assist councils. For example adding hazard information on Land Information Memorandum reports; providing compensation for the extinguishment of existing use rights, and managing the potential for council liability¹. There is agreement that national consistency in the application of these mechanisms will help to ensure equitable treatment of people across New Zealand and that leaving these decisions to local government is inefficient and costly.
2. The current system of devolved planning, with central government providing broad guidelines rather than prescriptive rules, does not suit adaptation planning. Professor Iorns considers that central government direction could be more prescriptive, with local consenting able to be flexible and adaptable to changing conditions.
3. **The RMA currently provides strong protection for existing use rights and barriers to altering land use conditions.** Under the RMA, land use consents are generally granted in perpetuity, particularly for buildings. Powers which support councils to require changes to established land uses under certain circumstances and to address liability and options for potential compensation need to be studied.
4. **Climate change will affect all Māori**, particularly given the special relationship Māori have with their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and taonga as tangata whenua and kaitiaki.
5. **The ToW partners are mana whenua and the Crown** and under the ToW the Crown has a duty to protect these values and relationships. Within the context of climate change this suggests there are duties to adopt measures to reduce the risk of the climate change impacts.
6. **The RMA delegates some ToW obligations to local government.** Many of the policy levers to address climate adaptation are the responsibility of local authorities, guided by the Local Government Act (LGA) and the Resource Management Act and associated plans and policies.
7. The Waitangi Tribunal has concluded that resource management in New Zealand has resulted in significant breaches in complying with the ToW rights and responsibilities. Professor Iorns poses that the actions of local government, as a delegated authority of the Crown, provide both an important opportunity to uphold ToW obligations or the risk of creating new breaches.
8. The Crown must ensure policies and laws do not undermine the ability of iwi to protect Māori interests in the face of climate change-related hazards. Despite the existence of

¹ *Adaptation to Sea-level Rise: Local Government Liability Issues*, co-authored w J Watts (Deep South National Science Challenge, 2019); *Treaty of Waitangi duties relevant to adaptation to coastal hazards from sea-level rise* (Deep South National Science Challenge, Wellington, 2019). Also see *Sea Level Rise and Local Government policy gaps and opportunities*, V James, C Iorns, P Gerard, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/322530907.pdf> (Policy Quarterly, February 2020).

Summary of Professor Iorns Magallanes and the Resource Management Review Panel key findings on RMA Reform, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Climate Change

guidance from the Ministry for the Environment² and the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Advisory Group³, more thought is needed on how to best uphold ToW obligations in climate adaptation decision-making. Professor Iorns notes that this is hard to achieve because, while the obligation is with the Crown, many climate adaptation decisions sit with local government.

Summary of the key climate change findings of the Resource Management Review Panel

9. **The current effects-based orientation of the RMA framework is a poor fit for risk management methods.** Risk reduction requires a proactive approach and there is no clear framework for how decision-makers should consider risk under the RMA⁴. Understanding which climate scenarios to use when translating hazard information into risk-based plan rules is complex and rife with uncertainty which undermines the confidence of councils to develop such rules. Guidance on how to work with uncertainty and how to build adaptive management into plans is needed, so that change becomes an expectation and doesn't require frequent plan changes.
10. Devolving some adaptation responsibilities to a regional and local level is important as the choices made to manage risk, and the consequential actions, will impact most heavily on local communities. The CCRA provides for the National Adaptation Plan, which will respond to the National Climate Change Risk Assessment. Alignment with and integration of the CCRA with all the new Acts is necessary to provide a coherent package of policy responses to meet the challenge of climate change.
11. **Guidance on how best to integrate potentially competing priorities to achieve win-win outcomes is essential.** Regional spatial strategies under the SPA are intended to identify areas which are suitable for development; areas which need to be protected or improved; areas which need new infrastructure and areas which are vulnerable to climate change and natural hazard effects. A long term view is critical to identify where residential land use should no longer be provided for or where alternative infrastructure might be needed.
12. **Mana whenua engagement when setting the strategic direction is essential.** The Panel identifies that, while there are mechanisms under the RMA for effective engagement with mana whenua, these are often implemented at the end of the policy development or in the resource consenting phases, rather than in the initial stages where there is more opportunity to have strategic impact. Given the inherent long term nature of climate change adaptation, arrangements to address these problems are a fundamental measure.

² *Coastal Hazards & Climate Change, Guidance for Local Government*, 2017 [coastal-hazards-guide-final.pdf](https://www.environment.govt.nz/coastal-hazards-guide-final.pdf) ([environment.govt.nz](https://www.environment.govt.nz))

³ [Adapting to climate change in New Zealand: Recommendations from the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group | Ministry for the Environment](#), 2018

⁴ Page 171, *New Directions for Resource Management in New Zealand*, Resource Management Review Panel Report, 2020

For Information

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME STATUS UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Climate Committee (the Committee) on the Climate Emergency Response Programme.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme

2. 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 Regional Council (Greater Wellington) addresses climate change, both corporately and in how it uses its influence in the Wellington Region.
3. To demonstrate Council's commitment to changing the status quo, the declaration of a climate emergency 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).
4. Officers have provided a status report on the Programme (**Attachment 1** - Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)). The overall status of the Programme is on track for the quarter to August 2021. This is due to the sharpened focus on climate action in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP), and the corresponding resource allocation in line with the size of the task ahead. An overview of the current status for each action plan item:

Action Plan	Complete	On track	At risk	Significant delays
Corporate Carbon Neutrality	1	6	3	0
Regional Climate Emergency	1	4	5	0

5. One action has reverted to the "at risk" status having been on track previously. This is action 6, off-road EV supply. This item is awaiting market developments and is dependent on suitable vehicles being available. There is a likelihood that something will be available in 2021/22 but given the uncertainty, it is likely that some new diesel utes will need to be purchased this year to replace aging vehicles and meet service needs.

Te tātaringa Analysis

Key achievements this quarter

6. Emissions reduction pathways that will enable Greater Wellington to meet its climate goals have been successfully included in the LTP budget.
7. Recruitment of the Parks Restoration Project Lead has been successful. Procurement to plan the phase down of grazing and restoration across the Parks network is underway. We are in discussions to find a workable solution to engaging with mana whenua on the Parks projects while a new model for working with mana whenua is still being worked through at the organisational level.
8. The Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (the Working Group) met on 4 June 2021 to review the final drafts of the climate change projects of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework, the climate-related outcomes of the LTP processes and the desire to work more closely with mana whenua. This is reflected in the terms of reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Forum, which replaces the Working Group from 1 July 2021.

Action items update

9. A review was undertaken of the Wellington Region's territorial authorities' aspirations for climate action, and an update to the Committee on what regional actions are signalled across the Wellington Region's territorial authorities' Long Term Plans in relation to climate change to assess synergies and gaps is provided in a separate report.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

10. There are no direct financial implications from this report. There may be financial implications over time as individual project analysis occurs, business cases are made and budget decisions are taken.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

11. Updates will continue to be provided to each Committee meeting as the Programme progresses.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writers	Jake Roos – Climate Change Advisor Katharina Achterberg – Programme Coordinator Climate Change
Approvers	Jake Gilmer – Manager, Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy – General Manager, Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

Updating the Climate Committee on the Programme's status fits with its specific responsibility to "Oversee the development and review of Council's climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council's Climate Emergency Response Programme); and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption."

Implications for Māori

There are implications for mana whenua and Māori from this report. They will be impacted by the choice of emissions reduction pathways that Greater Wellington takes to meet its climate goals, and as a result of the bid for resourcing engagement with mana whenua for the approved Low Carbon Acceleration Fund projects.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Much of the work carried out this quarter has been focussed on advancing the Climate Emergency Response Programme.

Internal consultation

The Strategic and Corporate Planning department were consulted in the development of this report.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no identified risks relating to the content of this report.

Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

Corporate Carbon Neutrality Project

	Short description	Status May Q	Status Aug Q	Progress	% complete last Q	% complete this Q
1	Carbon policy	On track	Complete	Policy endorsed by Executive Leadership Team (ELT), support package to accompany policy completed, policy launched mid-August, roll out to business underway	95	100
2	CEO accountability	On track	On track	Completed for 2020/21. New CEO KPIs are to be discussed and agreed on by the Chief Executive Employment Review at their August meeting.	100	100
3	Electricity supply	On track	On track	Our electricity supplier Meridian can sell us renewable electricity certificates (RECs). Our carbon footprint certifier Toitū Envirocare have confirmed that RECs will be recognised by them as reducing emissions, provided they meet certain criteria. However, even when meeting the criteria, it is debatable whether there is a causal link between purchase of RECs and reducing emissions, given the high percentage of renewable electricity in NZ. Hence, we are not pursuing this option at this time.	90	90
4	Accelerate EV bus fleet	On track	On track	Electric bus fleet will increase to 108 by December 2023. Planning for a fully decarbonised bus fleet by 2030 is underway, subject to central government funding.	25	25
5	Greater Wellington EV fleet	On track	On track	Internal EV charging infrastructure is increasing with our move to Cuba Street and new build in Masterton. Work continues on adopting the fleet optimisation review's findings. 21-36 vehicles are candidates for replacement with battery electric vehicles.	60	60
6	Off road EV supply	On track	At risk	Awaiting market developments. Dependent on suitable vehicle being available – there is likely to be something in 2021/22. However, it is still likely that new diesel utes will need to be purchased this year.	5	5
7	Parks reforestation	At risk	At Risk	Parks reforestation of 1350ha – agreed to in the LTP; LCAF funding approved for planning, Project Lead and mana whenua engagement, 2 sites (150ha) underway. While resourcing has been obtained, and the Parks	15	17

Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

	Short description	Status May Q	Status Aug Q	Progress	% complete last Q	% complete this Q
				Project Lead has commenced work, the planning and management required to implement the change in direction for is stretching capacity and capability within the organisation.		
8	Grazing phase out	At risk	At Risk	Direction agreed through parks networks plan, phase out in the planning phase as above. LCAF funding has been approved to lead a piece of work on this but due to procurement processes and the need to engage with mana whenua, this may take longer than initially expected. Fully phasing out grazing is dependent on planning, timing and funding.	15	15
9	Align Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) targets	On track	On track	All company organisations remain at differing stages of development but continue to work towards reducing their carbon emissions. CentrePort have produced an Emissions Reduction Plan as part of their Statement of Corporate Intent. The Wellington Regional Stadium Trust have undertaken a number of initiatives towards carbon neutrality and waste minimisation. Their initial focus has been to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase the recycling options for events. The stadium are working on plans to become a carbon neutral venue and wish to work with both settlers on this during the current year.	10	10
10	Low-carbon fund	On track	On track	Fund operational, fully allocated to parks restoration for the 2021-24 period. The value of NZUs continues to rise, which might present an opportunity to increase the total size of the fund to support additional activities.	90	92

Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

Regional Climate Emergency Project

	Short description	Status May Q	Status Aug Q	Progress	% complete last Q	% complete this Q
1	Governance	Complete	Complete	Climate Committee established	100	100
2	Climate change impacts analysis	On track	On track	Tools reviewed, new guidance created, to build capability/capacity across business. Carbon policy completed, Climate Change Consideration guide revised. To be rolled out to the business through the change programme, now underway	30	35
3	Strategy review & GM champion assigned	On track	On track	General Manager (GM) Strategy is Programme Sponsor. New direction, set through the two 10-pt plans, provides components of a revised strategy. Regional strategy approach is to ensure the WRGF will deliver a low emissions/climate safe region.	55	55
4	Central Government advocacy	At risk	On track	Greater Wellington recently submitted on the Infrastructure Commission's advice to government, which included climate change considerations. RMA reform consultation has started with the publication of the Natural and Built Environments Bill (NBEA) exposure draft, which Greater Wellington submitted on.	NA (ongoing)	NA (ongoing)
5	Support the region's TAs to adapt	At risk	At risk	The Wellington Region Climate Change Forum (WRCCF) (councillor reps and mana whenua) meets quarterly, officer level equivalent meet 6-weekly. The comprehensive Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) reform that is underway will include two new acts (on spatial planning and adaptation). The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) has finalised the Wellington Regional Growth Framework (WRGF) and has agreed on the 3 year-work programme. This work programme includes 2 climate projects which are to be led by the WRCCF. Both the RMA changes and the WRLC will provide greater clarity on roles and responsibilities on	10	10

Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

	Short description	Status May Q	Status Aug Q	Progress	% complete last Q	% complete this Q
				local adaptation issues. The Climate Committee will have opportunities to progress this action.		
6	Technical research to support regional adaptation	At risk	At risk	Work underway, responsibilities lie across Greater Wellington teams and Wellington Region territorial authorities (TAs), WRGF interaction identified will improve alignment and lack of resourcing in this area. As above, the RMA reforms include a new adaptation act and the WRGF has begun its next phase in July. Both will provide Greater Wellington with more clarity and opportunities for progress, such as a joint regional Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) proposed to be delivered this financial year. The low carbon economy research project proposed by the Climate Committee also provides opportunity to support regional adaptation.	20	20
7	Funding	At risk	At risk	One Billion Trees (1BT), shovel-ready and jobs for nature funding will improve regional outcomes for climate but is opportunistic and ad hoc.	10	10
8	Regional mitigation	At risk	At risk	The WRCCF will provide advisory role to the climate related projects under the WRGF and regional carbon reduction project has been advanced to year 1 of the WRGF, as agreed by the WRLC at their inaugural meeting.	10	10
9	Increase forested area	At risk	At risk	Work underway with Greater Wellington Parks and with Hutt City Council. Additional action funded through 1BT, shovel-ready and jobs for nature. Underlying issues including partnering with iwi, TAs, communities, Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), limited capacity to progress to date.	12	15
10	Embed regional emissions reduction	On track	On track	Good collaboration occurring with Regional Land Transport Plan, Wellington City Council and Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) on agreeing targets. Recent changes at LGWM at the governance level and added climate workstream which includes a Greater Wellington climate change advisor, along with strong climate focus in the WRGF, and working with WellingtonNZ on economic transition.	25	25

Climate Emergency Response Programme Status Report (August 2021)

	Short description	Status May Q	Status Aug Q	Progress	% complete last Q	% complete this Q
	targets in key programmes					

For Information

CLIMATE ACTION IN THE 2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide the Climate Committee with:
 - a the actions included in Council's 2021-31 Long Term Plan in relation to climate change related goals
 - b a brief overview of the eight Wellington Region territorial authorities long term plans with respect to climate action.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and adopted a carbon neutrality goal for 2030 and two 10-point action plans for progressing its climate change agenda in August 2019. Good progress had been made, but the success of the programme of work in achieving its goals relies heavily on integration of climate change considerations in all decision making and adequate funding.
3. The 2021-31 Long-Term Plan (LTP) encompasses many decisions regarding the direction of council and the areas that it will invest in and is a critical tool. The 2021-31 LTP was also the first major opportunity to consult the public on Council's climate change agenda, to ensure they were supportive of the direction we are taking and of our plans for achieving the targets. Climate change was a central consideration in the Consultation Document and featured heavily throughout the LTP process.
4. Climate change was one of the five key priority areas consulted on in the pre-engagement. Out of the five priorities, it had the greatest volume of support. Climate change is interconnected with our other priorities, a fact highlighted by respondents: e.g. progress with improving public transport services would help achieve our climate goals. Following this, the strategic framework that was developed with councillors had climate change integrated throughout it.
5. Taking proposals for key emissions reduction opportunity areas, in particular Parks and Public Transport Services, emissions pathway scenarios were developed for Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) as an organisation. These were used to develop options for the LTP Consultation Document and help choose Council's preferred option.

6. Two out of three consultation questions in the Consultation Document were climate-related: electrification of the public transport system and restoring native forest in the Regional Parks. Very few of the consultation responses received were against climate action or denied the existence of the problem. This is a significant trend of declining resistance and growing demand for action we have observed in recent years. Eighty-seven percent of respondents agreed with our preferred options for these consultation questions, namely, to accelerate our efforts to decarbonise.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

7. The Council adopted its preferred course of action with respect to climate as set out in the Consultation Document and made some additions. This included a commitment to:
 - a retire grazing from and restore forests on 1,350 Ha of land in our regional parks by 2030,
 - b electrify the majority of the bus fleet (all except spares) by 2030 and seek a low-carbon option for Manawatu and Wairarapa train services when their rolling stock is replaced in 2025.

These activities are budgeted and funded, but the bus and rail activities assume a level of financial assistance from central government that still needs to be agreed with them. Council has allocated the \$6 million from the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund to the restoration work in regional parks.

8. The 2021-31 LTP has responding to climate change as a central theme and priority, including in the Infrastructure Strategy. Infrastructure funding related to improving resilience include flood protection projects such as Riverlink, upgrades to water supply and control assets and responding to coastal erosion at Queen Elizabeth Park. Infrastructure funding related to decarbonisation also includes measures to support Electric Vehicle (EV) bus charging, upgrade bus services and assets and achieve a 'low carbon' build for new recreational facilities at Belmont Regional Park.
9. Other activities such as flood protection, biodiversity and land management are aligned with improving climate resilience, including significant tree-planting programmes. Council co-funded the '1 Billion Trees' partnership project through to 2024, which aims to plant 374,000 trees over 170Ha of land in the Wellington Region. The Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative similarly seeks to reforest a further 950Ha of land in 2021-23.

Territorial authority climate action

10. The other councils on the Wellington Region also included support for climate action in their own long-term plans.

Wellington City Council

11. Wellington City Council (WCC) allocated around \$30 million over ten years to climate action, over and above their commitments to cycleways (\$226 million) and to Let's Get Wellington Moving. Their 'Te Atakura - First to Zero' climate action plan has been funded for reducing city-wide emissions via engagement, seed feeding grants for climate action, and the Wellington Climate Lab, reducing WCC's emissions, through

internal engagement, policy improvement and EV vehicle fleet, and for adaptation work for Council assets and with communities.

Hutt City Council

12. Hutt City Council committed to community-wide projects for decarbonisation of Lower Hutt and to respond to predicted sea level rise. Funding has been allocated for switching away from gas at council facilities (museums and pools), to fully electrify its vehicle fleet and for an ambitious public EV charging project. They also signalled that they would invest income from the sale of their carbon credits into decarbonisation initiatives.

Upper Hutt City Council

13. Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) established a 'Sustainability Stimulus Grant' of \$100,000 per year for the first three years of its LTP to stimulate sustainable investment within Upper Hutt. UHCC also committed to switch away from gas as the primary energy source for its pool and civic building and budgeted \$2 million specifically for sustainability activities (not including waste) over the next 10 years.

Kāpiti Coast District Council

14. Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) agreed to continue the community-led coastal adaptation planning project 'Takutai Kāpiti' that started in 2020. KCDC funded a new Full Time position and accompanying budget to further public education initiatives related to decarbonising the district and \$515,000 to fund the purchase of additional EVs and charging infrastructure for their vehicle fleet in the next two years.

Porirua City Council

15. Porirua City Council (PCC) set 'Responding to the Climate Crisis' as a strategic priority and included it as a mandatory consideration in asset management planning. PCC has set up a new activity area 'Climate Change Response' to implement its risk assessment, adaptation planning and reduction plans. PCC has allocated \$6 million of capital funding for carbon mitigation upgrades to council facilities.

Masterton District Council

16. Masterton District Council (MDC) established a climate change work programme to reduce its own corporate footprint. MDC has also established a community forum to co-develop an equivalent plan for the district. Asset management plans included in the LTP take account of climate change-related risks.

Carterton District Council

17. Carterton District Council (CDC) adopted "An environmentally responsible community committed to reducing our carbon footprint and adapting to the impacts of climate change" as a community outcome. CDC's infrastructure strategy included consideration of climate change and more extreme weather events. CDC's Budget has been allocated to implement the Ruamāhanga (climate change) strategy. This includes energy audits of council facilities, providing residents with home health self-assessment kits, developing climate change resilience and risk strategy, and community education.

South Wairarapa District Council

18. South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) included the strategic drivers of ‘limiting growth in coastal and other areas subjects to climate change impacts’ and ‘taking active measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change’ in its LTP. SWDC also included climate change in its infrastructure strategy and allocated budget to implement the Ruamāhanga strategy, which it share with CDC.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

19. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Jake Roos - Climate Change Advisor
Approvers	Jake Gilmer – Whaitaki Kaupapa Rautaki Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki General Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

The Climate Committee's delegation includes to "oversee the development and review of Council's climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives..."

Implications for Māori

Tangata Whenua engagement was a cross-cutting activity undertaken for the 2021-31 LTP. Implications for them were considered as part of that process.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

This report summarises the contribution of the 2021-31 LTP to Council's climate change objectives.

Internal consultation

Land management staff were consulted regarding the extent of the planting programmes approved via the 2021-31 LTP.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no risk and impacts arising from this paper.