

Report 24.96

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Tuesday 27 February 2024

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair) Councillor Duthie (Deputy Chair) Councillor Bassett Councillor Connelly Councillor Kirk-Burnnand Councillor Nash Councillor Ponter (until 12.13pm) Councillor Ropata (from 10.07am) Councillor Saw (from 9.32am) Councillor Staples (until 12.30pm) Councillor Woolf

Barbie Barton

Councillor Ropata participated at the 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.

The Committee Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillor Lee and Councillor Laban, and the apology for lateness from Councillor Ropata.

The motion was carried.

Councillor Saw arrived at 9.32am during the above item.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Zoe Studd and Liz Gibson, Mountains to Sea Wellington Trust, spoke to the restoration and education projects undertaken by the organisation, and spoke to a presentation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 23 November 2023 – Report 23.587

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Bassett

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 23 November 2023 - Report 23.587.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Response to Recent Government Environmental Announcements – Report 24.69 [For Information]

Matt Hickman, Principal Advisor Strategy, Policy & Regulation, Shaun Andrewartha, Manager Environmental Regulation, Natasha Tomic, Team Leader Policy, and David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that the implications of the signalled legislation changes for fast-track consenting be added to the risk register.

Councillor Ropata arrived at 10.07am during the above item.

6 Whaitua Development Update – Kāpiti and Wairarapa Coast – Report 24.55 [For Information]

Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, spoke to the report.

7 Enviroschools Update – Report 24.53 [For Information]

David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, Jude Chittock, Team Leader Community Capability and Change, and Chris Montgomerie, Team Leader Enviroschools, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested further information about how much funding Greater Wellington is providing to the Enviroschools programme, for consideration as part of the Long Term Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 10.52am and resumed at 11.13am.

8 Fish Passage Project Update – Report 24.29 [For Information]

Ashley Webby, Senior Biodiversity Advisor Fish Passage, and Luke Barnsley, Environmental Operations Manager – Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, spoke to the report.

9 Flood Forecasting and Flood Monitoring Network Improvements Programme – Report 24.80 [For Information]

Andy Brown, Team Leader Knowledge – Water, and Braden Crocker, Team Leader Monitoring Water Resilience, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested:

- that staff develop advice on monitoring the risk that Greater Wellington staff may be subject to legal liability where the public relies on Greater Wellington's weather and flood warnings.
- That if a risk is identified, this is referred to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Ponter departed the meeting at 12.13pm during the above item and did not return.

10 Farming Reference Group Chair Update Report – Report 24.68 [For Information] Barbie Barton, spoke to the report.

11 Te Ropū Taiao – Key Updates for Quarter Two – Report 24.85 [For Information]

Sallyann Smutek, Chief Advisor, Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, David Hipkins, Director Knowledge and Insights, Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, Jack Mace, Director Delivery, and Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment spoke to the report.

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

12 Te Ropū Taiao | Environment Group Update – Report 24.30 [For Information]

David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, and Jeremy Paterson, Team Leader Western Parks, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 12.44pm.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

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