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## Environment Committee

Thursday 9 February 2023, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero, Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,  
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

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**Quorum:** *Seven Members*

### Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Bassett

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Lee

Cr Ponter

Cr Saw

Cr Woolf

Cr Duthie (Deputy Chair)

Cr Connelly

Cr Laban

Cr Nash

Cr Ropata

Cr Staples

Barbie Barton

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council**

# Environment Committee

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Thursday 9 February 2023, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero, Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,  
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

## Public Business

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**Environment Committee**  
**9 February 2023**  
**Report 23.1**



**For Information**

## **ENVIRONMENT/CATCHMENT UPDATE**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

### **Te horopaki**

#### **Context**

##### ***Regional issues***

2. Flood incidents have continued to be experienced in this reporting period across the region. The flood defence assets have performed well, and the issues have primarily been stormwater flooding and landslips across the region. This has impacted Flood Protection resourcing and operational work programmes.
3. Flood protection is making good progress on upgrading flood forecasting and automated warning capabilities to support regional resilience and emergency management.
4. Planning for our biodiversity summer events is underway. We're partnering with Mountains to Sea Wellington to run Community snorkelling days on 11 February, 18 February and 4 March. The annual Wairarapa Moana Kākahi Count is on 12 February.
5. The number of notifications of environmental incidents received and responded to by the Environmental Regulation department between 01 September 2022 and 20 January 2023 was 451.
6. Wallabies are exclusion species in the Regional Pest Management Plan. Recently we investigated three possible wallaby sightings, and all were determined to be false reports (Remutaka Hill Road, Smith Creek Shelter in the Tararua Ranges and Carterton).
7. EnviroSchools: Houghton Valley School has become a Green-Gold EnviroSchool. This involves a team of staff, students and members of the EnviroSchools team considering holistically, and celebrating, the way sustainability is integrated across the whole of school life. Pohutukawa Early Learning Centre has become a Silver EnviroSchool.
8. Mauri Tūhono ki te Upoko o te ika a Māui, the working group developing a regional framework for biodiversity in the Wellington Region is preparing to launch the proposed

framework this autumn. We will be seeking feedback on the ways people connect to the framework and how collectively, mana whenua, agencies, community organisations, whānau and individuals can work together and separately to implement it. Councillors will be briefed before engagement begins and our co-chairs will report to Council during the engagement phase.

9. Toxic algae warnings have been in place on the Hutt River in the reach of the river around Silverstream, and the Waikanae River at Jim Cooke Park. Due to the recent rain, warnings on the Hutt River have decreased. The warning on the Waikanae River will be reassessed following weekly monitoring by Kāpiti Coast District Council.
10. New warning signs for toxic algae are being trialled at the Waipoua River at Colombo Rd, Ruamāhanga River at Double Bridges, Hutt River at Silverstream, Pakuratahi in Kaitoke campground and Waikanae at Jim Cooke Park. See picture below.



*Toxic algae warning sign at Waipoua at Colombo*

11. **Certified Farm Environment Plans (CFEP)** – A workshop on the certification process and CFEP's was hosted by Greater Wellington for potential farm plan certifiers in late 2022. Applications to attain a Greater Wellington planner certification can now be submitted

via the Greater Wellington website. This has been a collaborative delivery from Land Management, Environmental Regulation, Environment Policy and Marketing and Communications teams.

12. **Regional Policy Statement Change** – Planning and preparation for hearings on this change are underway and a meeting with the Chief Freshwater Commissioner has been arranged in early February to talk through the process.
13. The summer boating season is in full swing, and staff are on the water and attending events supporting safe boating. We continue to have boating incidents in the Region, resulting in “near misses” while there are a number of fatalities in other regions. Poor decision making remains at the heart of many of these incidents.
14. A Skipper’s Cockpit Guide, a small, waterproof booklet has been produced with both regulatory and safety information, as well as useful boating information. This pulls information from a variety of sources and provides online links as well. We are currently waiting for the first production run, after which some will be available in the Councillors lounge.
15. We have had some initial meetings with the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership and will attend their Management Committee meeting in February 2023. Members of this group include Marlborough District Council, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. We are considering joining this group to align strategic intent, surveillance approach and educational practices.

#### ***Whaitua-specific issues***

##### *Te Whanganui-a-Tara*

16. Rōpū Tiaki (co-management group for the Parangarahu Lakes Area) has received an application to translocate toitoi / common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) from Lake Kōhangapiripiri to Roto Māhanga in Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, to establish a self-sustaining population of this native species in the roto. The proposal aims to use a variety of traditional and western fishing techniques for capturing and handling toitoi. Greater Wellington is leading the assessment of the translocation proposal and will make a recommendation to the Rōpū Tiaki members. If approved, a low impact collection permit will be issued by Greater Wellington on behalf of the Rōpū Tiaki. This translocation proposal follows previously approved translocations of kākahi from the Lake Kohangapiripiri to Roto Mahanga.
17. Consultation with mana whenua has recommenced ahead of the Hutt-Kaitoke aerial 1080 operation scheduled for May 2023. This operation began in May 2022 before adverse weather events prevented its completion.
18. The Hutt Valley alligator weed (exclusion species in the Regional Pest Management Plan) site has been revisited. A small amount of regrowth was found and controlled. Further site inspections are necessary.
19. The consultation sheet for the South Makara aerial 1080 operation due to be undertaken after Easter 2023 is posted on Greater Wellington’s website.
20. Predator Free Wellington: The Miramar Peninsular (approx. 550 ha) now has zero evidence of rats. The project continues to roll northwards, with no further occurrences of Norway rats, weasels or possums. One stoat incursion was picked up on camera but

was not seen again and presumed either dead or moved on. Approximately 300 trail cameras are currently in operation and a rat detection dog is working with us part time.

21. Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) was detected on a vessel that was lifted at Seaview Marina in December 2022 for a hull clean. *Sabella* is an Unwanted Organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and is not known to be established in the Wellington Region. Currently, we don't know if *Sabella* has become established at Seaview, however, there is a risk as a number of *Sabella* on the vessel were large enough to have reached reproductive maturity and spawned during the approx. 2 years it was berthed in the marina. We are working with Biosecurity New Zealand to fund a survey of the marina in February 2023. The survey approach involves divers searching marina structures, adjacent habitat (e.g. rock walls, seafloor) and vessel hulls. Any *Sabella* detected will be carefully removed at the time and secured in plastic bags in situ for later disposal topside.
22. Te Ara Tapua (Petone to Ngauranga cycleway) construction work has begun. Shortly the temporary wharves in the harbour for barging rock will begin construction.

#### *Te Awarua-o-Porirua*

23. **Porirua City Council Riparian programme collaboration** – Coordinated engagement with Porirua City Council on their riparian programme by sending a letter to the rural community. This has resulted in an increased demand for advice and funding.
24. **Pouewe Catchment Community** – A field day on catchment management for the community group was hosted by Greater Wellington. As a result of this, an action plan brief has been drafted with the catchment community committee members.
25. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira reported back on the support we provided for their nursery last year. They described the "huge success in bringing our cultural values and matauranga to the people." Rongoā species have been grown and offered to whānau to grow at home, teaching them mātauranga in so many areas, plant identification, whakapapa, te reo, karakia, tikanga, rongoā, whenua and soil, maramataka and purākau. The nursery is also supporting their restoration project at Mahinawa Stream.
26. The three-yearly Guardians of the Pauatahanui Inlet cockle count was held in November 2022. There was a great turnout, with beautiful weather conditions which is a stark contrast to the previous two cockle counts. This is the longest running citizen science initiative of its type in Aotearoa, and the results help us understand the health of the harbour and how it's changing. The final results are due out later this year.
27. There were seven successful applications to the Te Awarua o Porirua Community Environment Fund this year. Projects that Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Greater Wellington chose to support are:
  - a Mana Cycle Club to carry out pest animal control at Rangituhi.
  - b Newlands Community Nursery, who are improving the safety of access around their site.
  - c Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve Committee for pest plant control as well as additional plant nursery supplies.

- d Friends of Taupō Swamp and Catchment who wish to further extend their planting efforts.
  - e Whitireia Park Restoration Group to increase their pest plant control.
  - f Asert-Tātou Trust to install pest animal control around their nursery and restoration site alongside Mitchell Stream.
  - g Kahotea Stream Restoration Group to continue restoring Kahotea Stream where it runs through Onepoto Park.
28. The Porirua Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent hearing commenced 13 June 2022 and adjourned on 16 June 2022. The panel has issued several minutes directing further information from the applicant in relation to operational matters and to allow time for expert conferencing. To date joint witness statements have been provided from experts on odour, dispersion modelling, ecology, public health and planning experts. Submitters have been given the opportunity to provide supplementary statements and information. They also currently can comment to the independent hearing commissioners on any updated draft conditions. The hearing is still open. The Have Your Say webpage is used to communicate key updates and make information available to submitters.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Kāpiti Coast*

29. The Te Roto link project is now in the construction phase. The track will connect the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway shared path through to Te Roto Road and allow people to loop to the existing Ōtaki River track. Connecting through to Te Roto Road is a critical part of Kāpiti Coast District Council's overall Cycleway, Walkway, Bridleway (CWB) network.
30. The Waitohu Flood risk management plan is progressing with Ngati Kapu and the Convent Road community. Options for managing a one in 20-year flood have been assessed using detailed hydraulic modelling and we are now moving towards a detailed assessment process.
31. Resource consents have been lodged by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) with Greater Wellington, Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council for the Ōtaki to North of Levin Highway Project (Ō2NL Project), being the northernmost section of the Wellington Northern Corridor. The application will be processed jointly by the authorities and will be heard by the Environment Court as a direct referral. The public submission period will commence on the 24 January 2023 and close on the 28 February 2023.
32. Manchurian wild rice (a National Pest Response species) ground-based control work was completed with many previously controlled sites having no plants this year. Reduction of the water level at the site may have assisted.
33. We have a high volume of requests, mainly from Kāpiti, for pindone rabbit control operations.

<sup>1</sup> <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/poriruaawtp>

34. **Environment fund collaboration** – Kāpiti Coast District Council’s Environment Fund supported several riparian projects in 2022, through funding tree supply. This collaboration will continue with some riparian projects in 2023, following a recent meeting with officers.
35. The first meeting of the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee is scheduled for 2 March 2023 and all remaining meetings are booked in for the year.

#### *Ruamāhanga*

36. Continued conversations are being held between Greater Wellington, South Wairarapa District Council, and its consultants on the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (FWWTP) consenting process. Progress continues to be slow from South Wairarapa District Council. However, an application is intended to be lodged by May 2023.
37. Flood hazard modelling for the Upper Ruamāhanga, Waipoua, and Mangatarere is continuing and tracking towards input into the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. Widespread community engagement was held in November 2022 running both an online engagement and a series of face-to-face drop-in sessions led by community groups.
38. Scoping of technical investigations for the Lower Valley Development Scheme Review and Management Plan has commenced. We are working with subject matter experts to determine the approach to flood hazard modelling, geomorphological investigations and other complex modelling options.
39. Erosion protection works at River Road, Masterton on the Ruamahanga River will commence in the coming weeks. There are three stages to the project with the co-government funded Kānoa Climate Resilience project undertaking stage one. The remaining two stages are being funded through the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan. Stage two pre-construction work is now underway.
40. The Paierau Road flooding signage project, in conjunction with Masterton District Council, will be completed in the next two months.
41. Waiohine River Plan governance changes are underway, with the establishment of the Waiohine River Plan Advisory Committee (along with their Terms of Reference) going to Council on 23 February for approval. The capital project work, being the two proposed stopbanks, is currently on hold due to a lack of internal capacity.
42. Biosecurity staff attended the Hoe Tonga Waka Ama regional event at Henley Lake to promote Check, Clean, Dry protocols.
43. Akura Plant Nursery has achieved Plant Pass Certification from New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated. Plant pass is a voluntary national certification achieved through demonstrating they have strong biosecurity and hazard management practices in place. Akura can provide assurance that their plants have been raised in conditions that minimise the risk of introducing and spreading pests.
44. A water race engagement and communication plan has been drafted and is with Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council for input. It is intended to assist with coordinated engagement with water race users and adjacent landowners on activities in and around the water races. This is in response to stock exclusion



requirements and significant shifts in the use of these assets impacting land use in the catchments.

45. Te Arawhiti – the Office for Māori Crown Relations, has advised that the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui a Rua Treaty of Waitangi settlement date is 7 March 2023. Staff are working with Te Hunga Whiriwhiri on the implications for Greater Wellington, including the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands project.

#### *Wairarapa Coast and Eastern Hills*

46. Heavy Rain (Cyclone Hale) has impacted the East Wairarapa catchment schemes. The Ministry for Primary Industries and the East Coast Rural Support Trust are currently assessing property damage and support options. Consideration is being given to setting up an Enhanced Task Force Green scheme with Greater Wellington potentially becoming the project manager. For affected catchment schemes, reserves will be used to fund extra maintenance works. We will provide drone footage of parts of the affected areas at the meeting.
47. Land Management staff are assisting the community to assess catchment group collaboration models, to provide a community led centralised support service to multiple catchment community groups, to attract Crown funding in future years.
48. At Opouawe River Key Native Ecosystem site both banded and black fronted dotterels were observed while servicing the predator control network.

#### *Crown Funded Projects*

49. The Kānoa Climate Resilience programme will be completed by the end of this financial year. Of the 22 sites in the programme, seven sites are left to complete construction between January and April 2023. Nine project sites have completed construction as of December 2022. All other sites are processing through the steps of close out and handover to the Operations team. Project work in progress is as follows:
  - a **Site One** – Stokes Valley. Contract signed, work to commence January 2023.
  - b **Sites Five and Six** – Practical completion achieved. Post construction planting to be completed.
  - c **Site Ten** – Totara Park. Bench push to be completed February 2023.
  - d **Site 12** – River Road, Masterton. Work to commence January 2023 and be completed by March 2023
  - e **Site 13** – Poets Park. Well underway with 85% of planting completed, new track 95% completed. Hardstand areas to be completed by end of February 2023. Weed control underway and plant watering commencing due to extended dry weather.
  - f **Site 14** – Taita Park. Practical completion achieved.
  - g **Site 16** – Hulls Creek. Practical completion achieved. Weed control carried out.
  - h **Site 17** – Seton Nossiter. Work restarted in January 2023 after constant rain stopped work in 2022.
  - i **Site 18** – Port Road. Construction continuing with rock placement due to be complete April 2023.

50. Jobs for Nature – Ministry for the Environment programme: 840 metres of rabbit fencing was completed along the river corridor in Greytown by December 2022. This will leave only 1.1km of fencing before the end of the financial year to meet the annual work plan target. Maintenance and pest animal control activities are ongoing at several sites.
51. There have been ongoing discussions between Ahu Collective, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa, Greater Wellington and Ara Poutama Aotearoa regarding Te Wao Nui and the collective effort to create transformative change within the different landscapes of Aotearoa. An outcome of the Kānoa Climate Resilience programme is the development of iwi relationships, whakapapa, environment, business/employment and social development.
52. ‘Major rivers’ projects are tracking to plan. Winter 2022 plantings are establishing well. Vegetation maintenance and pest animal control activities of previously planted sites are ongoing. Site preparation for winter 2023 plantings have started.
53. Phase two planning is also being refined based on the information that we have gained. The Community Outreach Team is nearing completion of another sweep of the phase two zone for permission gathering and currently have over 5000 permissions in this phase.
54. Hem of Remutaka has a scheduled governance hui in February to discuss the life of the possibilities for the project beyond the three-year timeframe.
55. Through our Broader Outcomes work, Māori owned business, Mills Albert, has continued to excel as our main contractor as well as send employees to wellbeing and career development training. Also, through Broader Outcomes, Hui with Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa and Department of Corrections have continued to build a Kaupapa focused on re-connecting Māori prisoners with their whānau and the whenua to decrease the reincarceration of those tāne.
56. The Wairarapa Moana wetlands projects has seen the planting of 28,500 plants over 7.7ha and re-established 1.2km of fencing around the wetland areas. Four additional traps have been installed along the shore of Lake Ōnoke. These connect two separate trapping networks, meaning the entire western shore of Lake Ōnoke is now covered by pest trap networks.
57. The Fish Passage project, in partnership with Boffa Miskell lead a Fish Passage training day in November. The event aimed at providing a basic understanding of the issues and remediation options. The course was attended by 28 people working across the industry. A further three courses are planned for March.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Approvers	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao   General Manager, Environment Management  Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua   General Manager, Catchment Management
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<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation of the work programmes of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Development and implementation of related work programmes falls under the core activities of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>This report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial, and Health, Safety and Wellbeing risks and implications are associated.</p>

Environment Committee  
9 February 2023  
Report 23.25



For Information

## KAITAKI INCIDENT UPDATE

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose

1. To brief the Environment Committee on the *Kaitaki* incident on Saturday 28 January 2023.

### Te horopaki

#### Context

2. The Environment Committee Chair requested a briefing by the Harbourmaster after the *Kaitaki's* four engines shut down enroute to Wellington. The update will cover the following topics:
  - a what is known about what happened
  - b details of the response and Greater Wellington's role
  - c implications arising from the incident

### Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

#### Next steps

3. The Harbourmaster will also be briefing the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee on the incident.

### Ngā kaiwaitohu

#### Signatories

Writer	Grant Nalder – Kaiwhakahaere Matua   Manager, Harbours (Harbourmaster)
Approver	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao   General Manager, Environment Management

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> The Environment Committee has responsibility for reviewing the regulatory systems, processes and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities for managing the Harbour.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> Safety of all water users within the Wellington Region is one of Council's key obligations.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> There was no internal consultation.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> The Environment Committee will be advised of the risks and impacts relating to this incident from the update.

Environment Committee  
9 February 2023  
Report 23.24



For Information

## WHAITUA UPDATE

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose

1. To brief the Environment Committee on the Whaitua Programme.

### Te horopaki

#### Context

2. The update will cover the following topics:
  - a. The Whaitua Kāpiti Committee will hold its inaugural meeting on 2 March 2023, and all meetings for the remainder of the year have been scheduled.
  - b. Conversations with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc have commenced for establishment of the Wairarapa Coast Whaitua to align with the new organisation structure.

### Ngā kaiwaitohu

#### Signatories

Writer	Tim Sharp – Kaiwhakahaere Matua   Programme Manager, Whaitua
Approvers	Matthew Hickman – Kaiwhakahaere Matua   Manager, Environmental Policy Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao   General Manager, Environment Management

<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has wider responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management groups' work programmes. However, whaitua is specifically the responsibility of the Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee. Future updates will go to that Committee (or in its absence, Council).</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The Whaitua Programme contributes to Council's obligations to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) through engagement with Mana Whenua and the community.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>There was internal consultation between Environmental Policy, Te Hunga Whiriwhiri and Environmental Science.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no known risks and impacts related to this report.</p>