

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 23 June 2022

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban (from 9.32am)
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier

Councillors Connelly and Laban participated at the meeting remotely and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of the Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Ponter and lateness for Councillor Laban.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Laban arrived at the meeting at 9.32am the conclusion of the above item.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 May 2022 – Report 22.189

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 May 2022 – Report 22.189

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Environment Committee meetings – June 2022 – Report 22.230 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, spoke to the report.

6 Environment/Catchment Update – June 2022 – report 22.22 [For Information]

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

7 Farming Reference Group update – Oral report

Barbie Barton, Chair, Farming Reference Group, updated the Committee on the discussions had at the Farming Reference Group meeting held on 15 June 2022.

The Region has experienced reduced sunlight and significant rainfall. This has caused ground conditions to be very wet and tracks to be very muddy.

Labour shortages continue to impact farming. Costs are increasing due to the labour shortage, but also wider network pressures related to getting goods to their final destination. The price of fertiliser (nitrogen) has also increased, which impacts grass (feed) and food production.

The Farming Reference Group meeting was constructive, with discussions held on wetlands, as well as receiving a summary from Greater Wellington Chief Executive, Nigel Corry, and Councillors Ponter and Staples, on water conservation.

A presentation was given on native tree supply, seed collection and resourcing. The Greater Wellington team was very helpful. The Farming Reference Group was advised that seed harvesting is not allowed on Queen Elizabeth II National Trust or Department of Conservation land. Ms Barton recommended that dialogue be opened particularly with harvesting from Queen Elizabeth II National Trust land.

Noted: The Committee requested that the presentation received on Wetlands be presented to the Committee.

8 Submission on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity – Report 22.286
[For Information]

Ali Caddy, Manager, Biodiversity, and Jamie Steer, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, spoke to the report.

9 Crown Funded Projects update – May 2022 – Report 22.271 [For Information]

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, and Katrina Smith, Senior Biodiversity Advisor – Fish Passage, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

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

The public meeting closed at 11am.



Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: 29 September 2022 -