Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on 22 October 2026.

Report 26.436

Unconfirmed Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on Thursday 17 September 2026

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 10.02am

Members Present

Councillor Duthie (Chair)
Councillor Tupou (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor (until 11.57am)
Councillor Hart
Councillor James
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Barbie Barton (until 11.55am)

Councillor Gaylor and Barbie Barton participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

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

Public Business

1 Apologies

UNCONFIRMED

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Makarini

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillors Connelly and Johnstone.

The motion was **carried.**

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Brian Benge – Haukaretu Stream Restoration Group, spoke on the stream's restoration.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on 20 August 2026 – Report 26.333

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Tupou

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on 20 August 2026 – Report 26.333.

The motion was **carried.**

5 Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Kāpiti Floodplain Management Plans – Annual Implementation Repot 2026 – Report 26.366 [For Information]

Steven Fargher, Team Leader Assets and Performance, and Hamish Fenwick, Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery, spoke to the report.

6 Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Kāpiti River Schemes – Annual Flood Asset Assessment Report 2026 – Report 26.340

Steven Fargher, Team Leader Assets and Performance, and Hamish Fenwick, Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Rhodes

That the Committee:

1 Notes that the Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Hutt River Valley, Waiwhetū and Wainuiomata) and Kāpiti (Waikanae and Ōtaki) River Schemes flood protection and erosion control asset portfolio continues to perform well, with the majority of assets remaining in Very Good to Moderate condition and the overall network risk profile remaining broadly stable.

2 Notes that the return to a full asset condition inspection programme in 2026 has provided a more comprehensive understanding of asset condition and greater confidence in the assessment of the network performance.

3 Agrees that flood protection and erosion control assets within the Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Hutt River Valley, Waiwhetū, and Wainuiomata) &

UNCONFIRMED

Kāpiti (Ōtaki) River Schemes have been managed to the agreed Levels of Service during 2025/26, except for the Waikanae River Scheme where riverbed levels are impacting the ability for the scheme to provide the 1% AEP.

4 Notes that identified priority issues and risks are being addressed through a combination of operational maintenance programmes, capital improvement works, technical investigations, long-term asset management and infrastructure planning, and including seeking to renew the Waikanae River consent.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Te Rōpū Taiao | Environment Group Activity Update – 17 September 2026 – Report 26.369 [For Information]

Julie Knauf, Group Manager Environment, spoke to the report.

8 Farming Reference Group Meeting – 02 September 2026 – Report 26.416 [For Information]

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

Noted: The Committee requested that the Federated Farmers National Pests Survey report be circulated to members.

9 El Niño Readiness and Response – Report 26.414 [For Information]

David Hipkins, Director Knowledge and Insights, Andy Brown, Knowledge Risk Management and Resilience Lead, and Mike Thompson, Senior Environmental Scientist, spoke to the report.

10 Waiwhetū Integrated Catchment Project – Report 26.305 [For Information]

Tim Sharp, Catchment Manager Te Whanganui-a-Tara, spoke to the report.

Barbie Barton left the meeting at 11.55am and did not return.

Councillor Gaylor left the meeting at 11.57am and did not return.

Karakia whakamutunga

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

The public meeting closed at 11.59am.

Councillor Q Duthie

Committee Chair

Date:

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