

# Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 21 October 2021

All members participating remotely at 9.33am.

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## Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)  
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Blakeley (from 10.40am)  
Councillor Brash  
Councillor Hughes  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Laban (until 10.47am)  
Councillor Lee (until 11.48am)  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ponter  
Councillor Staples  
Barbie Barton

All members participated at this meeting remotely, and counted for the purpose of quorum, as per clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

## Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

## Public Business

### 1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Nash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Lamason and van Lier and lateness from Councillor Blakeley.

The motion was **carried**.

### 2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

**3 Public participation**

There was no public participation.

**4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 16 September 2021 - Report 21.431**

Moved: Cr Brash / Cr Hughes

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 16 September 2021 - Report 21.431

The motion was carried.

**5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Environment Committee meetings – October 2021 – Report 21.456**

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

**6 Farming Reference Group update – oral update**

Barbie Barton, Chair, Farming Reference Group, provided an oral update on the farming and rural sector.

Ms Barton advised that grass growth is struggling to meet demand now that lambing season has finished.

Ms Barton advised that the farming community is considering strategies around the potential spread of COVID-19 in rural communities. Owner/operator farmers are particularly vulnerable should they be infected with COVID-19 and are starting to consider how operations could continue should they be required to quarantine.

The Farming Reference Group met on 22 September. Discussion centred around water and the various forms in which it is managed. Ms Barton reported that the Three Waters and the water services bill are creating some concern within rural communities that the unique impacts on rural communities are not being considered at the national level.

The Committee Chair accorded priority to agenda item 8 – Environment / Catchment Update, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

**7 Environment / Catchment Update – Report 21.471 [For Information]**

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, and David Boone, Acting General Manager, spoke to the report.

**Noted:** The Committee requested:

- progress updates on the consenting for the Porirua waste water treatment plant.
- to be advised of who received funding from the Community Environment Fund.

**8 Department of Conservation Regional Pest Management Programme – Oral report**

David Boone, Acting General Manager, Catchment Management, introduced Angus Hulme-Moir, Operations Manager, Department of Conservation, who tabled a presentation and provided an oral update on the Department of Conservation's Wairarapa/Kapiti Wellington ungulate control.

Councillor Blakeley arrived at the meeting at 10.40am, during questions on the above item.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 10.47am during questions on the above item and did not return.

The meeting adjourned at 10.55am and resumed at 11.10am.

## **9 Managing Regional Park Land in support of the Toitū Te Whenua Vision - Baring Head/Ōrua-Pouanui – Report 21.427**

Jimmy Young, Manager, Parks, and Fiona Colquhoun, Parks Planner, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Brash / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Restricted Activity assessment and recommendations, inclusive of high level option and benefit analysis as outlined in Attachment 1.
- 2 Approves the preparation of a new 13-month, commercial stock grazing licence at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, East Harbour Regional Park, and a period of one month public consultation on it. This will continue current land management practices, but with reduced impacts, prior to native vegetation restoration processes commencing in 2023. It is proposed that this licence conclude on 31 January 2023 to coincide with the agricultural cycle and winter planting season. It will not have renewal provisions.
- 3 Notes that in accordance with Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan 2020-30 policy and rules, an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) will be prepared to guide preparation of the licence and its operating conditions in support of overall impact reduction.
- 4 Notes that consultation will be undertaken with mana whenua and key park stakeholders on the proposal prior to the future presentation of a proposed short term stock grazing licence agreement for Council approval.
- 5 Notes that this is the first part of the process. Section 74 of the Reserves Act provides for temporary grazing licences (up to 10 years), to be granted over a wide range of reserves including Scenic Reserves. Public notice is required in accordance with section 119; and full consideration given to all objections and submissions in relation to the proposal in accordance with section 120. Council approval for the licence will then be sought.

The motion was **carried**.

**Noted:** The Committee requested an outline of the various plans related to parks management and further detail on how these plans interconnect.

**10 Plan Changes 2022 – Update on Work Programme and Natural Resources Plan Change 2 – Report 21.474 [For Information]**

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, introduced the report. Irene Clarke, Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy, Richard Shield, Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy and Kat Banyard, Policy Advisor, spoke to the report.

Councillor Lee left the meeting at 11.48am and did not return.

**11 Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan for 2021/22 – Report 21.462 [For Information]**

David Boone, Acting General Manager, Catchment Management and Davor Bejakovich, Manager, Biosecurity, spoke to the report.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that regular updates and photos of pest plants be put on Greater Wellington's social media channels to help raise awareness.

**12 Whaitua Process Update – Oral report**

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager – Whaitua, provided an oral update on the Whaitua Process.

Mr Sharp advised that the Te-Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Plan (WIP) was received by Council on 23 September 2021. The WIP documents are currently being designed for publishing. Officers are drafting an initial response to the WIP which will be presented to Council at its meeting on 9 December, with a more detailed report and action plan to be presented to Council in April/May 2022.

Mr Sharp advised the Committee of the progress of presenting the WIP to other territorial authorities in the Wellington Region.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that the Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua reports to Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, and Wellington City Council be provided to Committee members.

**13 Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary update – Oral report**

Councillor Nash provided an oral update on the progress of the Wainuiomata Fenced Sanctuary proposal.

Councillor Nash advised that the feasibility study is expected to be delivered by mid-November 2021 and that the recommended governance for the sanctuary is likely to be via a Charitable Trust. Costs for the fence construction are higher than initial estimates meaning that the proposal will likely require new funding via a specific appropriation from central government. Detailed quotes for the fence construction will be included in the feasibility study.

**14 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – Report 21.485 [For Information]**

David Boone, Acting General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

## **Karakia whakamutunga**

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.



Councillor P Gaylor

**Chair**

Date: 2 December 2021.

