

If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Climate Committee

Thursday 27 March 2025, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: Seven Members

Members

Councillors

Penny Gaylor (Chair)

David Bassett

Quentin Duthie

Ken Laban

Thomas Nash

Hikitia Ropata

Simon Woolf

Yadana Saw (Deputy Chair)

Ros Connelly

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

David Lee

Daran Ponter

Adrienne Staples

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

Climate Committee (A Committee of the Whole)

1 Purposes

- 1.1 Oversee, review and report to Council on the management and delivery of Greater Wellington's strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 1.2 Provide effective leadership on climate change for Greater Wellington and the Wellington Region on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2 Specific responsibilities

- 2.1 Apply Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles when conducting the Committee's business and making decisions.
- 2.2 Oversee the development and review of Council's climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators; and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.
- 2.3 Review and monitor, by considering regular reports from relevant activity areas, Greater Wellington's progress towards delivering on and achieving Council's climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators.
- 2.4 Advise Council on how best to incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into other strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators, including consideration of local, regional, and international best practice approaches.
- 2.5 Advise Council's representative on the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on Greater Wellington's position on regional climate change projects (including the Regional Climate Emissions Reduction Plan and Regional Climate Adaptation Plan).
- 2.6 Advocate for the alignment and advancement of central government's and other external organisations' programmes and initiatives in climate change programmes and initiatives, working alongside the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee.

3 Delegations

- 3.1 The Committee has the authority to approve submissions to external organisations on matters pertaining directly to the Committee's purpose.
- 3.2 Where a matter proposed for consideration by the Committee (including during the development of proposed Greater Wellington plans and policies) is of strategic importance to the Wairarapa Constituency, that matter shall first be referred to the Wairarapa Committee or its members for their consideration.

4 Members

All thirteen Councillors.

5 Quorum

Seven Committee members.

6 Meeting frequency

The Committee shall meet twice each year, with additional meetings as required.

Climate Committee

Thursday 27 March 2025, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
4.	Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 12 September 2024	24.496	5
5.	Organisational Emissions Targets	25.91	8
6.	Extra Emissions Unit Options	25.90	19
7.	Proposed Accountability Criteria for the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund	25.109	25
8.	Low Carbon Acceleration Fund Update	25.92	31
9.	Grazing Emissions Abatement Options for Flood Protection Managed Lands	25.93	35
10.	Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate Change	25.126	54

Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Climate Committee meeting on 27 March 2025.

Report 24.496

Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting on 12 September 2024

Taumata Kōrero -Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30 am.

Members Present

Councillor Saw (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Lee
Councillor Laban
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Staples
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Laban, Staples and Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of the quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Councillor Saw, as Deputy Chair, presided at the meeting in the absence of the Committee Chair.

Karakia timatanga

The Presiding Member opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Duthie

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillors Basset, Connelly and Gaylor.

The motion was **carried**.

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 Climate Committee meeting of 28 March 2024 - Report 24.152

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Duthie

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Climate Committee meeting of 28 March 2024 - Report 24.152.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Climate Emergency 10-Point Action Plan Refresh – Report 24.478

Suze Keith, Senior Advisor Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Ponter

That the Committee:

- 1 Endorses the changes to the Organisational and Regional Climate Emergency Action Plans; and
- 2 Recommends that the Council adopts the Organisational and Regional Climate Emergency Action Plans.

The motion was **carried**

6 Review of Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets – Report 24.476

Jake Roos, Manager Climate Change, Melanie Barthe, Senior Advisor Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ropata / Cr Duthie

That the Committee:

- 1 Agrees that officers develop proposals for new targets for all categories of Greater Wellington's gross organisational emissions (Option B).
- 2 Agrees that officers develop a proposal to remove Council's existing net emissions targets for 20251, 2030 ('carbon neutral') and 2035 ('climate positive') and replace them with a new net emissions target no less stringent than 'net zero by 2050' for all Greater Wellington's organisational emissions (Option C).

The motion was **carried**.

7 Climate Emergency Response Programme Update – Report 24.474 [For Information]

Jake Roos, Manager Climate Change, Suze Keith, Senior Advisor Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 10.12am

Councillor P Gaylor

Committee Chair

Date:

For Decision

ORGANISATIONAL EMISSIONS TARGETS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Climate Committee (the Committee) the options for Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) net organisational emissions reduction target to replace the existing net emissions targets for 2025, 2030 and 2035.
2. To also present options for a new gross emissions reduction target for all categories of Greater Wellington's organisational emissions.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1 **Recommends** to Council that it removes its current organisational net emissions targets for 2025, 2030 and 2035.
- 2 **Recommends** to Council to adopt a new organisational net emissions target of being 'Climate Positive' (each year, Greater Wellington's organisational emissions removals exceed its organisational emissions) from 2049/50 onwards.
- 3 **Recommends** to Council that it adopts a new gross emissions target for all categories of organisational emissions of a 72 percent reduction in 2039/40 compared to the base year of 2018/19.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

3. This matter was considered earlier by the Climate Committee on 12 September 2024 (Review of Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets Report 24.476). It was agreed that options for a new replacement net target and a new gross target (as described in this paper's purpose above) be developed and presented back to the Committee for consideration.
4. For clarity, the definitions for technical terms used in this paper are provided in **Attachment 1**.

Context

5. At its meeting on 28 March 2024, the Committee considered Report 24.84 ‘Meeting our Existing Organisational Emissions Targets’ seeking support for ‘insetting’ its greenhouse gas emissions with carbon sequestration (or ‘removals’) by its land, and thereby achieve its net emissions targets for the organisation for 2025 (a 40% reduction in net emissions compared to 2019), 2030 (‘carbon neutral’), and 2035 (‘climate positive’ – Greater Wellington’s removals exceed its emissions each year). The Committee noted the report but requested a workshop on this topic, with a report then being brought to a future Climate Committee meeting.
6. Officers reviewed the achievability of Council’s emissions targets and considered what other options exist that may satisfy Councillor’s interest in selling our removals rather than using them to achieve our targets, taking into consideration several matters that were outlined in Review of Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets Report 24.476 from the Climate Committee meeting on 12 September 2024.

Limiting factors when changing organisational targets

7. The Greater Wellington has qualified for Climate Action Loans from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) and is benefiting from a lower rate of interest on this borrowing than it would otherwise get. One of the criteria of these loans is that that Greater Wellington has ‘net zero’ emissions target by 2050 at the latest.
8. Also, part of the LGFA Climate Action Loan criteria is that Greater Wellington has gross emissions targets for our ‘Category 1 & 2 emissions’ aligned to limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
9. The global voluntary carbon offset market is in disarray as recent investigations have found that most units created and traded are worthless ‘hot-air’¹, that is they do not represent any real-world emissions abatement. Greater Wellington was not planning to purchase offsets to achieve its net targets, because of longstanding concerns about their value, legitimacy and associated reputational risk. However, these recent developments leaves inseting using removals from land it manages as the only credible option available to Greater Wellington to achieve any net zero target.
10. Plan Change One to the Regional Policy Statement has region-wide targets for a 50 percent reduction in net emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (all gases). The alignment of the organisational targets to the Regional Policy Statement targets needs to be considered.
11. Changing Greater Wellington’s existing ‘headline’ emissions targets carries reputational risk, given the organisation has promoted them both externally and internally as a central part of our Climate Emergency Response, and many of our stakeholders want to see Greater Wellington take strong action on climate change. However, there is also reputational risk associated with having an increasing

¹ <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/here-are-23-times-carbon-offsets-were-found-to-be-dodgy-2/>

disconnection between our targets, projections of what we can achieve and our actual emissions results as time goes on.

12. Increasing the focus of our targets on gross emissions will guide the organisation to focus on reductions rather than offsetting or insetting.
13. 2024 was the first year the average global surface temperature exceeded 1.5°C higher than the pre-industrial average². While temperatures could drop in the short term due to natural variation, a survey of 500 scientists that worked on the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Report found only 6% thought that the aim of limiting warming to 1.5°C (measured on decadal scales) this century is still possible³. Given this, staying 'aligned to 1.5°C' as an organisation is only possible in an academic, and arguably irrelevant, sense. Despite this, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is more urgent than it has ever been.
14. The Climate Committee meeting considered the findings of this review at their meeting on 12 September 2024 (see Review of Organisational Emissions Reduction Targets Report 24.476), and directed officers to develop a replacement net emissions target, and a new 'all gross emissions' GHG reduction target.
15. As part of the process of developing options for the emissions targets, officers updated its emissions scenarios further to better reflect our new knowledge of what was likely to occur. These assumptions include:
 - Removal of ownership of bulk water supply assets from Greater Wellington, and therefore removal of our responsibility for accounting for and reducing the associated emissions.
 - No major changeover of the bus fleet to EV until when operator contracts are renewed in 2038, and the buses that entered service in 2018 are retired.
 - Adjusting Regional Parks restoration scenarios.
 - We also had the emissions projection model independently peer reviewed to ensure there were no errors, oversights or unjustifiable assumptions within it. No significant issues with the projections were uncovered by this work.
16. A summary of the organisation's projected emissions in three different scenarios (low, medium and high effort) is in **Attachment 2**.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

17. To satisfy the requirements of the LGFA Climate Action Loans we are currently undertaking work estimating the size of additional emissions sources in our supply chain to include in our overall emissions inventory.
18. The impact of including these additional supply chain sources on attaining a new all-categories gross emissions target could be positive or negative. This will depend

² [World's hottest year: 2024 first to pass 1.5C warming limit](#)

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/08/world-scientists-climate-failure-survey-global-temperature>

on if these additional supply chain sources can also be included in our base year, and how much they change over time relative to then. The impact will not be known until the work to estimate the size of the additional supply chain emissions sources and the treatment of them relative to the base year is completed. The decision to include or exclude extra supply chain emissions sources is at Greater Wellington's discretion but must be justifiable.

19. What is certain is that adding any new emissions sources to Greater Wellington's inventory will increase the removals rate (sequestration by trees) needed to be climate positive.

Net emissions target

20. Based on our analysis, officers considered three options for the new net emissions target:
 - a **Option A:** That from the 2049/50 financial year onwards, the organisation is 'climate positive': each year Greater Wellington's removals exceeds its total gross emissions.
 - b **Option B:** As in Option A, but from 2044/45
 - c **Option C:** As in Option A, but from 2039/40
21. Option A leaves the maximum time for our new forests to grow and sequester carbon and provides a buffer for reversals (e.g. due to fire) and to cover additional emissions sources, but it demonstrates a lower level of ambition. Net-zero (similar to climate positive) by 2050 is the target for the Government (for long-lived gases), the Regional Policy Statement and the minimum requirement of the LGFA Climate Action Loans that Greater Wellington receives. Option C is the opposite – it provides no leeway but demonstrates a higher level of ambition. Only the High Effort scenario (see Attachment 2) is consistent with Option C, and extra measures (uncosted at this stage) are likely to be required to meet it.
22. Officers recommend Option A. This will provide flexibility to cover the likelihood of needing additional removals to cover additional emissions sources and reflects a focus for the organisation on emissions reductions in the short-medium term.

All-categories gross emissions target

23. Based on our analysis, officers considered three options for a new gross emissions target:
 - a **Option A:** 65% reduction in 2039/40 compared to 2018/19
 - b **Option B:** 72% reduction in 2039/40 compared to 2018/19
 - c **Option C:** 84% reduction in 2039/40 compared to 2018/19
24. Option A provides a small buffer for unforeseen circumstances. Option B does not, but it appears possible in the High Effort scenario (see Attachment 2).
25. The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) guidance indicates that organisational long-term gross emissions targets should be for at least 84% reduction across all categories in 2040 compared to 2020 to be aligned with limiting global warming to

1.5°C (50 percent chance)⁴. This is why Option C has been included, but extra measures on top of those described in the High Effort scenario are very likely to be needed to meet it and these are not funded at present.

26. Because of the importance and durability of gross emissions reductions, officers recommend Option B.

Nga kōwhiringa Options

27. Table 1: Organisational emissions target option summary

Net target: The first year the organisation is 'climate positive': that is each year Greater Wellington's sequestration exceeds its total gross emissions.				
<i>Option</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Compatible scenarios</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
A	2049/50	Medium and High Effort	Allows maximum time for our new forests to sequester carbon and provides a buffer for reversals (e.g. due to fire) and to cover additional emissions sources. Less chance target will need to be changed again	No clear leadership signal
B	2044/45	Medium and High Effort	Balanced option	Balanced option
C	2039/40	High Effort	Signals leadership, may drive greater efforts	Low/no margin of error, no spare sequestration to cover significant additional emissions sources. Additional sequestration likely to be required

Reduction target for all categories of gross emissions (entire Greater Wellington footprint) for 2039/40 relative to 2018/19				
<i>Option</i>	<i>Reduction</i>	<i>Compatible scenarios</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
A	65%	Medium and High Effort	Most achievable, leaves a buffer/margin for error	Least ambitious
B	72%	High Effort	Shows leadership	No buffer/margin for error

4 Note SBTi recommended pathways work on the assumption all emitters in the world make the same level of reductions, so in aggregate they add up to a pathway aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C. In reality, this is not occurring. SBTi also have a 'fair share' method which results in organisations in wealthy countries being required to cut emissions faster than the global average pathway.

C	84%	None	Most ambitious, '1.5 °C aligned' according the SBTi methodology (with a 2019-20 base year)	Extra efforts on top of current plans essential, currently unfunded
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Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

28. Activities described in the scenarios (see Attachment 2) have been funded in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, except for solar energy investment. It is assumed debt incurred to build solar energy assets can be paid back using the revenue they would generate and so would not add to rates. The amount of environmental restoration work in the Regional Parks that can be achieved within budget is presently around 80Ha/year (aligning most closely with the High Effort scenario).
29. Moving net emissions targets back and lowering gross emissions will mean fewer removals are needed to achieve climate positive status. This increases the volume of removals that could be sold by Greater Wellington via the Emissions Trading Scheme (NZETS). The amount of revenue that could be realised from this depends on multiple factors, including the sale price of emissions units.
30. The total emissions units earned and their possible sale value up to the different years proposed for the climate positive target is shown in the table below, along with the global social cost of permitting this carbon pollution/use of the emissions units. Note this table only includes emissions units from Greater Wellington's forest that is land presently registered in the NZETS. It excludes other emissions units from land that could be earned from our replanting programmes, and the 'extra' emissions units which are the subject of Extra Emissions Unit Options – Report 25.90. The global social cost excludes any positive effects resulting from Greater Wellington's use of the income from sale of emissions units.

Table 2: NZUs available from existing ETS registered forest land for different net targets

'Climate Positive' target year	2039/40	2044/45	2049/50
Total NZUs available for sale	116,530	123,489	128,526
\$63/tonne CO ₂ e*	\$7,300,000	\$7,800,000	\$8,100,000
\$100/tonne CO ₂ e	\$11,700,000	\$12,300,000	\$12,900,000
\$150/tonne CO ₂ e	\$17,500,000	\$18,500,000	\$19,300,000
\$350/tonne CO ₂ e†	\$40,800,000	\$43,200,000	\$45,000,000

*NZU spot price (4 March 2025)

†Assumed global social cost of carbon

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

31. Mana whenua and Māori are impacted by the choice of emissions reduction pathways that Greater Wellington takes to meet its climate goals both now and especially in the future.

32. The projects and initiatives that Greater Wellington undertakes to meet its emission reduction pathways will provide opportunities for deeper partnerships with mana whenua.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

33. Targets themselves do not cause or prevent emissions. It is Greater Wellington's activities that do. The more that Greater Wellington emits, the more it contributes to climate change. This carries a cost for people and planet, expressed financially as the global social cost. The impact is relative to the effort that we put in, and decisions such as the sale of emissions units (shown in Table 2 above), and the use of the sale income.
34. Greater Wellington's organisational emissions targets are the framework driving the mitigation of the actions in our Organisational Climate Emergency Response Action Plan. They also contribute to regional and global emissions reduction, an objective of the Council's foundational Climate Change Strategy (2015). Stronger targets that in turn lead to stronger action to reduce emissions and demonstrate leadership support the intent of the 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration by Council.
35. There are no direct implications for climate resilience arising from a decision regarding emissions reduction targets, only indirect effects from consequential emissions as explained above.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

36. 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

37. 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 the substantive decisions regarding funding, and the programme of work to reduce organisational emissions, were made within the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

38. Due to the low significance of these matters for decision, no engagement is considered necessary at this stage. Communications will be prepared to ensure we are able to clearly inform the community of the rationale behind the decision to

change our emissions targets and what the new targets mean, in order to help mitigate any reputational risk.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

39. The options endorsed by the Climate Committee will be presented to Council for approval.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Glossary of Terms
2	Summary of Low, Medium and High Effort emissions reduction scenarios for Greater Wellington

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Jake Roos – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Climate Change
Approvers	Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference

Modification of organisational emissions targets fits with the Committee’s responsibility to

“Oversee the development and review of Council’s climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council’s Climate Emergency Response Programme); and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.”

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The organisational emissions reduction targets contribute to the climate change focus area of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. They contribute to all Greater Wellington’s climate-change related strategies, policies and plans.

Internal consultation

The Climate Emergency Response Programme Board and Organisational Emission Reduction Steering Group have been consulted concerning emissions target options.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no legal or health and safety risks associated with this decision.

Glossary of Terms

For clarity, here are definitions for technical terms used in the Climate Committee Report on Organisational Emissions Targets (Report 25.91):

Gross emissions	Greenhouse gases (GHGs) released to the atmosphere measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Removals or sequestration	Carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere, usually by growing forests.
Net emissions	Emissions minus removals.
Net zero emissions	Removals equal emissions exactly year.
Net negative emissions	Removals exceed emissions each year. It is more feasible state for an organisation to achieve than net zero, since the volume of removals and emissions that occur cannot be controlled with precision.
Category 1 & 2 emissions	Direct emissions and electricity use. In the case of Greater Wellington, these include many 'corporate' emissions sources and electricity and fuel use at CentrePort.
Carbon neutral	Achieving net-zero emissions each year using 'banked' removals or offsets – i.e. removals or reductions that occurred in the past and/or outside the organisation – to cancel out any residual net emissions.
Climate positive	Net negative emissions each year, without using 'banked' removals or offsets.
Insetting	Creating removals within an organisation and using them to achieve a net emissions position/target via an accounting method.

Organisational Emissions Scenarios and Projections

We have developed these indicative projections of organisational emissions based on the latest information and limiting factors for three different scenarios:

Scenario I Low effort	Scenario II Medium effort	Scenario III High effort
10% electricity needs covered by Energy Transformation Initiative (ETI) in 2035. Staged full native planting (50ha/year) in Regional Parks alongside grazing retirement, complete in 2042.	50% of the electricity needs covered by ETI in 2035. Node planting prioritised in Regional Parks alongside grazing retirement, complete in 2034.	100% electricity needs covered by ETI in 2035. Staged full native planting (100ha/year) in Regional Parks alongside grazing retirement, complete in 2034.

Corporate vehicle fleet electrification is sooner in in the medium and high effort scenarios, but does not have a large bearing on results.

Features common to all scenarios:

- Public transport buses fully electric from 2038
- New hybrid trains on the Manawatu and Wairarapa lines in 2028
- CentrePort 50% reduction in gross emissions by 2030
- Increasing share of bus charging by Greater Wellington
- No removals available to Greater Wellington from planting activities on Hutt City Council land in Belmont Regional Park
- No change for harbour ferries
- No reductions in grazing emissions from flood protection land
- No change to Centreport ownership share
- No other new emissions sources included within Greater Wellington's organisational emissions boundary

Summary of results:

Scenario I Low effort	Scenario II Medium effort	Scenario III High effort
Projected -61% gross emissions change by 2039/40 compared to 2018/19. Net zero/climate positive status not reached before 2050.	Projected -67% gross emissions change by 2039/40 compared to 2018/19. Net zero/climate positive status reached in 2040/41.	Projected -72% gross emissions change by 2039/40 compared to 2018/19. Net zero/climate positive status reached in 2037/38.

For Decision

EXTRA EMISSIONS UNIT OPTIONS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Climate Committee of options for the treatment of 21,993 NZUs (Emissions Units) issued to Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) in error and subsequently gifted to us by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

He tūtohu

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 **Recommends** that Council approve the transfer of 21,993 NZUs, earned by Greater Wellington through the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative (PFSI), to Greater Wellington's Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (Option B).

Te horopaki

Context

2. Emissions units or NZUs are tradable units each representing a permit to emit one tonne of CO₂-equivalent emissions. They are issued by the government and are used by those with mandatory compliance obligations under the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (NZETS). Those landowners with forests planted after 1989 can earn them for the carbon sequestered from the atmosphere by their forests' growth.
3. 103.6Ha of land in Regional Parks that Greater Wellington registered in the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative (PFSI) to earn emissions units in 2012 was subsequently found to be ineligible at inspections carried out in 2017 and 2022 by our consultants Carbon Forest Services (CFS). This is because the land in question had low or no potential to naturally regenerate into native forest.
4. In 2017 our consultants advised us of the situation and that we should expect to return the emissions units we earned from this land. We followed this advice.
5. This land has not been transferred into the Emissions Trading Scheme, the successor to the now defunct PFSI; only the eligible land Greater Wellington had in the PFSI has (this occurred in 2023). Therefore, we will not earn any more emissions units from the land.

6. MPI have confirmed with CFS that we are not required to surrender the 21,993 units we earned from the ineligible, now deregistered land.
7. As they have no real-world emissions sequestration associated with them, and were essentially issued by mistake, there could be reputational risk in using these emissions units. It would not be appropriate to use them as credit to achieve voluntary organisational net emissions targets (known as inseting or offsetting).
8. However, the units can be used in the NZETS in the same way as any other emissions units – that is, be traded, kept or surrendered to the government by emitters to meet their mandatory obligations. The value of these units based on the current NZU spot price (4 March 2025) is \$1.4M.
9. The Climate Committee discussed the matter of these emissions units at a workshop on 12 September 2024.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

10. Council established the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF) in 2020. It works by borrowing funding for projects to reduce the emissions of Greater Wellington as a group of organisations, which is underwritten by our commitment to eventually sell 255,660 emissions units issued to us for our pre-1990 forests.
11. Operation of the LCAF including sale of these particular emissions units is governed by the Treasury Risk Management Policy and delegated to the Group Manager Finance and Risk. However, we have no existing policies or delegations in place to govern adding more emissions units to the LCAF.
12. If the extra emissions units were added to the LCAF, it would make approximately \$1M of funding available for allocation towards LCAF-eligible projects. Greater Wellington maintains a ‘buffer’ by not allocating more than 70 percent of the current value of the unsold units to projects, to hedge against a sustained reduction in the trading price of NZUs. This means the full value of the extra emissions units could not immediately be utilised for projects.

Nga kōwhiringa

Options

Option A: Cancel the units on the national Emissions Unit Registry

13. *Advantages:* Reflects that the units were created in error and cancelled units cannot then be used in the future by a polluter to meet their obligations under the NZETS.
14. *Disadvantages:* Greater Wellington foregoes the revenue and whatever could be done with it.

Option B: Put the units into the LCAF to fund emissions reduction work (Recommended)

15. *Advantages:* Supports Greater Wellington’s organisational emissions reduction programme and targets. ~\$1M of funding would immediately be available to allocate from the LCAF, and possibly more in the future.
16. *Disadvantages:* Would permit carbon pollution at some point in the future, and it is not possible to guarantee that the emissions reduction Greater Wellington would achieve through LCAF would be equal to or greater than the emissions generated. Possible reputational risk.

Option C: Sell immediately, outside of LCAF

17. *Advantages:* Creates revenue. As this sale would not be governed by LCAF rules, the full current value of the extra emissions units could be immediately realised (~\$1.4M).
18. *Disadvantages:* Permits pollution, higher reputation risk than Option B if the proceeds are not directed towards emissions reduction work. Foregoes potential benefit of emissions units being sold at a higher price in the future.

Option D: Do nothing

19. There are no inherent advantages or disadvantages to this option. The extra emissions will not expire and can be held in our emissions unit registry account indefinitely. The question of what to do with them will remain but could be revisited at any point.
20. On balance Option B is recommended as this will increase funding for emissions reduction activities and assist with meeting Greater Wellington’s organisation-level emissions reduction targets.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

21. These are explained in the options section.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

22. Mana whenua and Māori are impacted by the choice of emissions reduction pathways that Greater Wellington takes to meet its climate goals, and by the need to partner with mana whenua on climate change projects. This matter may affect Māori through the emissions that may result or the activities arising from use of funding, depending on the option taken.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

23. If sold, the extra emissions units are likely to be used by an emitter to meet their mandatory obligations under the ETS, although it would be impossible to say when. In option B, any sale would be delayed for many years, maybe over a decade. Any usage of the units would necessarily happen after that. In either option B or C, the 21,933 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions will be permitted that otherwise would

not have been: by cancelling the units, the emitter that would have used them will instead have to find units from elsewhere or cut their emissions to meet their obligations.

24. 21,933 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent is equal to about two-thirds of Greater Wellington's current annual emissions. It is less than one percent of the Region's annual gross emissions.
25. However, ultimate responsibility for achieving national emissions budgets sits with Central Government. It is possible that they will take compensatory action to neutralise the effect of these extra units being used.
26. Counteracting this emissions penalty will be the benefit of any emissions reduction activity that Greater Wellington does with the proceeds of the emissions unit sale. It is unknown whether these reductions will be greater than 21,933 tonnes CO₂e, or if they would occur any sooner. However, it should be noted that in the case of tree planting, which is one possible use of the proceeds, emissions reduction (via sequestration) occurs gradually over many decades and can be reversed.
27. To conclude, it is uncertain which option will contribute to Greater Wellington's objective to reduce emissions (regionally, nationally or globally) more, though it is arguably more likely that option A would. What is more certain is that increasing funding for emissions reduction activities (via option B and possibly option C) will assist with meeting Greater Wellington's organisation-level emissions reduction targets.
28. There are no direct implications for climate resilience and adaptation from the decision.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

29. The matter 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

30. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of this matter, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that this matter is of low significance, as it has only low impact on the wellbeing of the region, low public interest and low impact on Council's capability and capacity.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

31. Due to the low significance of this matter for decision, no engagement was considered necessary.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

32. The option that the Committee recommends will go to Council for final approval (with the exception of option D, where it would be unnecessary). Should option B be approved, the transfer of units into the LCAF will be immediate.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Jake Roos – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Climate Change
Approvers	Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference

This matter fits with the Committee’s responsibility to:

“Oversee the development and review of Council’s climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council’s Climate Emergency Response Programme); and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.”

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The matter for decision is in line with Council’s Treasury Risk Management Policy and Financial Delegations. The Council’s Low Carbon Acceleration Fund enables projects that have a benefit to reducing Greater Wellington’s greenhouse gas emissions to be delivered through Council’s Long Term Plan without impacting rates. The matter for decision (recommending Option B) would enable more funding to be available for emissions-reducing projects that would otherwise not be able to go ahead or would impact rates.

Internal consultation

The Climate Emergency Response Programme Board has reviewed and discussed the options and supports the recommendation. Finance and Legal have also been involved in the development and consideration of the options presented for decision.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no known risks associated with the matter for decision. Legal has advised that there is currently no legal scope for MPI reclaim the units or cancel them, should they change their minds.

For Decision

PROPOSED ACCOUNTABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE LOW CARBON ACCELERATION FUND

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To advise the Climate Committee (the Committee) of the need for the addition of accountability criteria to the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF), and to confirm the criteria.

He tūtohu

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1 **Recommends** that Council adopts the new accountability criteria for the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund.

Te horopaki

Context

2. On 21 August 2019, Council declared a climate emergency, set a target for carbon neutrality by 2030 and adopted two ten-point action plans to ramp up climate action.
3. One of the actions agreed on was to establish the LCAF. The Fund was formally established through the 2020/21 Annual Plan.
4. The objective of the LCAF is to help Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) achieve the goal of becoming ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030 through funding projects that will reduce our organisational carbon footprint.
5. Council approved the design of the LCAF at its 9 April 2020 meeting (Design of the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund – Report 20.112). The LCAF supports activities or initiatives that reduce net emissions more quickly and/or at a greater scale than otherwise would occur.
6. It was originally designed for internal Greater Wellington projects only, however on 15 February 2022 (Low Carbon Acceleration Fund Review – Report 22.18) the Committee extended the fund to the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust, and then to CentrePort Limited on 16 March 2023 (Low Carbon Acceleration Fund Round Two 2022-23 Applications – Report 23.75).

7. The design of the LCAF includes:
 - a descriptions of which entities and activities are eligible,
 - b the process for applying,
 - c the assessment criteria, and,
 - d the amount of funding available.
8. Applicants must provide:
 - a a full description of their project,
 - b an estimate of the carbon savings compared to business as usual,
 - c the costs of the project,
 - d any co-benefits stemming from the project, and,
 - e a description of any risks to the project successfully delivering the carbon saving.
9. The LCAF does not currently include accountability criteria, and over its four years of operation it has become apparent that this is necessary to support its efficient implementation. Note that the accountability criteria will need to work for both the internal applicants and the authorised external applicants.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

10. To develop the new accountability criteria, officers researched other funds managed by Greater Wellington such as the Environment Activation Fund, the Sustainable Land Use Fund and the Riparian Fund. Whilst these solely target external organisations and landowners, they provide a useful guide for this Fund and enables us to be consistent with other funding arrangements managed by Greater Wellington.
11. To test the robustness of these funding arrangements, officers also considered the funding criteria of community funds managed by the Department of Conservation.
12. The recommended accountability criteria for the LCAF are:

Condition type	Detail
General	If your application is successful, there are several accountability and reporting requirements that apply. By signing the application form, you are agreeing to abide by the following conditions which will inform the basis of a Funding Agreement should your application be approved.
Use of grant	Grants must only be used for the activities authorised as stated in your application. Before using the grants for anything else, the Recipient must get permission from the Council.

Condition type	Detail
General timing of expenditure / extensions	<p>The Recipient must commence implementation of the project (e.g. the practical start of the project) within 12 months of signing the Funding Agreement.</p> <p>The start, finish and any interim milestone dates for the project will be confirmed in the Funding Agreement.</p> <p>If the Recipient wants to seek an extension, they should ask for this via the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board (CERP) secretariat at least one month before the deadline date.</p> <p>The Council may agree to extend the finish date.</p> <p>In the case of authorised external recipients, any portion of the grant not spent by the deadline date, or spent other than in accordance with this clause, must be refunded to Greater Wellington. In the case of internal recipients, any portion of the grant not spent by the deadline date must be surrendered – that is, the remaining grant budget will be withdrawn.</p>
Payment plan	<p>Greater Wellington will pay out the grant amount as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount agreed will be GST exclusive. • For authorised recipients external to Greater Wellington the grants will be paid out including GST. For internal recipients there will be no GST. • The payment plan and percentage of the upfront payment can vary depending on your project and the size of the grant awarded. This plan will be confirmed in the Funding Agreement. • Regardless of this, for authorised external applicants 10 percent of the approved funding will be retained to be paid upon completion of the project, once evidence of the full grant expenditure has been provided and the final project report has been submitted as per the requirements below. This payment will be made within 20 days of the final project report being approved and an invoice being received by Greater Wellington. • For internal applicants, any contracts with external providers will stipulate that 10 percent of any contract value will be retained until the satisfactory completion of that contract. • External recipients will need to provide invoices to Greater Wellington to release the funds as per the Funding Agreement. Internal recipients will need to provide a project code.
Project report	<p>The Recipient must provide quarterly financial and project reports to the CERP secretariat three weeks before the quarterly CERP meetings.</p>

Condition type	Detail
	<p>The Recipient must also provide a written final report by the project deadline, summarising project expenditure and outcomes achieved.</p> <p>As part of the final report, the Recipient will provide photographs to illustrate the project progress, and if requested, will seek permission from photographers and people who are identifiable in the photo for use of their images by Greater Wellington for the purpose of promoting this fund. Greater Wellington reserves the right to publish the names of successful applicants and details of their grants.</p>
Legal & regulatory	<p>The Recipient is responsible for ensuring compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements associated with all activities undertaken in the delivery of the Project.</p> <p>By accepting the funding, external recipients agree to indemnify the Council from and against all actions, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs and expenses including solicitor/client costs, and to the extent permitted at law any fines or penalties imposed in respect of any breach by the recipient of its legal responsibilities, including in relation to health and safety.</p>

13. Note that should Council decide to adopt the proposed accountability criteria, it will only apply to future LCAF applications.

Nga kōwhiringa

Options

Option A – Do nothing and retain the current funding arrangements of the LCAF

14. *Advantages:* no increase in administrative arrangements associated with the LCAF and relative ease for applicants.
15. *Disadvantages:* insufficient mechanisms for ensuring that the funding achieves the objectives of the LCAF.

Option B – Recommend the proposed accountability criteria to Council

16. *Advantages:* addresses gaps in the LCAF processes and strengthens Greater Wellington’s ability to withdraw funding if deemed necessary. Increases the likelihood that the objectives of the LCAF are achieved.
17. *Disadvantages:* applicants will be required to meet higher accountability standards which is likely to create more work and cost.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

18. There are no significant financial implications associated with the matter for decision.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

19. There are no direct implications for Māori from this decision. There may be indirect implications for Māori, for example through any LCAF funded projects that they are involved in.

Ngā tikanga whakataua Decision-making process

20. The matter 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

21. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of this matter/these matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that this matter is of low significance, as it seeks to improve an existing funding arrangement with no direct implications for the Region.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

22. Given the low significance of the decision, officers decided no public engagement was required.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

23. If the Committee decides to recommend this matter to the Council, officers will act on this.
24. Should Council agree to adopt the accountability criteria, officers will amend the Fund documentation and implement the new criteria.

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writer	Suze Keith – Kaitohutohu Matua Senior Advisor – Climate Change
Approvers	Jake Roos – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager, Climate Change Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

This matter fits with the Committee's responsibility to:

Oversee the development and review of Council's climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council's Climate Emergency Response Programme); and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The Low Carbon Acceleration Fund is noted in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan as a tool to fast track the decarbonisation of Greater Wellington's operations.

Internal consultation

Officers from Rōpū Taiao, Finance, Legal, Te Hunga Whirwhiri and the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board were consulted in the development of this paper.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

By strengthening the LCAF's rules and processes via the proposed accountability criteria it is expected to reduce the risks associated with any legal issues that may arise. There are no health and safety risks to consider.

For Information

Low Carbon Acceleration Fund Update

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Climate Committee (the Committee) of the status of Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF) projects and value.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme

2. Council declared a climate emergency in August 2019. This decision responds to the urgency climate change presents and encourages a step change in how Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) addresses climate change, both corporately and in how it uses its influence in the Wellington Region.
3. To demonstrate that step change, Council adopted two ten-point climate action plans – the Organisational Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan. These are collectively referred to as the Greater Wellington Climate Emergency Response Programme (the Programme). It also adopted targets for its net organisational emissions.
4. Governance is provided by the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board, comprised of Greater Wellington senior managers, reporting to the Climate Committee.
5. The Low Carbon Acceleration Fund was established by Council through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and is intended to help our organisation achieve its emission reduction targets by funding projects that will reduce our organisational emissions. It operates by Greater Wellington borrowing against the value of the 255,660 emissions units gifted to it by the Government in 2012 for its pre-1990 forests. The eventual sale of these units will repay the debt and interest costs, and management of this is governed by the Treasury Risk Management Policy.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

LCAF-Funded Projects Update:

6. Sky Stadium LED lighting project (\$750,000 allocated) – implementation began in February 2025 and is due for completion in June 2025.
7. Recloaking Papatūānuku Restoration Programme (\$10.6 million allocated) – The current grazing licence for Belmont Regional Park covers 1,065 Ha and comes to an end in January 2026. Development and assessment of options for that area in line with the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan and Recloaking Papatūānuku is complete. Options with officer recommendations will be presented to Council in May 2025. Plans are in place for planting this winter in some areas where grazing has already been retired.
8. Solar PV system for Masterton Station (\$266,700 allocated) – Seismic modelling of the station building undertaken for the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) Project in October 2024 found the additional load of solar panels to the roof of the building would reduce its earthquake rating from 75 percent of the New Building Standard (NBS) to 60 percent NBS. This is below the >67 percent NBS rating required to be rated ‘acceptable’ to the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE). Earthquake strengthening to compensate for the load of solar panels and increase the NBS rating is likely to be prohibitively expensive.
9. For this reason, it has been decided that the Masterton Station Solar PV system Project should be stopped. This was supported by the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board. The unspent allocation (\$262,700) has been returned to the LCAF funding pool.
10. Greater Wellington has other significant solar power opportunities from new, large buildings for Metlink. Currently these include the Southern Bus Depot in Miramar, The Northern Bus Depot at Kenepuru Landing and the Train Maintenance Building in Masterton. Solar projects at these sites could potentially use LCAF funding, or they could be financed with conventional borrowing, repaid with the consequent revenue.

Fund value and further rounds

11. At the current NZU spot price (\$60.18, 18 March 2025), 74 percent of the total fund value is allocated to projects (including past and planned future spending). This does not include interest costs, which also must be met from LCAF but does include the funding allocation returned from the Masterton Station solar project.
12. LCAF rules allow no more than 70 percent of the value of the unsold LCAF units can be allocated to projects, and no units have yet been sold. Therefore, no further allocations can be made at this time.
13. However as explained in Extra Emissions Unit Options – Report 25.90, the decision to transfer additional emissions units to the LCAF would make around \$1M available to allocate, assuming a modest recovery in the current NZU spot price to \$64 following the government NZU auction on 19 March 2025. Another round

inviting project proposals for funding may be run this year, leading into the next Climate Committee Meeting in September 2025.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

14. Mana whenua and Māori are impacted by the choice of emissions reduction actions that Greater Wellington takes to meet its climate goals, and by the need to partner with mana whenua on climate change projects.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

15. Updates on the LCAF and its projects will be provided to future Climate Committee meetings.

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writer	Jake Roos – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Climate Change
Approvers	Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference

Updating the Climate Committee on the Programme’s status fits with its responsibility to: “Oversee the development and review of Council’s climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council’s Climate Emergency Response Programme); and recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Council has adopted its 2024-34 Long Term Plan. One of the four focus areas is ‘Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction’, and of the three community outcomes, one is to strive for ‘Safe and healthy communities, a strong and thriving regional economy, adapting to the effects of climate change and natural hazards, community preparedness and modern robust infrastructure’.

Internal consultation

Staff from Metlink and the Environment Group provided information for this paper.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no identified risks or impacts arising from this report.

For Information

GRAZING EMISSIONS ABATEMENT OPTIONS FOR FLOOD PROTECTION MANAGED LANDS

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To share findings of the investigation project into grazing emissions abatement options for Greater Wellington Regional Council-managed flood protection lands, as requested at the last Climate Committee meeting.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. This project enacted Action 7 of Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) Organisational Climate Emergency Action Plan, 'Investigate options for reducing and sequestering emissions on flood protection land including nature-based solutions.'
3. The work was undertaken as part of a fixed-term role funded by 'Better Off Funding' from Central Government in 2022.
4. The project's objective was to develop and evaluate land use options for Greater Wellington-managed flood protection land currently managed under grazing licences, all of which is in the Wairarapa, that will reduce grazing related greenhouse gas emissions and offer co-benefits including carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, cultural values, ecology/biodiversity, and improved water quality.
5. The findings and recommended opportunities align with our Long Term Plan strategic direction and focus areas.
6. The findings have been presented and discussed with the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board, the Organisational Emissions Reduction Steering Group, the Strategy Group, Environment Group's Ruamāhanga Catchment team and members of the Wairarapa-based flood protection team. Feedback has resulted in subsequent updates to the findings report.
7. The investigation process maintained consistent connection with various flood protection staff and benefitted from incorporation of their respective knowledge and ideas.
8. Whilst the investigation was driven by addressing opportunities for organisational emissions reductions, there are many other benefits to transitioning away from

grazing land management practices that are of high value given contemporary environmental management considerations.

Te tātāritanga Analysis

Detail specific to grazing activity on flood protection managed land

9. Currently almost six hundred hectares of Greater Wellington-owned land is managed under twenty-seven individual grazing licence agreements attributable to flood protection provisions, with the associated emissions contributing approximately 5 percent to the total organisational emissions footprint.
10. Greater Wellington has committed to removing grazing from Regional Parks and restoring native ecosystems therein, however no strategic direction is in place to address non-parks grazing related emissions and land use.
11. Eight grazing agreements are identified as priorities as they make up 85 percent of the total grazing emissions, and 80 percent of the land area, however one is a 33-year long-term lease agreement with a perpetual right of renewal.
12. The grazing activity's projected carbon cost, based on the Treasury guidelines, associated with meeting the current Organisational net emission reduction targets is greater than the total annual grazing licence revenue of \$158,000. For example, in considering the net zero 2030 target, these grazing related emissions would present an additional carbon cost of \$106,000 over and above total licence revenue.
13. Most of the grazing agreements are within the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme area with their primary purpose being to maintain low vegetation levels for the provision of flood water passage and removal.
14. Managing Greater Wellington land via sole purpose grazing agreements that provide for private profits in the contemporary setting may be missing opportunities for cross beneficial land management and mana whenua partnership/participation.

Recommended opportunities for future land management

15. Where feasible and practical, grazing licence agreements may transition to nature-based land management approaches including:
 - a Flood plain meadows
 - b Wetland and native bush restoration, mostly passive wetland restoration
 - c Natives' horticulture with potential for mana whenua partnerships/participation, and
16. Solar farming applying an agrivoltaics approach may also be considered in areas with the least flooding risk (supporting Greater Wellington's Energy Transformation Initiative).

Opportunities for alignment with other workstreams

17. Through the work undertaken, we have identified several prospects for alignment of the recommended opportunities with other workstreams at Greater Wellington including:
 - a Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme and Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy implementation
 - b Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme review and long-term management planning
 - c Mauri Tūhono, and
 - d Support for the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board and the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project partnership

Nature/Native based solutions co-benefit opportunities

18. The recommended opportunities to come out of this project also provide environmental co-benefit opportunities such as:
 - a Flood plain ecosystems re-establishment, increase in wetland, ngāhere and biodiversity habitat. Improved water quality – Te Mana o te Wai.
 - b Flood waters attenuation and dissipation. Sediment and contaminants filtration, absorption, processing.
19. Supporting climate change adaptive ecological resilience and migration. Carbon sequestration provision.
 - a Opportunities for mana whenua participation in te taiao restoration initiatives and/or natives' horticulture.

Other considerations

20. Connections between this work and the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme present an opportunity to integrate land-management decisions with the future management of flood protection in this area.
21. As an appointing agency to the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, Greater Wellington is also committed to working in a collaborative way with iwi settlements trusts and other appointing agencies. The management of Greater Wellington-owned land, especially land in and around Wairarapa Moana, is likely to be of high interest to the Board as it develops its vision and values.
22. Any potential changes to land management practices will bear associated risks that will need to be better understood before land use decisions can be made. This includes, but is not limited to, the risk of removing long term licences, financial implications around planting and/or other methods of keeping vegetation low, changes to the operation of the flood ways, ongoing management of new assets.

Planned next steps

23. The recommended opportunities that have come from this project have now been handed over from the Strategy Group to Rōpū Taiao.

24. Options for the management of Greater Wellington-owned land in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development scheme area can be considered “in scope” and part of an upcoming review of the scheme.
25. Information about the grazing emissions abatement options could be shared with appointing agencies to the Statutory Board as a matter of information. These are: Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-rua Settlement Trust, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Department of Conservation, South Wairarapa District Council.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

26. The management of flood protection land in the lower Wairarapa Valley, as part of the wider development scheme, has imposed costs on the Wairarapa Māori economy by degrading mahinga kai and limiting traditional activities. In conversation with iwi, and through submissions, we have heard the call for more holistic approaches to flood protection by working more closely with indigenous systems and knowledge. Mana whenua continue to endorse Te Mana o te Wai principles as mechanisms for kaitiakitanga, applied mātauranga and responsible environmental action for achieving climate outcomes.
27. Environmental connections between wetland, lake, lagoon, and stream habitats in the lower valley have all been greatly reduced by the flood protection works. This development has reduced the extent and accessibility of habitat for plants and animals endemic and/or native to Wairarapa Moana.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

28. Consider feedback from Climate Committee, continue to socialise project findings within Rōpū Taiao and seek to have consideration included in the review of Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.
29. Rōpū Taiao and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri collaborate to better understand and incorporate implications and opportunities for mana whenua.

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Project presentation Attachment 1 to Report 25.93 Project presentation.pptx

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writers	James Harbord - Climate Change Advisor Pete Huggins - Catchment Manager, Ruamāhanga
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Approvers	Jake Roos - Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager Climate Change Zofia Miliszewska – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy and Performance Luke Troy – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy
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**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference.

Informing the Climate Committee on the projects findings fits with its responsibility to: “Oversee the development and review of Council’s climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including Council’s Climate Emergency Response Programme). Furthermore, the Climate Committee requested this information at the last meeting, 12 Sept 2024.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The findings and recommended opportunities align with our 2024-34 Long Term Plan strategic direction and Focus Areas, especially ‘Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction’.

The research project enacted Action 7 of Greater Wellington’s Organisational Climate Emergency Action Plan, ‘Investigate options for reducing and sequestering emissions on flood protection land including nature-based solutions.’

Internal engagement

The findings have been presented and discussed with the Climate Emergency Response Programme Board, the Organisational Emissions Reduction Steering Group, the Strategy Group, Rōpū Taiao Ruamāhanga Catchment team and members of the Wairarapa-based flood protection team.

The investigation process maintained consistent connection with various flood protection staff and benefitted from incorporation of their respective knowledge and ideas.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There are no identified risks or impacts arising from this ‘for information’ report.

Investigation of options for grazing emissions abatement from flood protection managed land

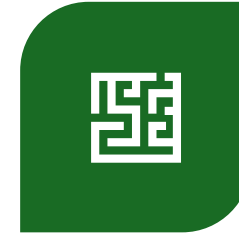


Photos of Oporua spillway feeding Ruamāhanga awa flood waters through farmland and GW owned grazing licenced areas into Lake Wairarapa

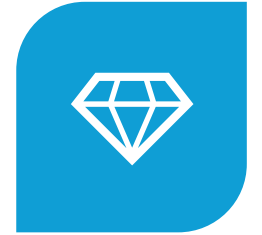
Where feasible and practical, grazing licence agreements transition to nature-based land management approaches that offer multiple co-benefits whilst maintaining flood protection service provision.



WHY NOW?



WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?



WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?



WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

ENACTED ACTION 7 OF GW'S ORGANISATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**'INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR REDUCING
AND SEQUESTERING EMISSIONS ON
FLOOD PROTECTION LAND INCLUDING
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS.'**

What's the challenge?



Reducing emissions, currently 1 in 20 of Organisation's footprint



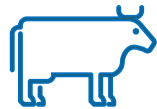
Revenue from 576 ha's of licenced areas less than cost of emissions



To date, focus on vegetation management for flood water passage and removal during flood events



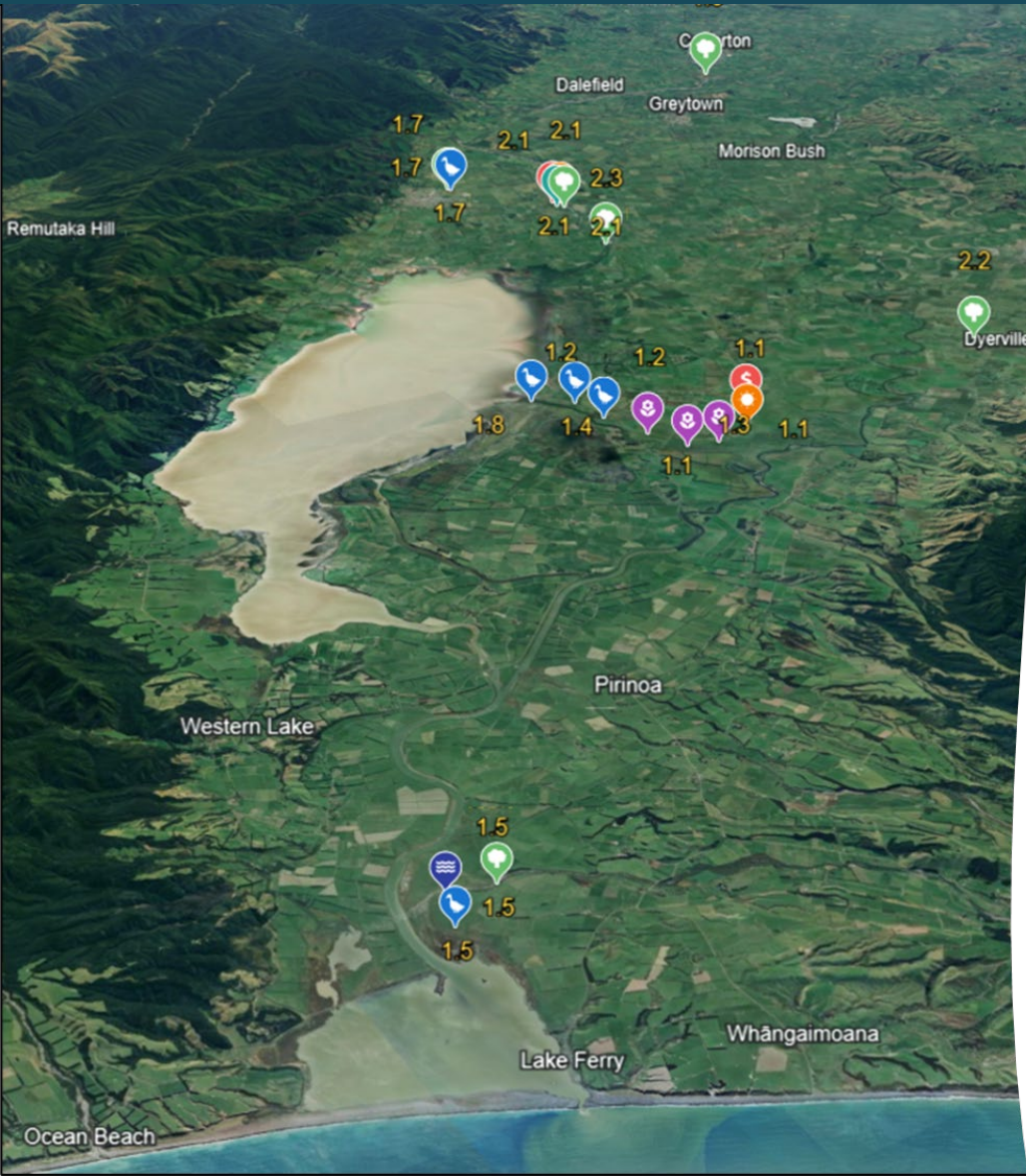
Modern day best practice Q?
Opportunity costs?



Grazing licences/private profits vs cross beneficial land management



What are the options?



Main options considered

- **Grazing retirement and transition to**
 - Flood plain meadow
 - Wetland and native bush restoration
 - Natives' horticulture
 - Partnerships with iwi/hapu
- **Solar farm(s) (if viable)**
- Licence restriction to cropping i.e., maize, baleage
- Grazing reductions, controls
- Mowing of stop banks
- Revegetation of stop banks
- Land sale or swap

What are the opportunities?

Timely alignment & dependencies with

- 2024-34 Long-Term Plan focus areas
 - Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for te taiao
 - Leading action for climate resilience & emissions reduction
 - Active mana whenua partnerships & participation for improved outcomes for Māori
- Ruamāhanga 100-year Catchment Strategy
- Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation
- **Lower Wairarapa Development Scheme Review**
- Mauri Tūhono Framework
- Wairarapa Moana Wetlands – Ramsar

What are the opportunities?



Co-benefits

- Flood plain ecosystems re-establishment
- Increase in wetland, ngahere and biodiversity habitat
- Flood waters attenuation and dissipation
- Sediment and contaminants filtration/absorption/processing
- Carbon sequestration provision
- Adaptive ecological resilience to climate change and support for long term ecosystems migration
- Opportunities for mana whenua participation in te taiao restoration initiatives and/or natives' horticulture
- Improved water quality – Te Mana o te Wai

Recommendation - Floodplain meadows

Approx. 115 ha

- Pollinators, invertebrate, avian habitat provision
- Ecosystem services
 - Flood water flow dissipation, sediment filtration and capture
 - Ground and water contaminants processing and removal
 - Increased biodiversity
- Baleage, haylage, silage vegetation management
 - Estimated \$85,000+ of annual profits
 - Fire risk suppression
 - Flood water passage provision
 - Self-funding for riparian and peripheral restoration
 - Support for Wairarapa Moana biodiversity projects
- Potential for native's horticulture and mana whenua partnerships i.e., Mānuka oil/honey, Harakeke

Note – selling baleage moves grazing emissions 'downstream', rather than eliminating them.



Recommendation - Wetland & ngahere restoration

Passively restored wetlands (~210ha)

- allowing time for areas to naturally return to wetland vegetation and habitat, may require pest management

Actively restored wetlands (~60ha)

- phased transition, focused on targeted planting such as riparian and peripheral margins

Ngahere native bush restoration (~60ha)

- flood protected and higher elevation areas into bush species, allowing for quantitative sequestration, potential NZUs

- Supports climate change resilience for the natural environment including ecologic migration from impacts of sea level rise
- Return and/or expansion of wetland and native bush areas
- Includes areas adjacent to Wairarapa Moana
- Potential to partner with mana whenua



Recommendation - Solar farm

Supports GW's Long Term Plan Energy Transformation Initiative

Agrivoltaics concept: land co-use for solar power with grazing or crops

Two licences identified as of interest, with areas outside of primary flood risk

- Te Pare (Oporua) site with feasibility assessment completed, deemed viable
- Tauwharenikau River bridge/SH53 southeast of Featherston



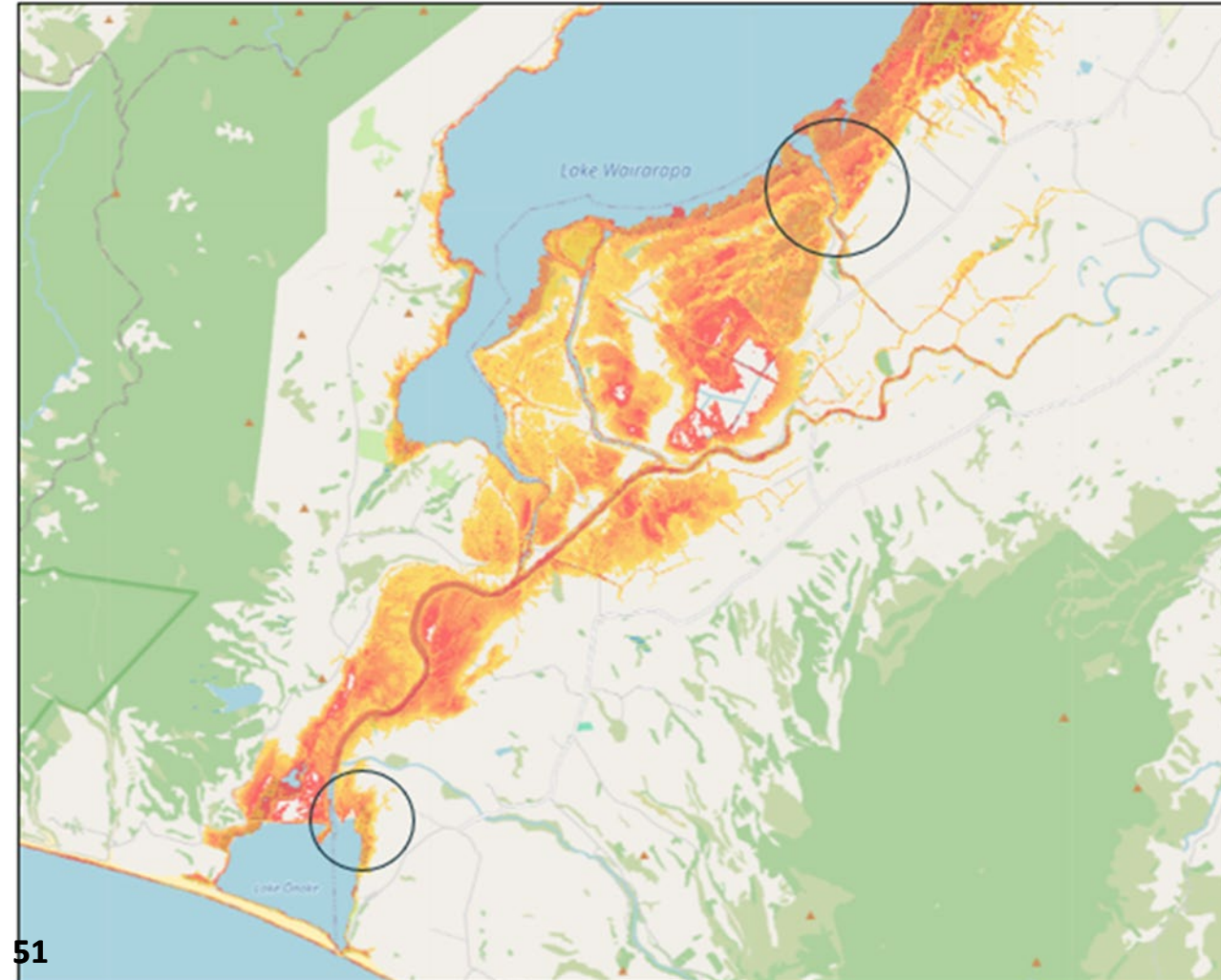
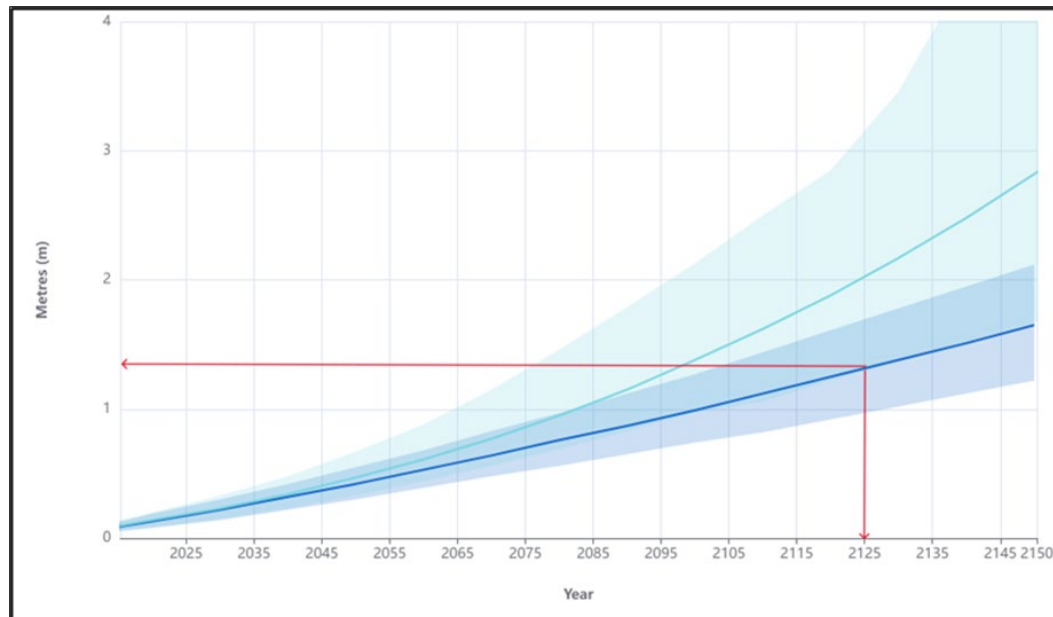
Big picture - Climate change consideration

Projected 100-year Sea Level Rise 1.35m

Likely minimum sea level rise sensitivity

Moderate emissions scenario IPCC 2-4.5

Areas in black circles are current licenses:
opportunity to initiate support of ecologic
migration

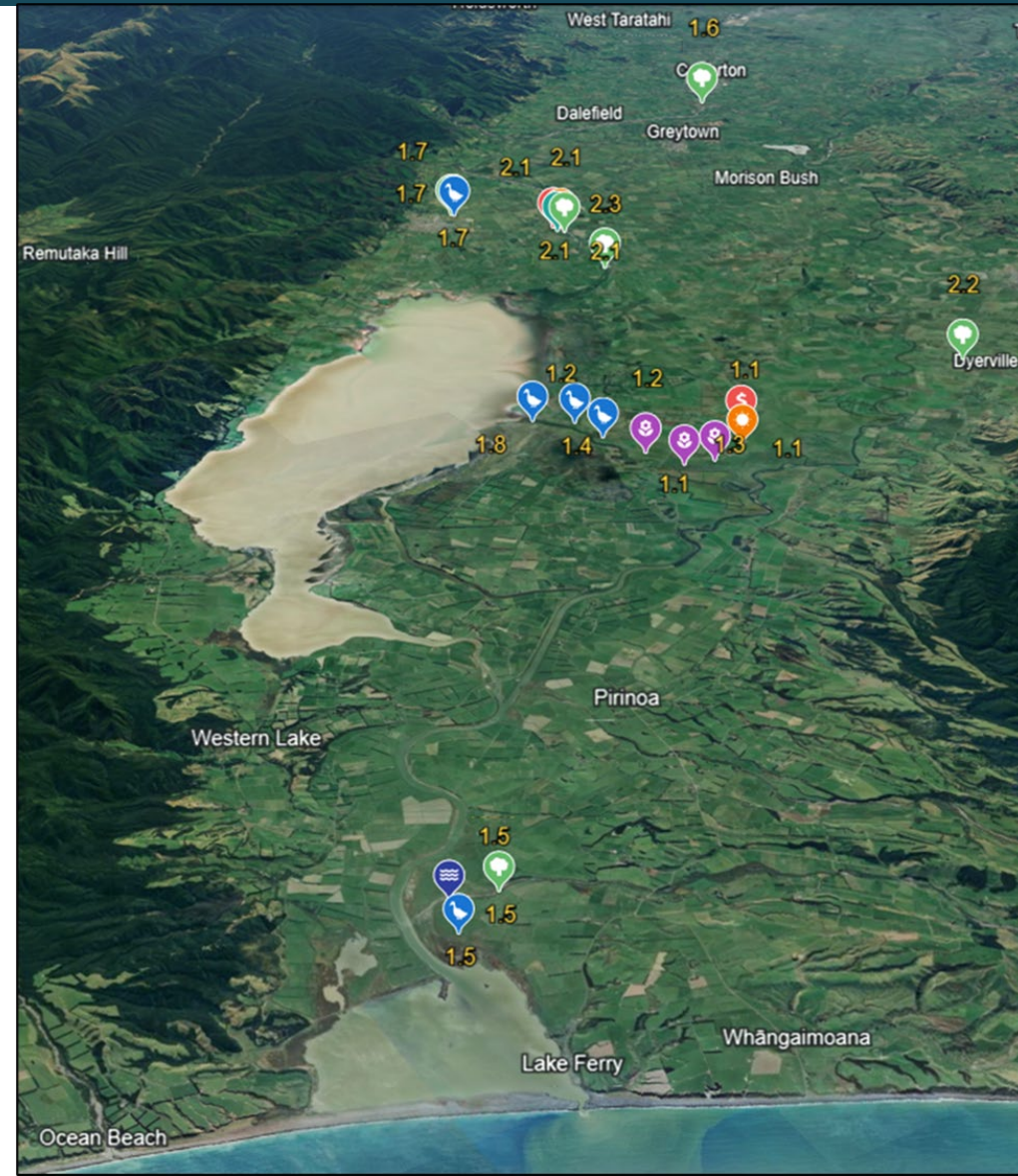
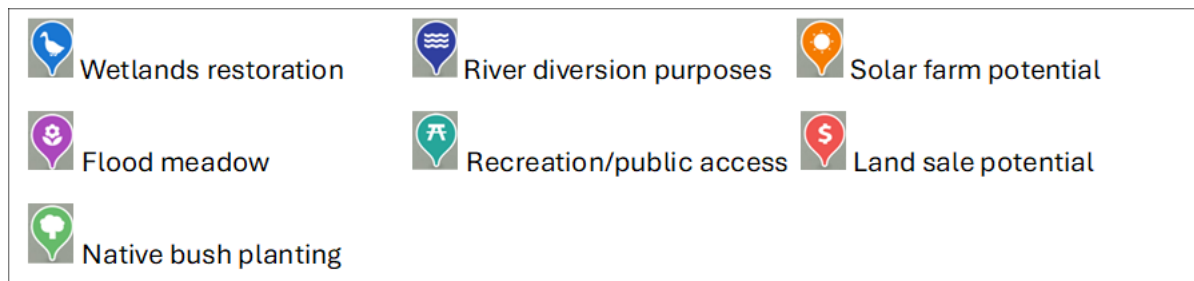


Recommendations – where?

Location of main GW owned flood management grazing license areas and associated recommended options.

View interactive Google Earth project map

<https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1f8l150JDurdlkP0RNVCBDPxur1tsSwy7?usp=sharing>



Ngā mihi maioha - Pātai and feedback



Investigation report [Project report_FloodPro emissions abatement options.docx](#)

Supporting info [Licence and options analysis - considerations and descriptions.docx](#)

For Information

PORIRUA CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and what Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) role is in supporting this.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. On 22 October 2024, Greater Wellington received a letter from Helmut Modlik, Tumu Whakarae of Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (Ngāti Toa), advising that Ngāti Toa, Te Reo o Ngā Tangata (The People Speak), and Porirua community leaders are planning a Te Tiriti Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate in early 2025.
3. Greater Wellington has been invited to support this kaupapa and consider how we would address any recommendations that come from this Assembly.
4. The same letter was also sent to Porirua City Council (PCC) and the Ministry for the Environment.
5. A response letter was sent from Daran Ponter and Nigel Corry to Helmut Modlik on 3 December 2024, proposing that Greater Wellington would support the Assembly as follows:
 - a Provide appropriate staff support at the Assembly sessions between mid-February and mid-March 2025. This will include staff from our Climate Change, Mātauranga Taiao and Rōpū Taiao teams.
 - b Receive the recommendations that come from the Assembly and discuss them with Councillors within three months of receiving them.
 - c Prepare a Council Report for a meeting within 1 month of the Council Workshop, to confirm which recommendations will be adopted by Greater Wellington and which will be amended or not adopted, with rationale for each decision noted. This responds to the request that our response process and results will be made public.
 - d Write back to the Assembly outlining Greater Wellington's response to the recommendations within one week after the Council Meeting.

6. The question the Assembly plans to address, is “learning to live with Porirua’s changing world together: how do we connect and respond as our climate changes?”.
7. The Assembly is being run across four Saturdays in February and March (15 and 22 February, and 15 and 29 March 2025).
8. The whole process is being led by Ngāti Toa and consists of two separate Assemblies: The Community Assembly, made up of 50 representatives from across the broader communities of Porirua; and the Mana Whenua Assembly, made up of Ngāti Toa Rangatira uri. On the final day (29 March) the two assemblies will come back together to develop the recommendations that will then be presented to Council. All sessions are being held at Pātaka Museum in Porirua.
9. Ngāti Toa did a mail drop within the Porirua area of more than 11,000 flyers which led to over 600 registrations of interest from community members. This was then narrowed down to a representative selection of 50 community leaders to participate in the Assembly.
10. At the first session, on Saturday 15 February 2025, Ngāti Toa acknowledged the two-three years of preparation for this Assembly and the support of volunteers such as Te Reo o Ngā Tangata, as well as Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington, and Enviroschools

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

11. At the time of preparing this report, three of the four Assembly Session have taken place. Below is a brief summary of each.
12. **Day One – Saturday 15 February 2025:**
 - a The two Assemblies (Community and Mana Whenua) were held in separate rooms next to one another and each had an agenda tailored to them.
 - b The focus of the day was “Climate 101 and our rohe.”
 - c Greater Wellington was invited to be present and support the ‘Climate Corner’ a table set up in the Assembly space where we could provide information to anyone interested. The Climate Corner operated during the breaks, and the rest of the time we were able to support the Community Assembly sessions.
 - d Four staff from Greater Wellington attended the first day, participating and observing the context setting and how the process is applied in practice. Tom FitzGerald, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee’s Regional Adaption Project Lead, presented on the topic “Shifting baselines: natural hazards, climate risks & adaptation” at both the Community and the Mana Whenua Assemblies.
 - e A big focus of the Community Assembly was doing whanaungatanga, agreeing their rules of engagement (tikanga) and also how they would make decisions.
 - f The group shared their feedback, which was then summarised into an engagement treaty ‘We agree too...’outlining how members will interact and

collaborate for the remainder of the assembly and then the rest of the time was spent learning about climate change and the impacts for Porirua.

- g The Mana Whenua Assembly on the other hand jumped straight into the topic of climate change and what it means for Porirua.
- h After lunch, the Community Assembly went on a bus tour. Hohepa Potini, Cultural Expert for Ngāti Toa & Helmut Modlik, CE for Ngāti Toa shared Ngāti Toa history and significance of different sites in Porirua. Angela Sutherland, Climate Change Advisor from PCC shared some of what we know so far about sea level rise and more extreme weather events are likely to affect Porirua City into the future.
- i Engagement was really positive with a lot of great feedback provided in the end of day reflections.
- j Overall, a lot of time was spent setting the scene, getting to know one another and how the process will work, and we expect that the process will continue to be tweaked as each week adds another layer of understanding as to how to get the best out of the process.
- k The minutes from both the Mana Whenua and Community Assemblies (and some of the key presentations delivered on the day) are accessible on the Porirua Assembly Website: <https://www.ngatitoea.iwi.nz/poriruaassembly>

13. Day Two – Saturday 22 February 2025:

- a Day two was again run as two concurrent separate Assemblies in neighbouring rooms.
- b The focus of this session was “Rangatahi experts and deliberations” and was attended by a group of primary and secondary school-aged students from across eight different schools and with the support of Enviroschools.
- c Two staff attended as representatives of Greater Wellington and we volunteered to be the minute-taker for the Community Assembly. We were also positioned at the Climate Corner table again alongside one representative from PCC.
- d Navana Matthews, Senior Advisor Māori, presented to the mana whenua assembly on the topic ‘How the Mātauranga Māori of Maramataka can track localised environmental changes.’
- e Rangatahi presenting at the session brought the focus on how we ensure their voices are heard in the democratic processes – they would rather be heard as a collective than have individuals representing on boards and governance groups. They want to be heard and see the action that comes out of it.

14. Day Three – Saturday 15 March 2025:

- a Only the Community Assembly met this time around
- b Greater Wellington had two staff attend the beginning of the session but did not remain for the whole day as there were too many observers compared to Assembly participants.

- c A verbal update on the focus of this session will be provided at the Committee Meeting.

15. Further to the Assembly sessions:

- a At the conclusion of Day Two, the Assembly indicated that they were keen to hear from Greater Wellington, Porirua City Council (PCC) and Wellington Water Limited about what is happening and what we are doing.
- b A presentation was pulled together by staff at both PCC and Greater Wellington and the presentation was recorded over a Teams call and made available to all Assembly members (it is also available with many other resources on the Assembly Website referred to in paragraph 12j above).
- c This was then followed by an Online Experts Q&A session on the evening of Wednesday 11 March 2025, with representatives from PCC, Greater Wellington, Wellington Water Limited, and several other experts from various fields. The Assembly members were interested to understand more about what agencies like Greater Wellington, PCC and Wellington Water Limited are currently doing about climate resilience. Questions asked by Assembly members on the night traversed a wide range of topics.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

- 16. The final assembly session will be held on Saturday 29 March 2025.
- 17. Once the recommendations from the Assembly are received, a workshop with Councillors will be prepared to review each recommendation.
- 18. This will then be followed by a Council report to confirm which recommendations the Council will adopt and the rationale for these decisions.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Ana Nicholls, Hautū Mātauranga Taiao Director Mātauranga Taiao Zofia Miliszewska, Kaiwhakahaere Matua Head of Strategy & Performance
Approvers	Monica Fraser, Te Pou Whakarae General Manager, Māori Outcomes Luke Troy, Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki Group Manager Strategy

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

One of the purposes of the Climate Committee is to provide effective leadership on climate change for Greater Wellington and the Wellington Region on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate Change presents an opportunity for the Council to hear directly from one of its communities on what action they wish to see from the Council to support resilience against the changing climate.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

The Porirua Citizens Assembly on Climate Change is an opportunity to hear from community leaders on their terms. The insights gathered from the Assembly will help us to better understand the priorities of both Ngāti Toa and the Porirua community in their own words. We understand that this initiative will be a first for Aotearoa. It's bringing together of a Tiriti-based process, an internationally proven deliberative democratic process, and in response to the global climate emergency is unique. We can learn from this model and support all our mana whenua partners if they should choose to adopt this initiative and implement it in their rohe, and also potentially have this in our own democratic engagement toolkit.

Internal consultation

Staff from our Climate Change, Mātauranga Taiao and Rōpū Taiao teams have been involved in the preparation for supporting the Assembly sessions. The Executive Leadership Team have enabled Greater Wellington's support of the Assembly sessions and discussed the reflections after the first two Assembly Sessions.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

It is uncertain what sort of recommendations will come out of the final Assembly session so we cannot yet determine what Greater Wellington will be able to support or not. However, we anticipate that many recommendations will likely be things that we would need to consider through our planning processes such as the development of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.