

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 12 August 2021.

Report 21.277

Unconfirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 17 June 2021

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

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand (from 10.13am)
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Nash
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier
Barbie Barton

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr van Lier

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Brash and Lamason and lateness from Councillor Kirk-Burnnand.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Viola Palmer spoke on Canada Geese and pest management.

Noted: The Committee requested that Councillors Ponter and Gaylor speak during the public forum at a Kāpiti Coast District Council meeting on Canada Geese and pest management.

Mike Alexander spoke on Queen Elizabeth Park and the restoration of Yorktown lagoon.

Thane Maxwell spoke on the restoration of wetlands and Yorktown Lagoon and the impacts on wildlife habitat restoration.

Noted: The Committee requested that officers investigate what modifications have been done in the Queen Elizabeth Park area, and where they sit in the Parks Network Plan for wetland restoration.

Noted: The Committee requested information on the consent of the bore at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Barbie Barton provided an update on the Farming Reference Group.

Noted: The Committee requested that an update from the Farming Reference Group be on the agenda for future Committee meetings.

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand arrived at the meeting at 10.13, public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 May 2021- Report 21.193

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 May 2021 - Report 21.193.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee – Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws hearing meeting on 25 May 2021 – Report 21.218

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee – Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws hearing meeting on 25 May 2021 - Report 21.218.

The motion was **carried**.

6 Update on progress of action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – June 2021 – Report 21.201 [For Information]

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

7 Plan Change Work Programme to implement National Direction – Report 21.148 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, Miranda Cross, Team Leader Environmental Policy and Fleur Matthews, Team Leader Environmental Policy spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested a briefing on the progress of mediation and court proceedings on the proposed Natural Resources Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45am and resumed at 11.01. Councillor Laban returned to the meeting at 11.02am.

8 Whaitua Implementation Programme – action planning – Report 21.242

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

Moved: Cr Lee / Cr Blakeley

That the Committee requests that officers report to the Committee, identifying specific gaps in the current responses to whaitua implementation programme recommendations, including in relation to recommendations that sit with organisations other than Greater Wellington.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Proposed Natural Resources Plan Effects Management Guidance – Report 21.248 [For Information]

Jamie Steer, Senior Biodiversity Advisor and Pam Guest, Senior Policy Advisor, spoke to the report.

10 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – Report 21.270 [For Information]

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

11 Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary update – oral report

Councillor Nash updated the Committee on the progress of the Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary.

Councillor Nash recapped Council decisions supporting the establishment of the sanctuary. Jim Lynch was commissioned to work on a feasibility study and this work is progressing.

The fence route was trimmed to 28.7km, which will enclose 3,310ha. The fence type assessment and design continues. A solution has been identified to make the river crossing predator proof.

The initial biodiversity assessments on the threatened species value is underway and suggests a high biodiversity value for three threatened species. These are the hihi, rowi kiwi, and kākāpō.

Taranaki Whānui, who are the mana whenua in the area, have completed a draft cultural impact assessment. This is being considered by Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. Taranaki Whānui have expressed support for the project as a foundation partner.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is working to understand the benefits for threatened species, should the proposed sanctuary be constructed. DOC is using their own internal experts to do this, as well as co-funding the feasibility study with Greater Wellington.

As the sanctuary would be a national biodiversity asset, funding will need to come from central government. If the feasibility study is favourable and if DOC decided to take on the project, Greater Wellington would be in a position to support a Budget 2022 bid to provide funding for construction, eradication and the first five years of operational work. The preliminary costings of this are:

- Fence construction: \$13 million
- Eradication and clean up: \$2.5 million
- Equipment, vehicles and buildings: \$1.5 million
- Five years operational expenditure: \$7.5 million
- Total estimate for Budget bid: \$24.5 million
- Ongoing annual operational expenditure: \$1.5 million

Karakia whakamutunga

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

The public meeting closed at 11.54am.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: