

By email

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Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate
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Tēnā koe e te Rangatira, Helmut

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.
My strength is not mine alone, it comes from the collective.

Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate recommendations

Thank you for sharing the recent recommendations from the Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate. The breadth, detail and interconnectedness of the recommendations are clear testament to the significant time, energy and effort that the Assembly participants, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Reo o ngā Tangata and Porirua community leaders invested in this kaupapa under the leadership of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Congratulations, and thank you for the invitation to support this work. It provided a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the Porirua community on the action they want to strengthen resilience against the changing climate. Our staff who had the opportunity to support and observe the process spoke highly of the experience.

As agreed in our email of 3 December last year, Greater Wellington Councillors met to discuss the Assembly recommendations at a Council workshop on 5 August. A Council report was then prepared and discussed at a Council meeting on 21 August. This letter is Greater Wellington's formal response to the Porirua Citizens Assembly recommendations.

Greater Wellington supports the six overarching recommendations:

- **RANGATAHI (Youth):** Intentionally include, enable and empower our rangatahi to set their own kaupapa and participate meaningfully and equitably in design, decision-making and implementation.
- **WEAVING PORIRUA TOGETHER (Resilient People Network):** To sustain and support the momentum for courageous, bold and collaborative action by establishing a sustainable network that connects, strengthens, and leverages existing Community-led rūpū (e.g. Porirua Community Leaders Forum).

- **TE TAI AO (Our Environment):** Protect and restore the mauri of our whenua, taonga and our wai, including our waterways, flora and fauna, local food systems, native forests, harbour and shorelines.
- **HOW WE ROLL (Approach and Implementation):** Develop an evidence-based, community-informed, Iwi-led action plan, ensuring present and intergenerational commitment from everyone with skin in the game in Porirua.
- **KNOW MORE DO MORE (Action Through Education and Awareness):** Guarantee equitable access to environmental education and lifelong learning that enables people to connect with te taiao and act.
- **HOW STUFF WORKS (Resilient Infrastructure):** Invest in water, waste, energy, health and transport systems infrastructure that reflect the needs of our people and place – driven by indigenous and local innovation and solutions.

Several of our existing programmes and activities align with some or all of the recommendations and identified in the attachment are the details of these. Examples include the ongoing programme of work undertaken by Enviroschools; our role supporting the Porirua Harbour Accord; provisions within the Regional Policy Statement and the Natural Resources Plan; involvement in Mauri Tūhono; supporting the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee's Regional Adaptation Project; delivering on our own Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan; implementing the Regional Public Transport Plan, Metlink's Accessibility Action Plan, and Asset Control Strategy; to name a few.

We have further identified several key opportunities that would align with the Assembly recommendations, and which could be further considered for support by the new Council through the 2027-37 Long Term Plan process:

1. Supporting the delivery of the Porirua Harbour Accord Action Plan – as a coordinated response in collaboration with Accord partners, other stakeholders and the community;
2. Progressing Greater Wellington's Energy Transformation Initiative – working with our mana whenua partners to explore opportunities for renewable energy like solar farms that would have co-benefits for Greater Wellington's energy requirements and for mana whenua;
3. Building our engagement practices to improve youth engagement – working with rangatahi to identify opportunities to improve youth engagement with Greater Wellington and making this a consistent part of our engagement process; and

4. Supporting the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee's Regional Adaptation Project – to ensure that the project's outputs (including a regional adaptation framework and toolkit) effectively support community resilience and adaptation planning and are embedded and sustainable across the region.

The Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate provided an important opportunity to hear from community leaders on their own terms. We acknowledge that assemblies that are initiated and led by mana whenua and communities, with the council providing support through funding and/or resources rather than direct leadership, may represent a more authentic model. By positioning regional and local government as an enabler and supporter, rather than the convenor, the voices of the community can be amplified and heard more clearly. We look forward to supporting mana whenua partners and communities should they wish to hold similar assemblies across our region; these are an innovative way of understanding local priorities and incorporating these into our planning processes.

Thank you again for your leadership in bringing the Citizens Assembly to life, and for enabling Greater Wellington to support this important kaupapa. We look forward to further exploring the opportunities presented by the Assembly's recommendations.

Noho ora mai



Daran Ponter
Heamana | Chair



Luke Troy
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive (Acting)

Attachment 1: Summary of GW alignment to Porirua Citizens Assembly Recommendations

Learning to live in Porirua’s changing world together - How do we connect and respond as our climate changes?

Recommendation 1: RANGATAHI – Youth

Intentionally include, enable and empower our rangatahi to set their own kaupapa and participate meaningfully and equitably in design, decision-making and implementation.

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Reestablish a Youth Council to give rangatahi (12-24) power and voice within regional decision making: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCC to fund a Youth Council designed by youth• Good recruitment process in place to make the application to Youth Council fair for all of Porirua• Have two Youth Council seats on PCC that can be filled by any standing member of the Youth Council	Targeting rangatahi through Greater Wellington’s engagement processes (e.g. 2024-34 Long Term Plan consultation process – primary schools were engaged with, early engagement for Regional Land Transport Plan 2027 so far includes targeted workshops with intermediate aged students and is planned to include more students and young people under 18 and similar processes for other plans and projects). Enviroschools programme across the region currently works with ECE to secondary schools supporting young people to learn about and taken action for the environment. Community Facilitators who have the connections with schools and are experienced in working with young people have had some involvement with the engagements above, and the Porirua Facilitator has supported the Assembly’s Rangatahi Rōpū, which has now evolved to ‘Future Unity’. Travel Choice have built a web platform (Kura Kete) to provide a resource for engagement with schools and educators on sustainable transport.
Reinstate and expand tamariki and rangatahi wānanga across a range of ages focused on sustainable practices (e.g. the Mātiti Tamariki wānanga)	
Support the ‘Make It 16’ youth voting campaign	

Recommendation 2: WEAVING PORIRUA TOGETHER – Resilient People Network

To sustain and support the momentum, for courageous, bold and collaborative action by establishing a sustainable network that connects, strengthens, and leverages existing Community-led rūpū (e.g. Porirua Community Leaders Forum).

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Lead innovation for kai, wai and energy sovereignty across our rohe, e.g. food security through widespread community gardens	<p>Enviroschools connects schools and young people to community spaces and groups by facilitating local learning opportunities such as gardening and composting, through to taking action via restoration planting and involvement in council processes.</p> <p>Kaupapa Investment 2024/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Iwi-led Maara Kai ki Takapūwāhia - Kai sovereignty to support building food gardens in homes¹ <p>Co-design and co-delivery of Whaitua (Catchment) planning and implementation – Porirua Harbour Accord</p> <p>Travel Choice – Pedal Ready and school travel programmes (including Movin’ March and Kura Kete) support ways for people to travel without needing a car.</p> <p>Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Regional Food System Plan (useful resource).</p> <p>Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) Regional Project: Co-create and deliver tailored Marae Emergency Response Plan.</p> <p>WREMO explored emergency self-sufficiency options out of tsunami zone including water, food, sanitation, shelter, power, and communications at their ARC (Aitua Response Containers) sites.</p> <p>Mauri Tūhono - Kaipupuri ki te ao Whānui framework implementation includes climate actions.</p>
Develop marae resilience support programmes for current and future marae	
Investigate more ‘marae’ that are fit for purpose (incl. ‘pop up’ marae) to be used in emergencies and in the face of climate change	
Support marae and communities to lead and innovate in emergency response and preparedness	
Collaborate and lead climate action across our rohe with ngā hāpori katoa	
Invest in broader manaaki/support initiatives for the wider community	
Develop focus groups to work on Climate Change initiatives for and with local councils across key stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a Porirua Avengers/Fly-in Squad for action, response, etc. - community-led and driven‘Wakanda’ - connectors (indigenous-led, circular, self-sustaining communities)	
Coordinate a peak body that networks and connects new and existing initiatives	
Establish succession planning to ensure we have climate action leaders	

¹ This is external funding administered by Greater Wellington but is actually DIA funding

Recommendation 3: TE TAI AO – Our Environment

Protect and restore the mauri of our whenua, taonga and our wai, including our waterways, flora and fauna, local food systems, native forests, harbour and shorelines. Initiatives should include collaboration between PCC, community groups, environmental organisations, schools, kura and Ngāti Toa, ensuring a kaitiakitanga approach.

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Integrating traditional ecological knowledge and community-led restoration, Porirua will foster a greener, healthier, more fire-resistant future, while strengthening cultural and environmental connections	Enviroschools and Travel Choice i.e. hands-on catchment demonstrations and delivery of ‘Active Travel Action’ project ² Mauri Tūhono ki te Upoko o te Ika is a collaborative project that has developed a taiao framework for the Wellington region. The Kaipupuri ki te ao Whānui framework implementation supports mana whenua, agencies and community-based initiatives to contribute at every locality, to collectively enhance biodiversity throughout the region, including Porirua, mai uta ki tai, from the mountains to the sea.
Restore waterways & integrate nature-based solutions	Existing Delivery programme focused on maintaining and enhancing Key Native Ecosystem sites around Porirua
Increase resourcing, support and visibility of native afforestation initiatives that focus on restoring indigenous ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and improving environmental resilience, e.g. Ngahere Korowai	Kaupapa Investment 2024/25 -investing in Kaitiaki monitoring and environment restoration with TRoTR, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Whaitua (Catchment) planning and implementation – Porirua Harbour Accord Monitoring and research programme for the Porirua HarbourFish passageRecloaking PapatūānukuWhitireia – pest plant control and operational planning with TRoTR
Investigate opportunities to incentivise private landowners to encourage native afforestation, e.g. carbon credits, regenerative planting for all new developments, converting deforested land into native bush	Spatial planning at Belmont Regional Park with TRoTR Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan Action delivery The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) recognises that the resource management system plays an important role in addressing climate change, and that climate change and the decline of ecosystem health and biodiversity are inseparably intertwined. The primary climate-related objective of the RPS is that the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate resilient region. The RPS also seeks that nature-based solutions are an integral part of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, improving the health, well-being and resilience of people and communities, indigenous biodiversity, and natural and physical resources. ³ The Natural Resources Plan (NRP) for the Wellington Region includes a number of objectives that will aid in the protection and restoration of Te Awarua-o-Porirua. Objectives set will restore the health and function of estuaries and protect sites with significant indigenous biodiversity values, outstanding values and/or sites with significant mana whenua values, of which there are many within Te Awarua-o-Porirua. The NRP also includes a policy framework to achieve these objectives through both regulation (rules) and non-regulation. Plan Change 1 of the NRP (PC1) focuses on freshwater and coastal water quality and ecosystem health and sets objectives to maintain, or where identified, improve water quality and ecosystem health within Te Awarua-o-Porirua. ⁴ GW Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan : Action # 3: Research nature-based solutions to ensure their use is effective in storing carbon and/or increasing resilience to extreme weather events such as storms, flooding and droughts. Prioritise and implement them where appropriate Funding provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">GW Community Environment FundGW Environment Group programmes incentivise landowners to retire land, plant and fence off waterwaysCurrently partnering with PCC riparian programme to offer greater incentives Existing GW restoration programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recloaking Papatūānuku (Regional Parks restoration programme)Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI)

² This has now become the Kura Kete Online Portal / toolkit for schools

³ The RPS includes regulatory and non-regulatory methods such as a long-term freshwater vision for Te Awarua-o-Porirua; identifying nature-based solutions for climate change; support and funding for protecting, enhancing, and restoring indigenous ecosystems and nature-based solutions; and preparing a regional forest spatial plan to support an increase in regional forest cover, identifying the most appropriate areas and types of indigenous forest to prioritise.

⁴ PC1 identifies regulatory and non-regulatory measures to achieve these objectives with specific focus on wastewater, stormwater, rural land use activities, forestry and earthworks.

Recommendation 4: HOW WE ROLL – Approach & Implementation

Develop an evidence-based, community-informed, Iwi-led action plan, ensuring present and intergenerational commitment from everyone with skin in the game in Porirua.

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Establish a Te Tiriti o Waitangi model of governance for Porirua beyond the Harbour Accord	Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) Regional Economic Development Plan 2022-2032. WRLC Regional Adaptation Project. GW Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan . Regional Policy Statement Climate Change Chapter. Greater Wellington’s Significance and Engagement Policy – internal working group looking at improving engagement practices across Greater Wellington. (Links with transport related initiatives listed below).
Investigate improving council engagement with the community requires further in-depth investigation e.g. using Citizens Assemblies to understand the community’s needs and views, and how to increase voter participation in elections as well as genuine representation: Look at past work to improve engagement with communities; e.g. Village Planning, Te Rā Nui etc	
Create incentives (subsidies, rewards etc) for businesses and citizens to support community connectedness, climate resilience, reduced waste and circular economies: incentivise businesses and citizens to provide internships, local employment opportunities, reliable and accessible transport options, more accessible waste management systems (free or subsidised rubbish bags to reduce illegal dumping alongside increased recycling initiatives) and kai and food security initiatives	
Economic analysis of climate adaptation across our rohe	
Bring in additional, accessible communication approaches to share information about community events, council engagement and initiatives	
Have greater transparency in council candidates’ motivations for standing for PCC and better ways to engage with potential council candidates	
Lead the implementation of climate actions with clear strategic alignment to deliver broad outcomes that are mapped out for delivery	
PCC and property developers to include climate planning and environmental assessments (i.e. build for the future/long term - footpaths, cycle ways, planting, drainage, solar power, water storage, keep existing gardens, build up not out).	

Recommendation 5: KNOW MORE DO MORE – Action Through Education and Awareness

Ensuring equitable access to educate ourselves, understand our part to play and to understand, act and connect to te taiao.

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Learn and wānanga with whānau, our own people, and the wider community to raise awareness, build capability and understand our part to play	Enviroschools and Ki Uta Ki Tai. Travel Choice: the Kura Kete Web Portal for schools to access Greater Wellington information that supports travel behaviour change. Amongst other environmental knowledge and insights, Greater Wellington commissions reports which help us understand future climatic changes we are likely to experience in the region. We also undertake a seasonal update for our communities, especially those involved in the primary sector. Greater Wellington commissions a regional emissions inventory for us to understand the sources of our emissions at a district/city and regional level. Wellington Regional Leadership Committee’s Regional Climate Adaptation Plan – Geospatial Resilience Information Tool (GRIT) will provide an online portal to access a range of hazard risk information at both regional and property levels. Kaupapa investment 2024/25: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for community environment work. Community environment fund advice with community groups in Te Awarua-o-Porirua• Support in assessing applications.
Strengthen resourcing and support for life-long environmental education	
Collaborate and understand lessons learned with other iwi and indigenous communities across the world: set up secondments to other iwi and indigenous communities to share learnings and lessons	
Investigate further alternative pathways, such as internships; career skills; cohesive local curriculum; emphasise indigenous views and practices; integrated civics studies	
Run kura reo focused on taiao and climate change	
Setup monitoring and evaluation of investment and achievement in environmental education to demonstrate progress	

Recommendation 6: HOW STUFF WORKS – Resilient Infrastructure

Ensure water, waste, energy, health and transport infrastructure and its management are equitable and optimal for our people and our place through indigenous and local innovation and solutions. Embed tikanga Māori & equity in planning.

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Water: Fix the wastewater discharge into the harbour and ensure wastewater does not damage the environment: Improve stormwater management; Implement sponge city design	Regional Policy Statement Climate Change Chapter includes a focus on climate responsive development such as managing the effects of stormwater runoff on freshwater ecosystem health. Natural Resources Plan includes provisions which require network utility operators to obtain resource consent for discharges from wastewater and stormwater networks and work towards objectives that seek to improve water quality within Te Awarua-o-Porirua. Harbour Accord Action Plan has a key focus on reducing contaminants and pollutants with Wellington Water Limited (WWL) as partner. Existing programmes like WWL “Know your pipes” targets cross connections. Greater Wellington’s 30-year Infrastructure Strategy reflects Greater Wellington’s role in enabling a low carbon and climate resilient region. This involves managing \$2.2 billion of assets in water supply, and flood resilience.
Water: Invest in energy efficient water capture and processing (investigate water neutrality)	
Water: Invest in water solutions at a hyper-local level, support distributed water supply, e.g. water tanks in homes. Ensure fairness and equity in distributing water tanks, with a focus on the most vulnerable and/or at risk first	
Water: Invest in hyper-local septic tanks to prevent overflows and breakdowns	
Water: Ensure equity so that no one is left behind (e.g. incl. water security in Healthy Home Standards and local resource management, i.e. all Kainga Ora homes to have water tanks, all new builds and new developments to have water tanks	
Water: Investigate further into what is required to make Porirua self-sufficient re. water security, i.e. local reservoirs, scaled up community tanks, house-hold tanks etc	
Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Waste: Make the waste management of Porirua easy, accessible, affordable and environmentally friendly: Communicate a clear visual system of waste disposal, particularly for hard-to-dispose-of items (e.g. tyres, batteries); Subsidised or free rubbish bags for low-income communities alongside education and initiatives to encourage waste minimisation (with a vision to phase out single use plastics)	Enviroschools is beginning a contract with PCC to increase the delivery of Waste education in Porirua schools and ECE. The Regional Policy Statement includes waste-related policies including supporting and encouraging efficient use and conservation of resources; and promoting and assisting actions on information about waste management.
Waste: Encourage green waste and composting to keep this away from landfills - integrated into community gardens	
Waste: Follow the 5 R principles: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Responsibility	
Waste: Have a vision to phase out single use plastics: More accessible recycling centres in Porirua; Promote corporate responsibility and citizen behaviour in relation to Porirua’s changing climate; Manufacturer responsibility for disposal of waste	

Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Energy: Develop and expand renewable energy access, resilience and community energy initiatives: increase solar panel and wind turbine installations in homes and community spaces; support shared solar and battery storage systems in neighbourhoods to create hyper-local resilience	<p>Greater Wellington’s Energy Transformation Initiative – looking at options for Greater Wellington to secure supplies of renewable electricity from new generation assets (such as solar farms) to meet its current and future electricity needs.</p> <p>The Regional Policy Statement includes a range of energy-related policies including recognising benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure; promoting efficient use of water and energy in buildings and infrastructure; recognising benefits from renewable energy; increasing the proportion of energy generated and used from renewable sources; and promoting and enabling ... small scale and community scale renewable energy generation.</p>
Energy: Ensure renters benefit: implement policies requiring landlords to provide energy-efficient housing	
Energy: Provide financial support for energy security and resilience: offer grants, subsidies, and incentives	
Sub-recommendation Actions	Active programmes Greater Wellington is pursuing that support the Assembly recommendations
Transport: Encourage the use of public transport with improved ‘last-mile’ connectivity (e.g. community bike share, portal for carpooling), improved parking at train stations, better local bus connections, and on-demand buses, and investigating what people need	<p>Travel Choice programme.</p> <p>Regional Land Transport Plan.</p> <p>Metlink:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Public Transport Plan • Accessibility Action Plan • Asset Control Strategy • Decarbonisation of the Bus Fleet. <p>Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC) Future Development Strategy – contains spatial guidance on where growth should happen and what infrastructure would be required to be more efficient and effective.</p> <p>WRLC Regional Climate Emissions Reduction Plan</p> <p>Wellington Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway.</p> <p>The Climate Change chapter of the Regional Policy Statement addresses many of these recommendations including reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions associated with transport demand and infrastructure; ensuring that built environments include integrated transport infrastructure and active transport access; establishing incentives to shift to low and zero-carbon multi-modal transport including public transport and active modes; promoting the decarbonisation of the public transport vehicle fleet through the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP); advocating for the use of transport pricing tools; promoting travel choice assessment and local thresholds in district plans; and promoting affordable high quality active mode and public transport services through the RLTP.</p> <p>Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan Action #4 Implement the Wellington Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway, RLTP and Regional Public Transport Plan... to reduce dependence on private vehicles and reduce transport-related emissions.</p> <p>Organisational Climate Emergency Action Plan Action #5 Electrify the entire Public Transport system as rapidly as is feasible, including buses, trains, ferries, and shuttles. Achieve an all-electric bus fleet by 2035.</p>
Transport: Support the transition of mass transport to renewable energy e.g. electric buses	
Transport: Accelerate the transition to using mass transport through better and cheaper public transport that is universally accessible (including disability accessible)	
Transport: Create realistic action plan to reduce carbon emissions	