

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 18 February 2021

All members participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier

All members participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft 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 invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga – Ngau mai e ngā hua.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr van Lier

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Lee and Barbie Barton.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Denise Church, Predator Free Wellington, tabled a presentation and spoke to agenda item 8 – Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects – progress update, specifically on the Predator Free Wellington update.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 26 November 2020 – Report 20.439

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 26 November 2020 – Report 20.439.

The motion was **carried**.

The Committee Chair requested that Councillor Nash provide the Committee with an update on the work on the Wainuiomata Mainland Island threatened species sanctuary, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.6.

5 Wainuiomata Mainland Island threatened species sanctuary update – oral report

Councillor Nash provided the Committee with an update. Councillor Nash advised that there has been a meeting between himself, Greater Wellington officers, Taranaki Whānui and Department of Conservation. The Minister of Finance (Hon. Grant Robertson, MP) indicated his interest to visit.

Noted: The Committee requested that a standing item on the Wainuiomata Mainland Island threatened species sanctuary (Report 20.466) be added to the agenda for future meetings.

6 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Hearing Subcommittee meeting on 23 November 2020 – Report 20.438

Moved: Cr Brash / Cr van Lier

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Hearing Subcommittee meeting on 23 November 2020 – Report 20.438.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Update on progress of actions items from previous Environment Committee meetings – February 2021 – Report 21.6 [For Information]

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

8 Mayoral Taskforce update – oral report

Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer, Wellington City Council (WCC) spoke to the report. A presentation was tabled.

Mr Mendonca advised the Committee that WCC appointed a mayoral taskforce to investigate the issues with the three waters network (the Mayoral Taskforce) and to recommend back to WCC an action plan.

The Mayoral Taskforce looked at the role of WCC and Wellington Water Limited (WWL) and found that a fundamental reorganisation of the funding, governance, asset ownership and management of water is required. WCC has formally received the report, which included 48 recommendations, but is yet to receive officer advice on the recommendations.

Many of the pipes are old, and the condition is unknown. Most of the focus is on the seismic resilience of these pipes, but the extent of the damage to the pipes after the recent earthquakes is unclear. It is clear that the sewerage and stormwater overflow needs to be disconnected, and to improve green infrastructure utilising stormwater. Drinking water pipes lose between six and 32 percent of water, but it is unclear the extent of the loss. Investigations will need to be done to understand the issues and options to fix this, such as water metering.

Community participation will be a focus area. Engagement with communities will be important for catchment management. This will help performance and transparency, by not allowing the three waters network to be out of sight and out of mind.

9 Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects – progress update – Report 21.51 [For Information]

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

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Blakeley

That the Committee requests officers to explore and report back to Council on a targeted rate to support predator free efforts in the Wellington City and the viability of inclusion in the draft Long Term Plan consultation document.

The motion was **carried**.

10 Whaitua update – Oral report

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager – Whaitua, updated the Committee on the whaitua programme.

Kāpiti Whaitua

Officers are aiming to start the whaitua process for Kāpiti June/July 2021. Officers want to get the information in place and have an agreement with mana whenua before starting the process. A programme is underway to gather scientific information to fill any gaps, which will be finished this year. This was a learning from previous whaitua programmes, where the science programme was undertaken at the same time as the whaitua programme. Appropriate funding arrangements of mana whenua to support their involvement in whaitua is being investigated.

East Wairarapa Whaitua

Officers aim to begin the East Wairarapa whaitua programme in 2022, subject to Long Term Plan funding.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua

The Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Committee intends to bring the final draft Whaitua Implementation Programme to Council to adopt on 27 May 2021. It is in the final stages and is testing the draft recommendations and refining these. The Co-Chairs (Sam Kahui and Louise Asking) met with Hutt City Council councillors, which has doubled funding for the three waters network in its District and Long Term Plans.

Karakia whakamutunga

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

The public meeting closed at 11.15am.



Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: 1 April 2021.