

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 23 November 2023

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.31am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Duthie (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly (until 12.30pm)
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Staples (from 11.00am)
Councillor Woolf

Barbie Barton

Councillor Duthie and Barbie Barton participated at this meeting remotely, via MS Teams, and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of 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 Saw / Cr Nash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Laban and Ponter, the apology for lateness from Councillor Staples and the apology for early departure from Councillor Connelly.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Emily Mossmon spoke on Pest control in the Lower and Upper Korokoro Valley and spoke to a presentation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 October 2023 – Report 23.535

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 October 2023 – Report 23.535.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Annual Asset Management Condition Report – Report 23.546

Lucy Ashford, Team Leader Flood Operations Planning, Jack Mace, Director, Delivery and Graeme Campbell, Principal Advisor Flood and Resilience, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee:

- 1 Agrees that the flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets on the 15 schemes across the Wellington Region have been managed satisfactorily to the agreed Level of Service (LoS) in the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2 Notes that there has been a decline in the condition of the less critical flood management assets, and this will likely continue without further investment.
- 3 Notes that identified issues are being addressed through maintenance and improvement work programmes.
- 4 Notes that current budgets are insufficient to ensure that assets are maintained to agreed levels of service in the long term.
- 5 Notes that options have been presented to the Long-Term Plan Committee to address issues that have been identified and invites the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee to consider this matter.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Councillor Duthie requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

The Chair accorded priority to agenda item 7 – Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office – Lessons Learnt from Cyclone Gabrielle and Regional Exercises – Report 23.616 in accordance with standing order 3.5.2.

7 Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office – Lessons Learnt from Cyclone Gabrielle and Regional Exercises – Report 23.616 [For Information]

Andy Brown, Team Leader Knowledge – Water, Charlie Blanch, Manager Operational Readiness and Response, WREMO, Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, WREMO and Dan Neely Manager Community Resilience, WREMO spoke to the report. Flood protection contributions across regions, was tabled.

Councillor Staples arrived at 11.00am during the above item.

Councillor Woolf, Councillor Lee and Councillor Ropata departed the meeting at 11.04am.

The meeting adjourned at 11.04am and resumed at 11.24am.

6 Farming Reference Group Update Report – Report 23.698 [For Information]

Barbie Barton, Chair of the Farming Reference Group spoke to the report.

8 Whaitua Implementation Update – Report 23.569 [For Information]

Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment and Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, spoke to the report.

During the above item Councillor Woolf returned to the meeting at 11.26am; Councillor Lee returned to the meeting 11.28am; and Councillor Ropata returned to the meeting at 11.30am.

9 Whaitua Development Update – Report 23.570 [For Information]

Nicola Patrick, Director, Catchment spoke to the report.

10 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement – National Metrics – Report 23.609 [For Information]

Shaun Andrewartha, Manager Environmental Regulation, spoke to the report.

11 Greater Wellington’s Management of Forestry Slash – Report 23.592 [For Information]

Will Syben, Team Leader Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement, Shaun Andrewartha, Manager Environmental Regulation, David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community and Scott Ihaka, Project Manager – Daleton Nursery, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested a report to a future Environment Committee meeting regarding what Greater Wellington does as good practice above the compliance levels for forestry.

12 Regulation of Wastewater Treatment Plants in the Wellington Region – Report 23.594 [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Jo Frances, Team Leader Consents and Compliance, Josh Knowles, Senior Resource Advisor, Michelle Conland, Consultant Resource Advisor, and Shaun Andrewartha, Manager Environmental Regulation, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested a report to a future meeting regarding the history and future of urban development as it relates to wastewater.

13 Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan for 2023-2024 – Report 23.574 [For Information]

Myfanwy Hill, Manager Environment Operations, and Katrina Merrifield, Advisor Environment Policy, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested the Department of Conservation document that was presented to the Farming Reference Group be circulated to the Committee.

14 Annual Floodplain Management Plan Implementation Report – Report 23.548 [For Information]

Madeliene Playford, Team Leader FMP Implementation, and Sharyn Westlake, Principal Engineer Construction RiverLink spoke to the report.

Councillor Connelly departed at 12.30pm during the above item and did not return.

15 Fresh Water Farm Plans – Report 23.531 [For Information]

Richard Romijn, Team Leader Environment Restoration, Will Syben, Team Leader Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement, and Petra Fransen, Team Leader Environment Restoration, spoke to the report.

16 Successful Outcomes of the Climate Resilience Programme – Report 23.543 [For Information]

Sharyn Westlake, Principal Engineer Construction RiverLink, spoke to the report.

17 Te Rōpū Taiao – Environment Group Update – Report 23.8 [For Information]

Lian Butcher, Group Manager, Environment, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested:

- A report to a future meeting regarding consents that have been met in relation to Transmission Gully.
- A schedule of the meetings and webinars about the Implementation of Plan Change 1 to be circulated to members.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 1.06pm.



Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: 27 February 2024,

