



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 13 February 2020, 9.30am

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Hughes

Cr Laban

Cr Lee

Cr Ponter

Cr van Lier

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Brash

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Lamason

Cr Nash

Cr Staples

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Environment Committee

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Environment Committee
13 February 2020
Report 20.20



For Decision

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To outline Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) existing informal 'strategic framework' as context to enable the Environment Committee (the Committee) to determine its strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Notes** the existing informal 'strategic framework' outlined in the Committee's terms of reference; existing strategies and plans; and emerging direction from a range of developing strategic documents and feedback from the Whaitua committees.
- 2 **Considers** the proposed strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium (paragraph 32).
- 3 **Agrees to either:**
 - a Option One - Outcomes Focus (paragraphs 32 and 33) *or*
 - b Option Two - Activity Focus (paragraph 34 and 35).
- 4 **Notes** that key performance measures relating to the agreed strategic priorities will be developed and reported to the Committee for approval at its meeting on 7 May 2020.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The following outlines the current strategic context for the matters within the scope of the Committee's terms of reference.

Committee's terms of reference

3. The Committee's terms of reference were adopted on 12 December 2019 (Committee and advisory body terms of reference and delegations for the 2019-22 triennium - Report 19.504). The Committee's purpose is:

To oversee the development, implementation and review of Council's:

- a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives to address environmental issues in the region (including issues in the areas of land management, regional natural resources, river control, flood protection, regional parks and reserves, coastal marine environment, maritime navigation and safety, biosecurity and biodiversity)
 - b Regional resilience priorities in the delivery of plans, programmes, initiatives and activities for flood protection and regional parks and forests
 - c Regulatory systems, processes and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities.
4. The Committee's specific responsibilities also include "periodic review of the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives; and regional resilience priorities."

Greater Wellington's environmental work programme

5. Within the Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) current environmental work programme, we enrich lives by:
- Connecting people with healthy natural places
 - Enhancing and maintaining community resilience through management of natural hazards, providing for our regional parks and forests and safe harbours
 - Empowering communities to contribute to and improve our environment while also using the resources within it.
6. The vision is for catchments to be healthy, our environmental risks – including natural hazards and environmental quality – well managed, and our land to be sustainably used for community and environmental wellbeing. Much of this work is done in conjunction with partners, local communities, and with significant input from mana whenua.

National framework

7. Section 10(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) states that the purpose of local government is "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future." There are many other Acts that relate to how we manage environmental issues within the region, meaning the legislative framework is complex and not always clear.
8. Regional councils are charged with the integrated management of the natural and physical resources of a region, and Greater Wellington has legislative requirements which guide its work. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides for the

sustainable management of natural resources. Section 30 of the RMA ([Attachment 1](#)) provides direction on the related functions of regional councils.

9. The 2011 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management also directs regional councils to set regional targets to improve the quality of fresh water so they are suitable for a range of community values including cultural use, ecosystem health, and primary recreational contact. Greater Wellington's community-based Whaitua programme is charged with developing and delivering environmental limits and targets for both water quantity and water quality through Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIPs). Whaitua committees are responsible for developing WIPs together with their communities. These committees are made up of local community members, iwi representatives, local authority representatives, and Greater Wellington representatives. Greater Wellington is now working to establish a Kāpiti Coast Whaitua and a Wairarapa Eastern Hills Whaitua. We anticipate the Whaitua programme will continue over the next five years.

Obligations to Māori

Statutory obligations

10. Several pieces of legislation direct central and local government agencies to implement the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The LGA gives local authorities responsibility for taking an informed and long-term approach to how decision making can benefit the economic, social, cultural and environmental (Taiao) well-being of Māori.
11. Local authorities need to plan ahead for increasing Māori contributions to decision making. Having strategies to help build Māori capacity to participate in council processes (clause 8 of Schedule 10 to the LGA) should therefore be fostered at all times.
12. Council has obligations under the RMA to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The RMA provisions include recognising and having regard for the relationship Māori have with land, water, sites of cultural significance, kaitiakitanga, and iwi management plans. An IMP is a written statement identifying important issues regarding the use of natural and physical resources in the iwi authority's area. Greater Wellington recognises and honours iwi management plans (IMPs). IMPs must be taken into account when preparing or changing regional policy statements and plans (Section 61 of the RMA).

Non-statutory obligations

13. Māori have a wealth of knowledge about the cultural, natural, physical and social environment and are key players in regional economic development. There will be many occasions where input from Māori will inform and enrich Greater Wellington's work. Aside from the Treaty of Waitangi and legislative context, there are compelling reasons for local government and Māori to work together.
14. Council works on a wide range of policy and planning issues that may require some form of Māori and or iwi engagement. We engage with Māori and iwi organisations because of the importance they hold within the regional community (either by population size, or as landowners, water and natural resource managers and users,

resource developers or business owners). In all cases, Council is committed to growing its partnership with Māori through considered collaborative engagement as befitting a true partner. Understanding our obligations provides the foundations for effective relationships.

15. Since 1993, Council and the six mana whenua of the Wellington region have built a partnership that is focused on matters of mutual interest. As we move into the next phase of this partnership, it is important to constantly identify and work towards best practice outcomes that ensure we build effective relationships with Māori in meeting our statutory obligations
16. Our partnerships and relationships enable Council to work effectively with mana whenua across the broad range of our activities across the region. Mana whenua are particularly interested and engaged in all of our environmental work.

Other direction relating to the Environment Committee

17. The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act of 1941 enables Council to meet its resilience objectives through undertaking and maintaining flood and erosion control works within the region and managing soils on the land.
18. The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for the Wellington Region sets out the framework and priorities for resource management. The RMA requires all regional councils to produce an RPS for their region and review it every 10 years. The Wellington Region RPS sets out how we will manage our land, air, water, soil, minerals, energy and ecosystems in a way that meets the classic definition of “sustainable” – providing for the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
19. The Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) sets out the objectives, policies and methods for people and organisations that use the region’s resources for a variety of purposes. The PNRP will provide rules and policies around various areas such as air quality, soil conservation, water allocation, water quality, wetlands and biodiversity, coastal management and natural hazards.
20. Development of the PNRP was informed by the review of the five existing regional plans (Regional Coastal Plan, Regional Air Quality Management Plan, Regional Freshwater Plan, Regional Plan for Discharges to Land, and Regional Soil Plan). In time, the PNRP will replace these plans and provide a more integrated set of objectives and policies. At this point, the PNRP is going through the appeals process via formal mediation and court hearings.
21. The RMA provides that Greater Wellington has responsibilities to manage biodiversity by controlling the adverse effects of stated activities. The Wellington RPS sets the policies and methods to manage biodiversity through regional and district plans. Greater Wellington’s Biodiversity Strategy, management plans and programmes aim to protect areas with high biodiversity values across the region as well as restore ecosystems in degraded areas, where possible. Greater Wellington also manages public land, particularly regional parks, many of which are important for their native biodiversity values.

22. Regional councils have the responsibilities stated in section 13 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 ([Attachment 2](#)). Greater Wellington's Regional Pest Management Plan provides a strategic framework for managing selected pest animal and pest plant species in the Wellington region to minimise the actual and potential adverse and unintended effects of pests on the environment, economy and the community. The pest control activities in Greater Wellington's Parks and Key Native Ecosystems within water catchment areas contribute significantly to our ability to ensure high quality water supply to the Wellington metropolitan areas of the region. Also, landscape scale possum and predator control within the Regional Possum Predator Control Programme, Key Native Ecosystem and Territorial Authority Reserves programmes maintain and enhance the ability of native and primary production forest ecosystems to sequester CO₂ and mitigate greenhouse gas impacts on climate change.
23. As many areas of our regional parks are held as reserves, Greater Wellington is required to develop reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977. Greater Wellington's Parks Network Plan provides the strategic direction, policies and rules for the management of our regional parks and forests.

Emerging direction relating to the Environment Committee

24. The Government has a large work programme underway to overhaul existing environmental legislation. This changing legislative framework is a challenge and an opportunity for this Committee and Greater Wellington. There are a number of recent legislative reforms that have either been adopted or are still in progress, including freshwater, biodiversity, and urban development reforms, the comprehensive review of the RMA, and the adoption of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.
25. Engagement with our communities and mana whenua has shown significantly changing expectations. These groups are asking for more swimmable rivers and coastal areas, clean, safe drinking water, efficient use of water, and actions to mitigate against climate change. They are also demanding this action occur in shorter timeframes, but without significant rates increases. These expectations create opportunities to make progress on key environmental goals, however challenges in doing so within current funding limitations. Greater Wellington is developing new partnerships with communities, mana whenua, and not-for-profit organisations to accelerate progress in these areas.

Emerging projects

26. Greater Wellington will engage with the Committee on the following emerging projects during the 2019-22 triennium:
 - **Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework:** Greater Wellington is currently partnering with agencies, mana whenua, non-government organisations, community groups, and industry groups to develop the Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework (the Framework). The Framework will look at voluntary approaches to supporting biodiversity and also acknowledge related policies and regulations.

- **Parks Network Plan:** The Parks Network Plan (PNP) is currently being updated and should be consulted on and adopted in 2020. The PNP is a combined plan for eight of Wellington's regional parks and forests. It provides directions for the use and management of parks under the Reserves Act 1977. In December 2018, the Environment Committee endorsed the following strategic direction for the updated plan:
 - Environment restoration and phasing out farming in parks except Battle Hill, which has farming education activities as part of its purpose
 - Responding to climate change and using parks as a natural solution
 - Improving public access to and within parks
 - Working collaboratively and enabling mana whenua partners and community to achieve greater benefits from parks and adopting a catchment wide approach.
- **Flood Management Plans (FMP):** Greater Wellington works with communities to manage flood risks from rivers and streams. It does this through floodplain management planning that results in a long-term strategy for managing flood risk and improve the security and quality of life for present and future generations living on a floodplain. We are close to completing a FMP, in unison with the Greytown community, for the Waiohine River. The next related area of focus will be in the Lower Ruamāhanga, which will require a new FMP to manage flood risk before resource consents expire in 2027. We will also focus on the Waiwhetu Catchment in the Hutt Valley. The existing development in the lower catchment is exposed to a significant flood risk now, and sea level rise and more frequent flooding as a result of climate change will exacerbate the problem.
- **Maintaining flood protection infrastructure:** The LGA and the Soil Conservation and River Control Act 1941 require Greater Wellington to maintain its \$350 million of flood protection assets to meet the levels of service defined in the FMPs. Additional resources will be required to maintain these assets to meet those levels of service, the new rules in the PNRP, and the recommendations from the respective Whaitua.
- **Proposed Natural Resources Plan:** The PNRP is now entering the appeals phase of its approval, where any person who made a submission may appeal the Council's decisions to the Environment Court. The first phase is a mediation process designed to resolve issues by finding alternative approaches that represent compromises between Greater Wellington and appellants. The second phase will be formal court hearings on matters not resolved through mediation. The appeals are anticipated to take between two to four years to complete.
- **Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIP):** Whaitua committees are responsible for developing WIPs together with their communities. A WIP describes the ways in which the people from that catchment want to manage their land and water, which affects everyone in the region, urban and rural areas alike. Greater Wellington is currently working on Te Whanganui-a-tara Whaitua (Wellington Harbour and Hutt), and will be looking to establish Whaitua in the

Kapiti and Wairarapa Eastern Hills areas. The next step for implementation will be to evaluate the resources required to implement the WIP recommendations of the currently completed Whaitua (Ruamāhanga and Porirua) as well as the recommendations in the PNRP and determine the priorities and rates of implementation. We will also determine how we implement WIPs alongside mana whenua, local communities and other organisations.

- **One Billion Trees programme:** The One Billion Trees programme is a ten-year investment plan, and one of three investment tiers of the Government's Provincial Growth Fund. This programme aims to enhance economic development opportunities, create sustainable jobs, enable Māori to reach their full potential, boost social inclusion and participation, build resilient communities, and help meet New Zealand's climate change targets. Greater Wellington is applying for a One Billion Tree Partnership Grant to implement a riparian management programme in the Wellington Region.
- **Riverlink project:** The Riverlink project is a key part of the Hutt River's flood protection infrastructure. Three agencies (Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council and the NZ Transport Agency) are partnering to integrate city urban design, transport improvements, and flood protection. The flood protection work has provided the opportunity to revitalise the city centre and the adjoining river space. The Riverlink project completes the improvement of a significant portion of Hutt City Centre flood protection outlined in the Hutt FMP. The next area of improvement following the completion of Riverlink will be the section from Ava Rail Bridge to the sea.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Determining strategic priorities

27. In determining its strategic priorities, the Committee should give consideration to:
 - a Its terms of reference and areas of responsibility
 - b Existing strategies, plans and policies
 - c Emerging direction from the PNRP, developing strategic documents like the Parks Network Plan and the Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework, and feedback from the Whaitua committees.

These matters are explained in the Context section of this report (see above).

28. At present, there is an extensive, but not necessarily cohesive, 'strategic framework' covering the Committee's areas of responsibility. Many of the current and developing strategies and plans have a statutory basis and were/are being developed through public consultation.
29. We suggest that the Committee's strategic priorities represent focus areas for the 2019-22 triennium. These priorities are not intended to be exhaustive and can be adjusted by the Committee as required. To achieve the desired focus, it would be advantageous to have a smaller number of strategic priorities rather than a long list that repeats the existing 'strategic framework'.

30. Officers propose that a report against the agreed strategic priorities (and related key performance indicators) be presented at each Committee meeting. This will enable members to judge progress and to provide direction on the desired focus, as required.

Nga kōwhiringa

Options

31. The strategic priorities could be framed in a number of different ways, with two options outlined below. Each of these options provide the opportunity for key performance indicators to be developed to measure progress.

Option One - Outcome Focus

32. Greater Wellington has been working toward taking a more holistic and integrated approach to improving environmental outcomes at a catchment level. The following strategic priorities could be considered:
 - a The quality of the fresh water in our rivers, lakes and streams
 - b The ecological condition of identified high biodiversity value sites
 - c Our systems and infrastructure are resilient to adverse events.
33. This option reflects the Te Ao Māori view that everything is connected, and it aligns with much of the work we have been doing to date with programmes such as Whaitua. Mātauranga Māori and the traditional knowledge of our mana whenua partners should be integrated in the development of outcome descriptions and measures.

Option Two - Activity Focus

34. This approach would see the focus of the Committee being to oversee and input into various activities and outputs, rather than outcomes. This could include:
 - Whaitua implementation programmes
 - Confirming opportunities for the region under the One Billion Trees programme alongside Te Uru Rākau, and other central government funding streams
 - Development and adoption of River Plans / FMPs for the Waiohine River, the Lower Ruamāhanga River and the Waiwhetū Stream
 - Completion of the Flood Protection works included in the Riverlink Project
 - Consideration, consultation and adoption of the Parks Network Plan and the development of master plans
35. The Committee would still be able to input into the above activities if Option One is chosen. However, in Option Two, overseeing these initiatives will be the main focus for the Committee.
36. Officers recommend Option One, as it would provide clarity on the outcomes desired from the various activities underway in Greater Wellington. This option would provide the public with a clear and succinct statement, against which progress can be measured. It would also provide direction to officers on the framing and

implementation of activities to maximise their contribution towards meeting the desired outcomes.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

37. There are no direct financial implications arising from the matters for decision. Financial implications will be assessed as individual project/initiative decisions are considered.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

38. The matters for decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington's Climate Change Consideration Guide.

Mitigation and adaptation assessments

39. Officers have considered the effect of these matters on the climate. Officers consider that the matters will have no effect and there is no need to conduct climate change assessments.

Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process

40. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te hiranga Significance

41. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of these matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that these matters are of low significance, as consultation and engagement on these matters are forthcoming in developing the 2021-31 Greater Wellington Long Term Plan.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

42. No engagement was undertaken with the community or stakeholders on the Committee's proposed strategic priorities. Greater Wellington will undertake future engagement and consultation through its development of various supporting strategies, policies and plans, such as the Parks Network Plan.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

43. Following this officers will develop suitable performance measures to measure progress over-time – this will be reported back to the Committee at its meeting on 7 May 2020.
44. Each subsequent meeting of the Committee will include a report on progress against the agreed strategic priorities and related performance measures.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Section 30 of the Resource Management Act 1991
2	Section 13 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Jake Gilmer, Senior Strategic Advisor Tracy Plane, Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning
Approvers	Al Cross, General Manager Environment Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference</i> The proposed strategic priorities address the Committee's purpose, as outlined in paragraph 2, and its terms of reference.
<i>Implications for Māori</i> The proposed strategic priorities could promote stronger partnerships with mana whenua and greater integration of Mātauranga Māori.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The relevant key strategies, plans and policies are outlined in the Context section.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The General Managers of the Environment and Catchment Management Groups were consulted in preparing this report.
<i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no identified risks relating to the matters for decision.

Section 30 of the Resource Management Act 1991

30 Functions of regional councils under this Act

- (1) Every regional council shall have the following functions for the purpose of giving effect to this Act in its region:
- (a) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region:
 - (b) the preparation of objectives and policies in relation to any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land which are of regional significance:
 - (ba) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to ensure that there is sufficient development capacity in relation to housing and business land to meet the expected demands of the region:
 - (c) the control of the use of land for the purpose of—
 - (i) soil conservation:
 - (ii) the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of water in water bodies and coastal water:
 - (iii) the maintenance of the quantity of water in water bodies and coastal water:
 - (iiia) the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems in water bodies and coastal water:
 - (iv) the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards:
 - (ca) the investigation of land for the purposes of identifying and monitoring contaminated land:
 - (d) in respect of any coastal marine area in the region, the control (in conjunction with the Minister of Conservation) of—
 - (i) land and associated natural and physical resources:
 - (ii) the occupation of space in, and the extraction of sand, shingle, shell, or other natural material from, the coastal marine area, to the extent that it is within the common marine and coastal area:
 - (iii) the taking, use, damming, and diversion of water:
 - (iv) discharges of contaminants into or onto land, air, or water and discharges of water into water:
 - (iva) the dumping and incineration of waste or other matter and the dumping of ships, aircraft, and offshore installations:
 - (v) any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards:
 - (vi) the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise:
 - (vii) activities in relation to the surface of water:
 - (e) the control of the taking, use, damming, and diversion of water, and the control of the quantity, level, and flow of water in any water body, including—
 - (i) the setting of any maximum or minimum levels or flows of water:
 - (ii) the control of the range, or rate of change, of levels or flows of water:

Attachment 1 to Report 20.20

Section 30 of the Resource Management Act 1991

- (iii) the control of the taking or use of geothermal energy:
 - (f) the control of discharges of contaminants into or onto land, air, or water and discharges of water into water:
 - (fa) if appropriate, the establishment of rules in a regional plan to allocate any of the following:
 - (i) the taking or use of water (other than open coastal water):
 - (ii) the taking or use of heat or energy from water (other than open coastal water):
 - (iii) the taking or use of heat or energy from the material surrounding geothermal water:
 - (iv) the capacity of air or water to assimilate a discharge of a contaminant:
 - (fb) if appropriate, and in conjunction with the Minister of Conservation,—
 - (v) the establishment of rules in a regional coastal plan to allocate the taking or use of heat or energy from open coastal water:
 - (ii) the establishment of a rule in a regional coastal plan to allocate space in a coastal marine area under Part 7A:
 - (g) in relation to any bed of a water body, the control of the introduction or planting of any plant in, on, or under that land, for the purpose of—
 - (i) soil conservation:
 - (ii) the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of water in that water body:
 - (vi) the maintenance of the quantity of water in that water body:
 - (vii) the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards:
 - (ga) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity:
 - (gb) the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use through objectives, policies, and methods:
 - (h) any other functions specified in this Act.
- (2) A regional council and the Minister of Conservation must not perform the functions specified in subsection (1)(d)(i), (ii), and (vii) to control the taking, allocation or enhancement of fisheries resources for the purpose of managing fishing or fisheries resources controlled under the Fisheries Act 1996.
- (3) However, a regional council and the Minister of Conservation may perform the functions specified in subsection (1)(d) to control aquaculture activities for the purpose of avoiding, remedying, or mitigating the effects of aquaculture activities on fishing and fisheries resources.
- (4) A rule to allocate a natural resource established by a regional council in a plan under subsection (1)(fa) or (fb) may allocate the resource in any way, subject to the following:
- (a) the rule may not, during the term of an existing resource consent, allocate the amount of a resource that has already been allocated to the consent; and
 - (b) nothing in paragraph (a) affects section 68(7); and
 - (c) the rule may allocate the resource in anticipation of the expiry of existing consents; and

Attachment 1 to Report 20.20

Section 30 of the Resource Management Act 1991

- (d) in allocating the resource in anticipation of the expiry of existing consents, the rule may—
 - (i) allocate all of the resource used for an activity to the same type of activity; or
 - (ii) allocate some of the resource used for an activity to the same type of activity and the rest of the resource to any other type of activity or no type of activity; and
 - (e) the rule may allocate the resource among competing types of activities; and
 - (f) the rule may allocate water, or heat or energy from water, as long as the allocation does not affect the activities authorised by section 14(3)(b) to (e).
- (5) In this section and section 31,—

business land means land that is zoned for business use in an urban environment, including, for example, land in the following zones:

- (a) business and business parks:
- (b) centres, to the extent that this zone allows business uses:
- (c) commercial:
- (d) industrial:
- (e) mixed use, to the extent that this zone allows business uses:
- (f) retail

development capacity, in relation to housing and business land in urban areas, means the capacity of land for urban development, based on—

- (a) the zoning, objectives, policies, rules, and overlays that apply to the land under the relevant proposed and operative regional policy statements, regional plans, and district plans; and
- (b) the capacity required to meet—
 - (i) the expected short and medium term requirements; and
 - (ii) the long term requirements; and
- (c) the provision of adequate development infrastructure to support the development of the land

development infrastructure means the network infrastructure for—

- (a) water supply, wastewater, and storm water; and
- (b) to the extent that it is controlled by local authorities, land transport as defined in section 5(1) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Section 13 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

13 Powers of regional councils

- (1) Every regional council has, in relation to its region, power to—
 - (a) cause to be carried out, for the purposes of Part 5,—
 - (i) monitoring to determine whether or not pests, pest agents, and unwanted organisms are present; and
 - (ii) surveillance of pests, pest agents, and unwanted organisms:
 - (b) provide, in accordance with relevant pest management plans, for the assessment and eradication or management of pests:
 - (c) prepare proposals for, make, and implement regional pest management plans and regional pathway management plans:
 - (d) appoint a management agency for a plan under section 100(4):
 - (e) disallow an operational plan or part of it under section 100B(4):
 - (f) review, amend, revoke and replace, or revoke a plan under section 100D:
 - (fa) declare and implement small-scale management programmes:
 - (g) gather information, keep records, undertake research, or do any other similar thing, if doing so is necessary or desirable to enable it to act effectively under this Act:
 - (h) take any action contemplated by or necessary for giving effect to any provision of this Act.
- (2) Regional councils have all the powers of territorial authorities set out in section 14.

Environment Committee
13 February 2020
Report 20.25



For Information

REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) about a Greater Wellington-funded project to develop a Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework by June 2021. This project is referenced in the Strategic Priorities for the Environment Committee report (Report 20.20) that you will consider at this meeting.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington), mana whenua partners and the Department of Conservation have formed a partnership to better coordinate efforts and achieve gains for biodiversity conservation in the Wellington region. The key outcome of the related project is a Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework (the Framework). A Collaborative Working Group (CWG), appointed by the project partners, is developing the non-statutory Framework. The 16 CWG members bring the perspectives of local authorities, community groups, non-government organisations, and industry groups.
3. The initiative arose from Greater Wellington recognising that the recent growth in efforts to restore regional biodiversity could be assisted by a shared regional approach. We were inspired by similar successful initiatives in Taranaki and Hawkes Bay. The project will also help Greater Wellington to prepare for requirements and strategies that are being proposed by central government – the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the forthcoming New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.
4. The project began in April 2018, with the community confirming a need for the Framework during public workshops in 2018. A completed Framework is due by June 2021.

Project design and progress

5. The independently co-chaired CWG was established in May 2019. The 16 members of the CWG reflect many of the variety of values held by our region's community that protect and enhance biodiversity (see [Attachment 1](#) for the CWG members' biographies).

6. The CWG is determining what the specific outputs will be. The Framework is expected to include a shared vision for biodiversity work in the region and proposals for initiatives that could contribute directly to improving how all the various parties involved manage biodiversity. These initiatives could include ways to improve communication and information sharing, funding, advice for conservation groups and relationships between agencies and the wider community.
7. A Māori worldview is shaping how the Framework is developed. The process is being guided by an Ohu (Māori advisory group) appointed by Greater Wellington's Ara Tahī leadership forum. In line with the partnership approach, the CWG is co-chaired with one co-chair appointed by mana whenua group members.
8. The CWG has developed an initial conceptual framework. Over the next few months, it will investigate options for potential initiatives. Every month the CWG will meet in a different location around the region and test its ideas by connecting to local people who are active in conservation.
9. The CWG will be adopting a te reo Māori name for itself and the Framework. We expect these names will be tested with the Ara Tahī leadership forum at its meeting on 19 February 2020.

Funding and governance

10. Greater Wellington is funding the CWG until June 2021, when the Framework is due for completion. The Department of Conservation is also committing staff time. The CWG is likely to seek support, including further funding, from Greater Wellington and other entities to assist with implementing the Framework. We expect that, once implementation has begun, this Framework will contribute to achieving any biodiversity-related priorities that the Environment Committee chooses to set (to be discussed on 13 February 2020 in the report on Strategic Priorities for the Environment Committee (Report 20.20)).
11. Ali Caddy (Team Leader, Biodiversity Strategy and Advice), is Greater Wellington's representative on the CWG. The CWG is self-governing and does not report to any higher committee or governing body. The CWG will approve the Framework after seeking the support of the key governing bodies, including Greater Wellington, and agencies and organisations in the region who have an interest in how the Framework is implemented.

Relationship to national-level processes

12. The Framework and the formation of the CWG will provide a good platform for Greater Wellington to respond to expected central government proposals for changed requirements and strategies for local authorities. This is because the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Document (2019) and the draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) - a statutory policy document under the Resource Management Act 1991 - both signal the need for regional councils to initiate inclusive and collaborative processes to support the prioritisation and delivery of biodiversity work. The formation of the CWG means that Greater Wellington has already begun one of the processes we expect regional councils will be required to implement. You will be discussing the detail of requirements of the NPSIB at the workshop on 13 February 2020.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

13. The co-chairs of the Collaborative Working Group, Sharlene Maoate-Davis and Quentin Duthie, would like to introduce themselves to the Environment Committee at the meeting and discuss the project. They intend providing an overview of what the CWG has done to date, the processes that are being used and the expected direction of the work over 2020. The co-chairs would also appreciate your feedback on the work completed to date and the future work programme.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Collaborative Working Group members' biographies

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Ali Caddy, Team Leader, Biodiversity Strategy and Advice
Approver	Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Group

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference</i> The Committee's specific responsibilities include considering regional development for their implications for the Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives, and reviewing progress with the development of non-regulatory proposals.
<i>Implications for Māori</i> There are no implications for Māori from this report.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The Regional Biodiversity Framework will help to implement the Environment Committee's strategic priorities that relate to biodiversity.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Biodiversity team was consulted in developing this report. As the CWG develops the Framework, further input will be sought from Greater Wellington's other departments.
<i>Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no risks and impacts arising from this report.

Collaborative Working Group members' biographies

	<p>Sharlene Maoate-Davis (Co-chair) Ngāti Wehiwehi, Ngāti Huia, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngai Tahu, Taranaki, Te Ātiawa</p> <p>Sharlene has been working as a Maori consultant and facilitator since 2002. Born in her tribal home of Kāpiti, Sharlene has worked across sectors in Iwi and Māori health, education and social services. She has worked in professional development as a cultural supervisor, designed and trained thousands of whānau, hapū, iwi and community practitioners.</p> <p>Sharlene is also an experienced Rongoā practitioner, having managed a Rongoā service in the tribal heart of Waikanae since 2014-2016. Since 2017 she has been instrumental in delivering the Certificate in Rongoā Māori Appreciation. She co-designed and currently delivers a new Diploma in Rongoā for Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. She recently co-founded an iwi Rongoā collective now offering services across the A.R.T Confederation.</p> <p>As co-chair, Sharlene is committed to embedding mātauranga and tikanga-a-iwi in the approaches and practices being implemented throughout the development and implementation of the Bio-Diversity framework. She especially looks forward to the collaborative nature of this region-wide project, and the potential to leave an indelible imprint for the generations to come.</p>
	<p>Quentin Duthie (Co-chair)</p> <p>Quentin lives with his young family in the Belmont Hills, Lower Hutt, nestled between Puke Ariki and Te Awakairangi. A Pākehā of Scottish, Irish and English descent, his forbears first arrived in the Hutt Valley in 1840. He grew up in Central Hawkes Bay, and went on to complete a Master of New Zealand Studies from Victoria University of Wellington.</p> <p>He has worked in environmental policy since 2005, as an assistant, researcher and adviser to Green Party Members of Parliament, a conservation advocate for Forest and Bird, and a director of Policy and Research with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Today he is a self-employed stay-home parent providing independent advice on a range of environmental topics to his clients.</p> <p>His family is focused on caring for the environment, enjoying the outdoors, connecting to history and whakapapa, and increasing its use of te reo Māori. He sees the Biodiversity Framework project as a journey where he can apply his experience and values, listen and learn from others, and be part of developing a vision that enhances the mana of the whenua, the tangata whenua, and the whole community.</p>

	<p>Paul Blaschke</p> <p>Dr Paul Blaschke is an independent environmental consultant and teacher. He was born in Wellington, and lives in South Wellington where he is active in several local restoration and community groups. With a background in ecological survey and research, Paul has long experience in environmental policy, planning and management in the public and private sectors. He has worked on the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and many aspects of conservation, biodiversity and sustainable land management policies, and recently been most active in applied urban ecology management. He currently teaches environmental studies at Victoria University of Wellington and has also taught environmental health to public health students.</p> <p>Paul comments: "I'm excited to be working with the co-chairs and all members of the Working Group. Between us we have many years of working experience, science and mātauranga knowledge in all parts of our environment. I think we can play an important role in joining up the biodiversity effort around the whole region and integrating biodiversity thinking into all aspects of the society-wide response needed to address the urgent climate change and other environmental issues facing us".</p>
	<p>Zoe Studd</p> <p>Zoe grew up in Ngaio, and now lives in Titahi Bay. Her passion is connecting people to the environment, and she does that daily in her work primarily with young people. She thinks Wellington is in a great position to lead a change in the way we think and act in, with and for our environment. But, we have a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead. However – it is not a job for the youth of today to sort out the problems we have created and inherited. It's ours. Her hope is this group will take some big steps towards toward this work.</p> <p>Zoe's work and studies have always been connected to the marine environment - firstly as a dive instructor in Kaikoura and Samoa, and through her studies in marine environmental science in Australia. This led to work with the Ministry for the Environment on Oceans Policy and Climate Change, and then with Victoria Government on a large scale marine mapping project. She took a career side path into education in 2010 and worked briefly as a classroom teacher - but quickly moved into outdoor environmental education, and for the better part of the past 6 years has managed and delivered marine and freshwater education programmes, restoration support and citizen science endeavours.</p> <p>She is now the director of the Mountains to Sea Wellington Trust. The team work across the Greater Wellington region with schools, community groups and many other partner organisations to help inspire kaitiakitanga for our rivers, harbours and coasts.</p>

	<p>Barry Wards</p> <p>Barry is originally from a sheep and cattle farm at Kelso in West Otago and now lives in Upper Hutt.</p> <p>He has had a love of nature and of the NZ's natural environment for as long as he can remember. Since walking the North Island section of the Te Araroa Trail earlier this year with his wife, he has become even more connected to places and people, further realising that the natural world's benefits to our condition and health will be irrelevant if we continue to destroy the nature around us. But that destruction is assured without a human reconnection to nature. Like Te Araroa – the Long Pathway, sustaining the forests and rivers of Tane and the oceans of Tangaroa will also be a Long Pathway, one that he wants to walk.</p> <p>Barry has a strong desire to protect nature, not because he has to but because he wants to. He wishes to assist tangata whenua in fulfilling their tino rangatiratanga and kaitiaki roles, and re-connect people with their natural environment.</p>
	<p>Sharli-Jo Solomon (Western ohu representative)</p> <p>Sharli-Jo (Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira) is the Western ohu representative on the working group. She is animated when she speaks of her life growing up in a playground from Kaitoki to Reikorangi.</p> <p>Her lifelong passion is for the environment, which is evident in the range of activities, events and committees she has been, and is, part of. She either has been, or is, a member of the Whitireia Park Board, Conservation Volunteers, Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee, Keep Porirua Beautiful, Takapuwahia Village Planning Committee and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua. In 2015, Sharli-Jo was acknowledged by Porirua City Council for her commitment to revitalising the harbour and natural environment.</p> <p>“The relationship our whānau have with the land and sea helped shape the people we are today and provided the basis of our commitment to the environment. I am pleased to have the opportunity to represent our iwi,” Sharli-Jo says.</p>

	<p>Paul Shortis</p> <p>Paul Shortis is retired and lives in Masterton. He regularly tramps in the Tararuas, fishes the Ruamāhanga catchment and is a keen birder which has led him to trap pests at a couple of renovation projects in the Wairarapa. Through his interest in the environment he has been drawn into the freshwater debate, a subject he is passionate about.</p> <p>Paul is an elected member of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, and their delegate on the New Zealand Council. He is also an active member of Birds NZ. Before retiring he held a number of senior management roles in Wellington that included research, finance and banking.</p>
	<p>Jenny Ngarimu (Central ohu representative) Ko Rangituhi me Whitireia oku Maunga Raukawakawa te moana Ko Ngati Toa, Te Ati Awa me Ngati Raukawa oku Iwi Ko Tainui te waka</p> <p>Jenny lives within her whanau and hapu in Hongoeka Bay, Plimmerton. She and her whanau have grown up learning about their environment; they have lived off the sea and the land and were taught from an early age the importance of the health of their moana, awa and whenua.</p> <p>She has had a varied working life, with a background in finance as well as social services from junior to senior management positions. She has owned her own business, and worked within her whanau, hapu and Iwi.</p> <p>Currently she is working with the local council to effect better outcomes for our people in terms of Maori land ownership, ensuring that they are able to access services that are the “norm” for other ratepayers, and building relationships that seek to enhance our cultural values and beliefs.</p> <p>Jenny see the biodiversity space as a priority for our future generations, that they will also be able to enjoy an enriched environment without pollution.</p> <p>Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa.</p>

	<p>Rawiri Smith (Eastern ohu representative)</p> <p>Ko Maungaraki taku maunga Ko Ruamahanga taku awa Ko Wairarapa taku moana Ko Kourarau taku roto Ko Makahakaha taku manga Ko Wairakau taku puna Ko Parikauiti taku taniwha Ho Hurunui-o-Rangi taku marae</p> <p>Rawiri Smith is from the Wairarapa. He applied to be on the Biodiversity Collaborative Working Group because our community has valued the iwi perspective. He brings experience in collaborative processes from the Ruamahanga Whaitua. He was an iwi representative on that group and enjoyed how this perspective connected with other viewpoints.</p>
	<p>Daniela Biaggio</p> <p>Daniela Biaggio is originally from Argentina. She migrated to Wellington five years ago and lives in Ngaio with her partner and daughter, and is expecting the newest addition to her family. She began her career captivated by the behaviours of animals, and after many years of working in the environmental field, she is now fascinated by human behaviour and how it relates to nature. Her current role as Manager for Urban Ecology at Wellington City Council allows her to continue this interest.</p> <p>She knows life is better when we are surrounded by nature and wants to ensure Wellington is a region where we can all benefit from that. She joined this collaborative working group because she is confident we can achieve great outcomes to our biodiversity challenges through collective impact. She works on weaving professional efforts, empowered community action, research, and evaluation to achieve a shared vision. She is passionate about local government improving decision making for the environment and accessing knowledge for better management.</p>

	<p>Danielle Shanahan</p> <p>Daniella is from Wainuiomata, and lives in Korokoro, Lower Hutt. She oversees Zealandia’s conservation and restoration programmes. These programmes aim to bring nature back to Wellington city.</p> <p>Her academic research interests are on the connection between people and nature, and what it means for health and wellbeing. She joined this group because she has a deep connection with the beautiful hills and forests of this region, and a desire to support our communities in fostering them back to health.</p>
	<p>Sam Ludden</p> <p>Sam is a professional artist with 20 years’ experience in ceramic sculpture and pottery. He works from his home studio, Dirty Fingers Pottery, in Masterton.</p> <p>He trained in ceramics and fine arts in Wanganui under the tuition of Ross Mitchel-Anion. He then travelled widely and worked as a potter in places such as the Czech Republic and Provence France, where he had a studio in Biot (close to those of people like Matisse, Picasso and Léger).</p> <p>The craft of kaitiakitanga guides his work and actions with his interest in his Wairarapa birthplace, its culture, its landscapes, its threatened flora and fauna, influencing his style. He is passionate about waterways and what lives in them, from the mountains to the sea. His strength is communication of complex ideas through the language of art.</p>
	<p>Andy McKay</p> <p>Andy was born in West Auckland, but grew up in New Plymouth. He currently lives in Paekākāriki.</p> <p>He has been involved in community conservation projects for the past 15 years. He is currently the convenor for Ngā Uruora - Kāpiti Project, and is on the governance board for the Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project.</p> <p>He joined the working group as he is interested in contributing to a framework that leads to better support for community conservation groups, and opportunities to share knowledge and resources between the various groups.</p>

	<p>Paul Ward</p> <p>Paul lives in Newtown with his partner and daughters. He is co-leader of Polhill Protectors and producer of kid's nature app Wild Eyes. The 2018 Wellingtonian of the Year finalist is the founder of Capital Kiwi: the mission to return our namesake to Wellington's wild backyard.</p> <p>Ward has a storytelling background in the screen industry; the lifelong 'bird nerd' is passionate about enabling New Zealanders to connect with our manu taonga: "to paraphrase Dave Attenborough: people will only protect what they care about, and they'll only have aroha for things that they've experienced. He's excited about "the potential of the Working Group to bring people together and embolden them to act as kaitiaki."</p>
	<p>Maggie Ford</p> <p>Kia ora koutou, Ko Maggie Ford ahau.</p> <p>Maggie grew up in Hamilton but would spend every holiday exploring the beaches and bush in Coromandel where I whakapapa to. She now lives in Lower Hutt.</p> <p>She works at the Department of Conservation as a Partnerships Development Advisor/ Kaitohu whanaaki. Prior to that she held various roles with DoC in Dunedin and Christchurch, all of which have been focused on working to enable others to connect to nature and achieve conservation outcomes. Maggie has a background in the tourism sector and social development, and has a personal interest in understanding how New Zealander's connection to nature contributes to wellbeing.</p> <p>She wants to be a part of this mahi as she believes the Wellington community are leaders in the conservation space and we have an amazing opportunity through this process to make a real difference reversing the decline of indigenous biodiversity.</p>



Ali Caddy

It's a pleasure and a privilege to be working with this group as the Greater Wellington's representative. Ali believes in the kaupapa that has brought us together and brings a genuine commitment to collaborative process and learning.

Ali was born and raised in Te Whanagnui-a-Tara (Wellington) and returned here in her late twenties after spending almost ten years exploring Te Waipounamu (the South Island). Her feeling of connection here is strong, both to the harbour's edge where she lived as a child and the regenerating bushy hills where she now lives in the city with my partner and young kids.

Since studying environmental science and environmental management, Ali has been working in Greater Wellington's Biodiversity department for around seven years. She is continually inspired by the people, ecosystems and landscapes of Te Upoko-o-te-ika-a-Māui, our wonderful region.