

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 12 May 2022.

Report 22.140

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 31 March 2022

All members participating remotely via Microsoft Teams at 9.31am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley (until 10am, from 12pm)
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (until 11.15am, from 12pm)
Councillor Staples
Barbie Barton

All members participated at this meeting remotely and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Brash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Kirk-Burnnand and van Lier and apologies for early departure from Councillors Blakeley and Ponter.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

Councillor Blakeley declared a conflict of interest with regard to agenda item 9 – Parks Master Planning Process – Western Belmont and Wainuiomata Regional Parks - Report 22.35.

3 Public participation

Kena Duignan spoke to agenda item 9 - Parks Master Planning Process - Western Belmont and Wainuiomata Regional Parks - Report 22.35.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 17 February 2022 - Report 22.67

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Hughes

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 17 February 2022 - Report 22.67.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on the progress of action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – March 2022 – Report 22.86

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

Noted: The Committee requested that the action items related to Mangaroa be reviewed and that an update on the broader engagement strategy be provided to the Committee.

The Committee Chair accorded priority to agenda item 8 – *Puketahā – Wainuiomata Ecosanctuary Feasibility Study* – in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

6 Puketahā – Wainuiomata Ecosanctuary Feasibility Study – Report 22.33

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, introduced the report. Jack Mace, Director of Operations, Department of Conservation, Lee Hunter, Taranaki Whānui and Jim Lynch, Feasibility Study author, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Laban

That the Committee:

- 1 Receives the Puketahā – Wainuiomata Ecosanctuary Feasibility Study report.
- 2 Notes that no additional funding is available within the 2021-31 Long Term Plan to progress the Ecosanctuary proposal.
- 3 Notes that due to the national level scale and significance of the proposed ecosanctuary this proposal will require central government funding in order to proceed.
- 4 Notes the importance for this proposal of a partnership between Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui, Greater Wellington and the Department of Conservation and notes that Greater Wellington's contribution to this partnership will be to continue the Council's existing management of the

proposed sanctuary site within Wainuiomata Orongorongo Water Collection Area, including maintaining pest control activities at current levels.

- 5 Agrees that the working group will progress with the next steps, as outlined in paragraphs 35 – 37 of this report.

Voting on the motion was taken in parts. Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were **carried**.

Noted: Councillor Lamason requested that her vote against each part of the motion be recorded.

Councillor Blakeley left the meeting at 10am, during the introduction of the above item.

The meeting adjourned at 11.15am, and resumed at 11.28am.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 11.15am.

7 Environment/Catchment Update – March 2022 – Report 22.20

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

8 Farming Reference Group Update – Oral Report

Barbie Barton, Farming Reference Group Chair, updated the Committee on the farming sector.

Ms Barton provided an update on the season to date. A damp start to Autumn has been good for growth rates but brings challenges in regards to the completion of farm maintenance and remedial work from flooding. Dairy production is down following issues in the spring with many cows not reaching peak production.

The Farming Reference Group has noted that wheat prices have increased, in part driven by global events such as the unfolding situation in Ukraine, and weather has created difficulty in completing harvest, with the flow on effect driving up animal feed, domestic flour and bread prices.

9 Parks Master Planning Process - Western Belmont and Wainuiomata Regional Parks - Report 22.35 [For Information]

Fiona Colquhoun, Parks Planner, and Ricky Clarkson, Principal Ranger, Eastern Section, spoke to the report.

10 Ex Tropical Cyclone Dovi Flood Impacts – Report 22.127 [For Information]

Andy Brown, Team Leader, Investment, Strategy and Planning, and Jacky Cox, Team Leader, Operations, Delivery and Planning, spoke to the report

Councillors Blakeley and Ponter returned to the meeting at 12pm, during discussion on the above item.

11 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – March 2022 - Report 22.128 [For Information]

Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, spoke to the report.

12 Flood Protection Climate Resilience Programme update – Report 22.131 [For Information]

Michael Beagle, Project Manager - Implementation, Sarah Stacey, Broader Outcomes Lead and Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

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

The public meeting closed at 12.21pm.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: