

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 29 September 2022.

Report 22.370

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 18 August 2022

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 Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (from 9.35am; until 10.09am)
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier
Barbie Barton

Councillors Laban and van Lier participated at this meeting remotely, via Microsoft Teams, and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with 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

The Committee Chair advised, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.6, that there will be an update on the Farming Reference Group, which was not on the agenda.

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

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 23 June 2022 – Report 22.296

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Connelly

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 23 June 2022 – Report 22.296, as corrected.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Environment Committee Meetings – August 2022 – Report 22.321 [For Information]

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

Councillor Ponter joined the meeting at 9.35am, during the above item.

6 Farming Reference Group Update – Oral Report

Barbie Barton, Farming Reference Group Chair, updated the Committee on the farming sector, and tabled a handout.

After significant rainfall, there is a lot of water lying because the water table is very high. South Wairarapa has experienced the worst of it, due to the high level in Lake Wairarapa. Two members of the Farming Reference Group have said that they have received their average annual rainfall figure already for the year.

Farmers have experienced a significant amount of debris from slash from local forestry sites and from poisoned willows. This is creating a lot of tidy up work for farmers.

Farmers are also concerned about rural road access, with slips closing some roads, and some detours involving up to two hours of extra travel time. Members of the Farming Reference Group voiced their appreciation of the hill country erosion planting programme

Ms Barton outlined pasture conditions, which have been affected by the wet, warm weather, with some good growth; however, pugging and surface flooding continue to be an issue with regrowth. Lambing has had few reported issues; however, calving has been challenging in the wet.

Ms Barton tabled a media release from NZ Farm Environment Trust, which detailed the winners named in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This is a competition funded by

Greater Wellington. Patrizia Vieno and Rod Clutton of Rewa Rewa Station were named as the Supreme Winners.

Ms Barton commented on the implementation of regulations and the need for regional councils to develop a system for certifying farm environment plans, and for Greater Wellington to be aware of the limited HR capacity the farming sector has.

7 Environment/Catchment Update – Report 22.23 [For Information]

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

Noted: The Committee requested that officers:

- Provide members with information about data sources relating to sedimentation in Porirua Harbour, and what that data is telling us
- Provide members with recommended actions to manage sediment inputs
- Monitor Horokiwi Stream, once harvesting commences in Puketiro Forest.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 10.09am, during the above item, and did not return.

8 Annual Asset Management Condition Report – Report 22.233

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, and Lucy Ashford spoke the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that at the Wairarapa River scheme advisory committee meetings held between 21 June 2022 and 23 June 2022, that the committees were satisfied that flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets for these catchments have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.
- 2 Agrees that the flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets on the 15 schemes across the Wellington Region have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Annual Floodplain Management Implementation Report – Report 22.234 [For Information]

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, spoke to the report.

Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 10.30am, during the above item.

10 Fly Tipping on Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River – Quantum and Causes – Report 22.332 [For Information]

Joby Mills Hutt River Ranger, and Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee requests officers explore a fines regime and other options to address the illegal dumping issue.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Hughes returned to the meeting at 10.44am, during the above item.

11 Crown Funded Projects Update – August 2022 – Report 22.366 [For Information]

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment 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 11.07am.



Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date: 29/09/2022.