

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 10 September 2020.

Report 20.263

Unconfirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 6 August 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban (Zoom, until 10.08am)
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee (Zoom)
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier (by Zoom)

Members participating at this meeting by Zoom 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 invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga – Nau mai e ngā hua.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Brash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Barbie Barton.
The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 11 June 2020 – Report 20.205

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Lamason

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 11 June 2020 – Report 20.205

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on progress of action items from previous meetings – Report 20.256 [For information]

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

6 Whaitua update – Oral report

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager – Whaitua, updated the Committee on the progress of the work of the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee (Whaitua Committee).

Mr Sharp advised that the Whaitua Committee is currently in phase three of the Whaitua project (deliberation and prioritisation). Mr Sharp explained that the Whaitua Committee is determined to take a holistic view of water management and look at all the options for interventions, such as education, investment and governance.

The Whaitua Committee is committed to a bicultural approach, and this is reflected in the four kawa/principles that guide the Whaitua Committee.

The Whaitua Committee identified 16 issues, which it will make recommendations on. The identified issues will require a mix of responses – setting limits in the Regional Plan, advice and education, and investment.

The two mana whenua authorities involved in this Whaitua have been working together through Te Kahui Taiao (a working group) to agree on their goals for the project and whaitua more generally.

Noted: The Committee requested that an update on the progress of the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara be provided at each Committee meeting.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 10.08am, at the conclusion of the above item.

The Chair advised the Committee that the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management had been released the previous day, and requested that it be discussed.

7 National Direction – Government announcements on Action for Healthy Waterways reforms – Oral report

Matt Hickman, Manager, Environmental Policy, provided a summary to the Committee of the reforms package including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM), the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NESFW), and new RMA (Stock Exclusion) Regulations.

Mr Hickman advised the Committee that these new provisions were gazetted by the Government on 5 August 2020, and largely come into force on 3 September 2020.

Mr Hickman advised that Council was able to influence these provisions through its submission.

The NPSFM itself requires mana whenua to be heavily involved in setting vision and direction for freshwater management under Te Mana o te Wai, merging well with Council's current whitua process design and freshwater management recommendations in existing Whitua Implementation Programmes.

The NPSFM also sets out the prioritisation of water use:

- Health and wellbeing of water bodies
- Essential needs of people
- All other uses.

Noted: The Committee requested that a written summary of the National Policy Statement, including the wins that Greater Wellington achieved, be circulated to members; and a further paper be prepared to highlight implications for Greater Wellington's implementation.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a proverb – Kia hora te marino.

The meeting closed at 10.10am.

Councillor P Gaylor
Chair

Date: