



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 15 May 2025, 10.00am

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council
34 Chapel Street, Masterton

Quorum: *Seven Members*

Members

Councillors

Penny Gaylor (Chair)

David Bassett

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

David Lee

Daran Ponter

Yadana Saw

Simon Woolf

Quentin Duthie (Deputy Chair)

Ros Connelly

Ken Laban

Thomas Nash

Hikitia Ropata

Adrienne Staples

Appointee

Barbie Barton

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

Environment Committee (A Committee of the Whole)

1 Purpose

Oversee the development, implementation and review of Council's:

- a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators to improve environmental outcomes for the Wellington Region's land, water, air, biodiversity, natural resources, parks and reserves, and coastal marine area
- b Regional resilience priorities in the delivery of plans, programmes, initiatives and activities for flood protection, erosion control, and regional parks and forests
- c Regulatory systems, processes and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities
- d Plans, programmes, and efforts to increase volunteer uptake, community involvement and mahi tahi with others seeking to improve environmental outcomes in the Wellington Region.

2 Specific responsibilities

The Committee's environmental responsibilities include the areas of land use management, air quality, water health and quality, regional natural resources, river control, flood protection, regional parks and reserves, coastal marine environment, maritime navigation and safety, biosecurity and biodiversity.

- 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:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience prioritiesand recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.
- 2.3 Review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience priorities.
- 2.4 Consider regional, national and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in the legislative frameworks for their implications for Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regulatory systems, processes and tools.

- 2.5 Recommend to Council changes to improve the effectiveness of Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience priorities
 - c Regulatory systems, processes and tools.
- 2.6 Review Greater Wellington's compliance with Council's related legislative responsibilities¹, and the monitoring and enforcement of compliance.
- 2.7 Ensure that the Committee's decision making:
 - a Considers climate change-related risks (mitigation and adaptation)
 - b Is consistent with Council's plans and initiatives to give effect to Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 21 August 2019, including agreed emissions reduction targets.
- 2.8 Review, after each Farming Reference Group meeting, a written report of the business conducted at that meeting.

3 Delegations

- 3.1 Subject to sections 3.3 to 3.7, Council delegates to the Committee all the powers, functions and duties necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities (except those that must not be delegated, have been retained by Council, have been delegated to another committee, or have been delegated to the Chief Executive).
- 3.2 The Committee has the authority to approve submissions to external organisations for matters pertaining directly to the Committee's purpose.
- 3.3 The Committee may make decisions on matters with a financial impact only where the related costs are:
 - a Budgeted for in the relevant business group's budget
 - b Not budgeted for in the relevant business group's budget, but can be met from savings within that budget.
- 3.4 Where the Committee considers a decision with a material financial impact is needed², the Committee must refer the matter to Council for its decision.
- 3.5 The Committee may not make a decision that is materially inconsistent with Council's Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.
- 3.6 Where a matter proposed for consideration by the Committee (including during the development of proposed Greater Wellington plans and policies) is of strategic

¹ These responsibilities include those under the Resource Management Act 1991 and for the granting of resource consents, the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1967, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Reserves Act 1977, and the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

² That is, where savings are identified from other business groups' budgets to meet the related costs; or no savings are identified across Greater Wellington's overall budget to meet the related costs.

importance to the Wairarapa Constituency, that matter shall first be referred to the Wairarapa Committee or its members for their consideration.

- 3.7 The Committee shall ensure that it acts under the guidance of the Memorandum of Partnership in working with Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners of the Wellington Region to ensure effective Māori participation in the Committee's deliberations and decision-making processes.

4 Members

- 4.1 All thirteen Councillors.
- 4.2 The Chair of the Farming Reference Group.

5 Voting entitlement

The Chair of the Farming Reference Group sits at the table and has full speaking rights, but has no voting rights at any Committee meeting.

6 Quorum

Seven Committee members.

7 Meeting frequency

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

Environment Committee

Thursday 15 May 2025, 10:00am

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council
34 Chapel Street, Masterton

Public Business

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2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
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4.	Confirmation of the Public Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 20 February 2025	25.21	6
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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 15 May 2025.

Report 25.21

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 20 February 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Duthie (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban (from 9.30am until 10.27am and from 10.32am)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (from 9.45am until 11.08am)
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw (from 9.35am until 11.08am and from 11.27am)
Councillor Staples
Councillor Woolf
Barbie Barton

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That the Committee accepts the apology for lateness from Councillor Saw and Councillor Ponter.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

Councillor Connelly declared a conflict of interest with regard to agenda item 6 – High Pathogen Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regional Responses – Report 25.25.

3 Public participation

Diane Strugnell, Pāuatahanui Freshwater Catchment Community spoke on the group's work on Pāuatahanui Inlet.

Councillor Saw arrived at 9.35am during the above item.

Councillor Ponter arrived at 9.45am at the end of the above item.

Anthony Davies, Friends of Belmont Regional Park, spoke on the prospective fast-track approvals application involving Belmont Regional Park.

Jonathan Ravens spoke on the prospective fast-track approvals application involving Belmont Regional Park.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 21 November 2024 - Report 24.621

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 21 November 2024 – Report 24.621.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Greater Wellington Involvement in the Approvals Process under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 – Report 25.59 [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Director, Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Andrew Banks, Resource Advisor, David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, and Shaun Andrewartha, Manager Environmental Regulation, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Ponter

That the Committee invites the Group Manager Environment to report back to the Environment Committee on any fast track approvals proposals that may include acquisition of or swap for Regional Council land.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 10.27am and returned at 10.32am during the above item.

Noted: The Committee requested that officers arrange a briefing on the proposed Belmont Quarry Development Fast Track project.

The meeting adjourned at 11.08am and resumed at 11.24am. Councillor Ponter was not present when the meeting resumed, and did not return. Councillor Saw was not present when the meeting resumed.

6 High Pathogen Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regional Responses – Report 25.25 [For Information]

Henk Louw, Principal Advisor Ecosystems, spoke to the report.

Councillor Saw returned to the meeting at 11.27am, during the above item.

7 Farming Reference Group Chair’s Report – 25.47 [For Information]

Barbie Barton, Chair of the Farming Reference Group, spoke to the report.

8 Te Rōpū Taiao | Environment Update – February 2025 – Report 25.23 [For Information]

Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested a report on contestable community funds, including a schedule of current funds and future funds, fund guidelines, and how Greater Wellington manages the funds.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Duthie to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 11.43am.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date:

Environment Committee
15 May 2025
Report 25.144



For Information

WAIRARAPA WATER RESILIENCE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (the Strategy) including information and analysis on connections between water resilience and Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) wider work such as Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Greater Wellington is supporting the implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy having endorsed it in principle in June 2021 (Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy report – Report 21.186).
3. Environment Group is providing staff time and resource to the implementation of the strategy as part of Whaitua Implementation. Recommendations in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (the WIP) point to the need for water allocation, water capture, natural attenuation and water efficiency measures.
4. These elements are all reflected in the Strategy albeit predominantly from a 'water use and availability' lens as opposed to a 'healthy water quality' lens. The Strategy does touch on water quality and follows the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy in its principles.
5. The Strategy was developed as part of a collaborative process in 2021 involving community, industry and mana whenua representatives, two years after the publication of the the WIP.
6. The Strategy has been endorsed by leadership across the region. Water resilience is also identified as a key priority under both the Wairarapa and Wellington Region Economic Development Plans. The implementation of the Strategy is reported against as an action in the Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan.
7. Development of the Strategy was done in parallel to feasibility work on a large-scale storage project in the Wairarapa, the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Project. This was driven by Wairarapa Water Ltd., an independent entity established as a result of work undertaken by Greater Wellington on feasibility and suitable sites. This work received significant co-funding from central Government.

The project was stopped as it was deemed unworkable under new freshwater regulations but also encountered other key challenges around affordability.

Strategic importance of this work for the Wairarapa

8. As noted in the foreword to the Strategy provided by the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust (Kahungunu) and Rangitāne ō Wairarapa Inc (Rangitāne) Post Settlement Governance Entities, “Water is the blood of the mother earth Papatūānuku, and the rivers are her veins. It is her who has given us life from time immemorial and it is with her that solutions to climate change lie.”
9. The Wairarapa is faced with predictions of growing demand for water, combined with extended periods of drought interspersed with severe weather events caused by climate change.
10. The availability and quality of freshwater resource is critical to sustain the Wairarapa community’s way of life, is fundamental to environmental wellbeing, and underpins the local economy.
11. More droughts may limit pasture production and crop growth. Different crops and animal breeds that are more drought-resistant may become more suitable.
12. Water supplies will likely to be under increased pressure, with natural waterways like rivers and lakes not being replenished and growing communities requiring water services.
13. The Strategy foreword concludes with “Our mission is to restore the healing power of Papatūānuku through the restoration of as many natural processes of water resilience as possible. We welcome modern methods and technologies especially where they strengthen the catchment-wide reach of the earth mother and her natural processes that will be the difference between success and failure.”

Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group

14. A Governance Group to commence implementation of the Strategy was established in July 2024 following a six-month planning period.
15. The group includes elected members from Greater Wellington, Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council and representatives from Kahungunu and Rangitāne. It has been meeting to establish a joined-up approach to implementing the Strategy.
16. This alignment and coordination of governance between mana whenua and local government agencies is identified in the Strategy as a necessary enabler.
17. The Strategy originally recommended the Wairarapa Committee be suggested as the governance entity for Strategy implementation, but this recommendation was not endorsed by all the relevant parties.
18. The Council is represented by Councillor Adrienne Staples and Councillor Penny Gaylor, as well as Nigel Corry in an ex-officio capacity. [Attachment 1](#) includes the terms of reference, including the governance structure.
19. External parties and special interest groups are engaged in some of the work programme but are not part of governance. It was seen as important that those

organisations with key responsibilities in making decisions around water use and allocation, efficiency and maintenance of environmental qualities worked out how to best proceed in the first instance with external parties being brought in to implement specific actions.

Changing national direction on freshwater leads to uncertainty

20. Some elements of the Strategy rely on the Resource Management Act (RMA) frameworks for water allocation and land-use. Changes to the RMA since the publication of the Strategy, as well as further changes under the upcoming RMA Reforms will directly affect our approach to some workstreams under the Strategy. For example, we are aware the Government is considering changes to national direction on water allocation and water storage, both of which are workstreams under the Strategy.
21. Despite the uncertainty surrounding the proposed RMA reform, many workstreams are unlikely to be directly affected and can continue to progress. Workstreams with a regulatory element will need to be progressed carefully. Background policy work could still be undertaken which could inform our direction once we understand the outcome of the RMA Reforms.

**Te tātaritanga
Analysis**

Wairarapa Treaty Settlement implementation

22. Work and decisions made in the context of the Strategy have a significant overlap with matters to be considered under the joint redress legislation for Kahungunu and Rangitāne through the deliberations of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board (the Board).
23. The Board is responsible for notifying and approving a Natural Resources Document for the Ruamāhanga river catchment which Council and territorial authorities must then recognise and provide for in certain statutory documents including the Natural Resources Plan and Long Term Plans.
24. Within the Ruamāhanga almost all aspects of the Strategy are relevant to the Board including water allocation, water capture (including storage), land-use, and natural attenuation e.g. wetlands creation and protection. The Board's statutory mandate does not extend to the Wairarapa Coast catchment, however the Strategy does apply to the whole of Wairarapa (both Ruamāhanga and Wairarapa Coast).

Overlap with WIP implementation

25. As noted above many of the recommendations in the WIP relate to water efficiency and changes in how water is managed. The Strategy is a mechanism that can provide focus and visibility to help to drive the implementation of a number of WIP recommendations that apply to councils and mana whenua partners combined.
26. Greater Wellington's most recent reporting on the WIP (Whaitua Implementation Update – Report 24.518) advised that these recommendations are most appropriately pursued in conjunction with the Strategy.

27. For example, the Natural Attenuation and Water Allocation workstreams under the Strategy are currently being led by Greater Wellington's Environment Group with support from external parties. Both workstreams can deliver on the objectives of the WIP and the Strategy at the same time.
28. A specific example is the development and use of the SkyTEM aerial survey information (a new model of aquifer potential across the Ruamāhanga). This new model would support us to pursue a WIP recommendation that seeks to integrate water resilience with natural processes: "Greater Wellington further investigates integrated solutions to water reliability. These should include integrating storage, harvesting, attenuation and managed aquifer recharge, and facilitate pilot projects to prove feasibility."

The work programme to implement the Strategy

29. The first one-year work programme for the 2024/25 financial year was endorsed by the Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group in July 2024.
30. Five workstreams were set up focussed on work the organisations wished to oversee together. A one-page overview is provided in [Attachment 2](#).
31. The governance structure to implement the work programme assumes significant contribution from existing staff, teams and resources across Greater Wellington. This is because:
 - a Much of the work that will contribute to this is already underway or planned, even if under a different project, angle or perspective, and
 - b Any redirection of resources should happen within the existing organisational structure, which has been set up to work across functional areas.
32. An example of this is work being undertaken as part of the SkyTEM project. This project led by GNS Science, Te Pū Ao is a significant investment by councils and central government to better understand the hydro-geological properties of the Wairarapa which influence groundwater dynamics.

Central Government direction and appetite for action

33. Central Government has priorities around increasing productivity for primary production, as well as encouraging regional infrastructure investment, through the Regional Infrastructure Fund.
34. This is creating a sense of urgency among stakeholders, particularly water users wanting to increase reliability of access to water for the dry months to sustain their activities and enable moving to other arable and horticultural land uses.
35. Linked to this is the Local Water Done Well initiative to establish the governance and operational structures for councils providing treated water and storm water services.
36. Carterton District Council is progressing plans with central government support to expand storage capability for the district, particularly to service the Waingawa

Industrial Area, which has been identified as a significant growth opportunity in the Regional Future Development Strategy.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

37. As tangata whenua, Māori have rights and interests in water as a taonga tuku iho. The Strategy acknowledges this relationship between Māori and the rain, mists, rivers, lakes and wetlands of the Wairarapa.
38. The Strategy identifies the requirement for mana whenua involvement in decision making, management and operational work under the strategy. At this stage mana whenua involvement is visible at the governance level but not active at the other levels of work.
39. As noted above, the work of the Strategy has a strong overlap with the powers and responsibilities of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board established by Treaty settlement. It is important that parties to the Strategy do not undermine or impede the implementation of the Treaty settlement, indeed it is incumbent on all parties to actively support the Board in establishing its role.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

40. Greater Wellington will continue involvement in Strategy implementation during the 25/26 financial year. This will include exploring alignment, roles and responsibilities between the various governance entities including Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board.
41. The Governance Group is planning to meet this month to develop the forward-looking programme based on the experience to date.
42. A renewed work programme is also an opportunity to identify where actions that support implementation of the WIP can be given visibility and prioritised through this programme.
43. One of the key foundational projects is to establish a communicable case for action. This received funding from the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy's Steering Group. This project is due for completion at the end of this financial year.

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Governance Group Terms of Reference
2	Overview of work programme

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Pete Huggins – Catchment Manager, Ruamāhanga Jennie Marks – Programme Director, Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy
Approvers	Amanda Cox – Principal Advisor to the Chair and Chief Executive Nicola Patrick – Director, Catchment Lian Butcher – Group Manager, Environment Group

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> This paper provides an update on a key environmental strategy and resilience priority for the Wairarapa.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> This work may inform Greater Wellington's current strategies, policies and plans. Work undertaken to implement the WIP and Strategy may have a bearing on future changes to the regional plan, for example in the area of water allocation.
<i>Internal consultation</i> This paper has been prepared by Environment Group in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Executive and has been reviewed by Te Hunga Whiriwhiri.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no risks inherent in this paper.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Governance Group for the implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy

Purpose and objectives

1. The Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group brings together the four Wairarapa councils and two iwi to oversee the implementation of an agreed, shared work programme to progress the objectives of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS) developed in 2021.
2. The objective of this group is to ensure appropriate collaboration and to champion the work required to implement the strategy by supporting action from within the members' organisation and during engagement with external stakeholders.
3. Specifically, the group will
 - 3.1. Receive and provide updates
 - 3.2. Provide direction for the development and implementation of the work programme
 - 3.3. Make and maintain connections and support collaboration between councils, mana whenua and wider stakeholders to benefit the work programme and water resilience in the Wairarapa generally.

Membership

4. The Governance Group is made up of the following members:
 - 4.1. Ngāti Kahugunu iwi: Robin Potangaroa
 - 4.2. Rangitāne o Wairarapa: Jo Hayes
 - 4.3. Masterton District Council: Cr David Holmes
 - 4.4. Carterton District Council: Mayor Ron Mark, Cr Brian Deller
 - 4.5. South Wairarapa District Council: Cr Melissa Sadler-Futter
 - 4.6. Greater Wellington Regional Council: Cr Adrienne Staples, Cr Penny Gaylor
5. Ex Officio:
 - 5.1. Janice Smith, CEO, South Wairarapa District Council
 - 5.2. Geoff Hamilton, CEO Carterton District Council
 - 5.3. Maseina Koneferenisi, GM Infrastructure & Assets, Masterton District Council
 - 5.4. Nigel Corry, CEO Greater Wellington District Council



6. The Senior Leaders Group is made up of senior staff able to make resourcing and work programme decisions within their organisations. The membership may overlap with, but is not restricted to, the officers attending the Governance Group and some of the workstream leads.

Ways of working

7. All members are committed to working together constructively to progress the delivery of an efficient work programme to implement the WWRS that is feasible, pragmatic, and acceptable socially and politically.
8. All members are committed to contributing to a free and frank exchange of ideas during the meeting while respecting confidentiality where required.
9. Conflicts of interest, real or perceived, must be declared and recorded. Where the conflict compromises the member relating to specific agenda items, the member may not be able to participate.
10. Any communications with the media and the wider public about this group will be in line with an agreed communications protocol.
11. Officers of the member organisations and external guests may be invited to attend and support the meeting or present agenda items.
12. Secretariat support will be provided through the Programme Management function, co-funded by the four councils, while in-kind support of iwi and councils is provided to implement the work streams, alongside external funding being sought.
13. All meeting papers and minutes are kept on the GWRC record and are available on request.

Meetings and dissolution

14. It is anticipated that the Governance Group meets at least quarterly for the first year (July 2024-June 2025), with the Senior Leaders Group meeting at least once prior to the Governance Group meetings.
15. Meetings are scheduled in advance and may not be regular.
16. The forward agenda will be agreed and reviewed at each meeting.
17. The agenda and meeting papers will be collated by the secretariat and distributed following endorsement by the Chair, no later than three working days before the meeting.
18. A quorum shall be met by at least one iwi representative from each of the two iwi, one elected representative from each of the four councils present and at least two ex-officio attendants to provide the record. Members may nominate a representative on their behalf to achieve the quorum if they are unable to attend.
19. The group may recommend its dissolution.



Governance and programme management arrangements

20. The implementation of the WWRS will require strong leadership and making some significant decisions on complex issues. Clear governance and management structure to oversee the pathway to the implementation of the work programme is therefore critical.
21. The day-to-day execution of the work programme will require coordination and oversight. It is anticipated that projects under various workstreams require resourcing and input from technical experts, project managers, and representatives from relevant stakeholders.
22. Progress reporting and ensuring a flow of information within and across the agencies is also important.
23. This effort and associated resources will come from all or some of the member organisations. Additional resources may be sought externally also. This means organisations will need to facilitate discussions and decisions internally, as well as coordinate this contribution as part of the wider combined work programme effort.
24. The Governance Group (GG), with members from all four councils and iwi oversees the progress and resourcing of the work programme as a whole and receive updates on workstream development and individual projects.
25. The Senior Leaders Group (SLG) working with the Programme Director provides connection to management and resourcing decisions of member organisations and ensures cohesion and communication within and across organisations.
26. Iwi representatives are critical for providing cultural and environmental advocacy. Mana Whenua representatives bring cultural and environmental perspectives to the group, ensuring that decisions align with the principles and values of the local iwi. They engage with decision-makers within their respective iwi structures, influencing policies related to water resilience and resource management. Beyond driving for outcomes, iwi may advocate for financial support for initiatives that align with the cultural and environmental priorities of mana whenua.
27. Workstream leads are assigned to drive forward work across projects reporting to the Programme Director. Projects would be managed as required, involving resourcing from appropriate sources, internal and external.
28. Workstream leads will ensure technical experts contribute with specialised knowledge and inform decisions. They provide valuable guidance on the development of policies that are grounded in scientific, engineering, and environmental considerations. As experts in their respective fields, will also bring connections with external funding bodies and research organisations, helping secure additional funding for specific projects to progress work streams.
29. The work of workstream leads will be coordinated by a programme director and supported by the secretariat.
30. Significant projects may require separate governance including other external members or even the establishment of special bodies for their administration. For example, a large community water storage project would require governance, programme and project management that involve external parties, possibly central government etc.

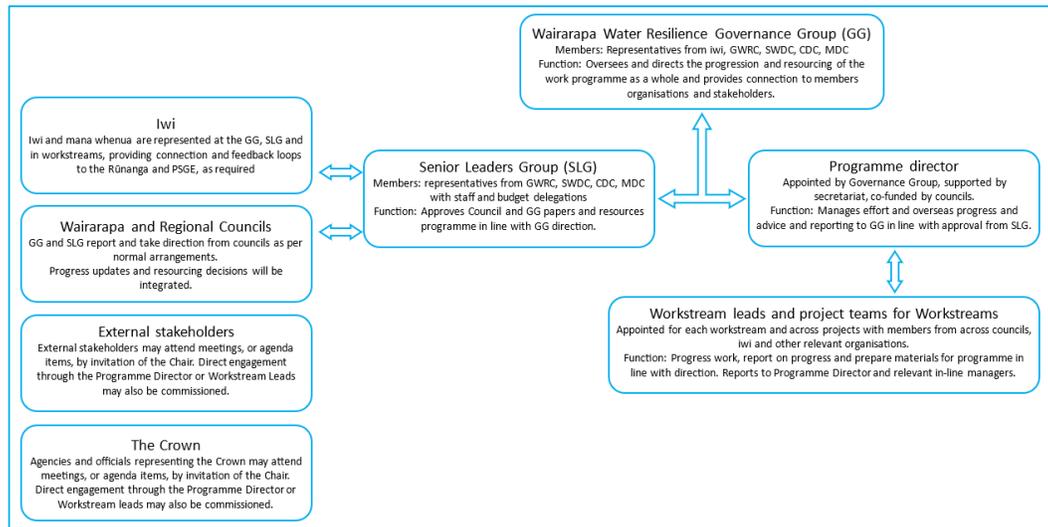


- 31. Regardless of the size, complexity and stage of the workstreams and projects, the governance group oversees the implementation of the WWRS as a whole and champions its progress against all dimensions.
- 32. Figure 1. Outlines the governance and management structure put in place to drive and oversee the work programme at large.

Partners and Stakeholders

- 33. There are many interested parties as well as wide interest in the management of water resources. Mana whenua are partners to the project with representation in the governance group and if desired in the working groups.
- 34. How the tiers of the governance structure organise engagement with stakeholders and the wider community is yet to be determined. It is advisable that the governance group provides the overarching leadership and speaks to the strategy and programme as a whole, while workstreams and individual project leads may undertake planned, targeted engagement as part of their work.

Figure 1. Governance structure and management structure for the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme



One-Page Summary – Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy Implementation Work Programme 2024-25

Programme Plan

Programme Management

The implementation is managed by providing advice to decision-makers and facilitating transparency, cohesive communications and engagement

- Supporting governance and administrative structure
- Collation of information and records
- Communications and engagement
- Funding oversight
- Overall progress reporting

Key projects for 24/25:

- Setting up administrative structure and resourcing from councils and partners
- Collate existing information on water resilience and any evidence to develop a Wairarapa-wide information campaign targeted at a range of audiences that demonstrate the need and commitment for action.

Natural attenuation

Nature-based solutions help us look after water resources and increase resilience

What we will do together:

Our focus is to connect opportunities for attenuation to increase resilience to flood protection works underway and planned with a focus on attenuation ponds, increasing planting in flood-prone areas and advocating for low-impact urban design with permeable surfaces.

Key projects for 24/25:

- Engaging with the “Before the Deluge” project for flood protection in the Ruamāhanga
- Exploring options for natural attenuation and flood-resistant street design in Featherston.

Water capture

Seasonal reliability is increased, and more water is available for our use

What we will do together:

We seek to establish mechanisms and drive for solutions that ensure public-interest oversight and lead to actions that serve our community at large.

Key projects for 24/25:

- Work with MBIE to obtain and collate all relevant files on previous work undertaken towards community dam projects
- Review policy settings and requirements for small- and medium-storage dams to support land use change to increase production of high-value products with low environmental footprint.

Water Allocation

Water is shared to support priority uses and enable sustainable growth

What we will do together:

Our focus is to promote the need to review water allocation in light of new evidence being developed.

Key projects for 24/25:

- Conduct targeted community engagement about the progress of Sky-TEM and the potential implications for water allocation in the future, explaining the interaction of surface and groundwater, and links of allocation and quality
- Commence policy review and analysis for future water rights and allocation.

Land use adaptation

What we grow is changing to reduce water reliance and increase resilience of our economy

What we will do together:

We will engage with other delivery partners to support research and initiatives targeted at land use change that increases resilience.

Key projects for 24/25:

- Work with WellingtonNZ and others on land use projects
- Engage with land management advisers to incorporate water resilience into extension programmes.

Water use efficiency

Everyone values water and uses it wisely to meet our needs

What we will do together:

We will develop educational material and policy initiatives together for everyone in the Wairarapa to learn about what they can do to improve efficiency.

Key projects for 24/25:

- Develop and launch targeted educational campaign on water efficiency and usage for rural, urban and commercial users across the Wairarapa.
- Develop a policy and incentive package consistent for all Wairarapa Councils that covers meters, charging and rain tanks.

Environment Committee
15 May 2025
Report 25.204

For Information

REGIONAL PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAMME CHANGE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Environment Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council's (Greater Wellington) shift in approach for the Regional Predator Control Programme (RPCP).

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Regional Predator Control Programme (RPCP) has been reviewed to assess how the programme could be applied across the region with a strategic focus on protecting high value biodiversity whilst considering economic benefits.
3. The current state of the programme has been confined to the northern Wairarapa with strong ties to Operational Solutions for Primary Industries (OSPRI) operations, timelines and possums. With the operational area restricted, predator numbers have been increasing across other landscapes.

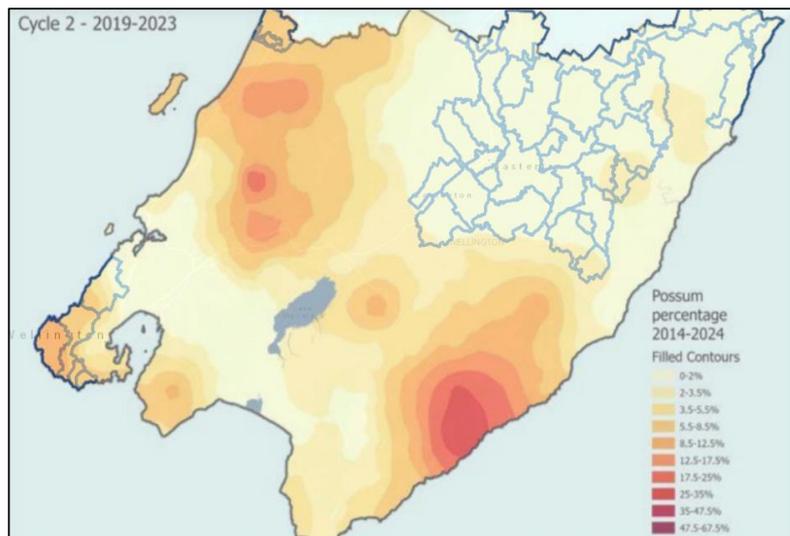


Image 1: Heatmap showing the current control area in blue polygons and the possum density across the region. Higher possum densities are illustrated in dark red.

4. The increased threat of predators on biodiversity will continue to increase if the programme does not shift to address these areas. It will become increasingly challenging to defend the current control area.
5. Areas of high value biodiversity hold the greatest carrying capacity for predators due to the variety of species and food sources available. Therefore, focussing control in these areas will produce benefits both for biodiversity as well as reducing the risk of predators to the local economy and upholding the values of our communities and mana whenua.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

6. A key principle for the future of the RPCP is to focus control in high value biodiversity areas across the region and to maximise control efforts for the benefit of biodiversity and the local economy.
7. To do this effectively a strategic approach was needed, and Greater Wellington used a Multicriteria Decision Analysis approach to develop a tool as a minimum viable product with a specific focus on possums, which pose the greatest threat to biodiversity and the local economy.
8. The tool collates data layers which include how threatened ecosystems and possum densities, potential possum habitat and land use types intersect. These layers were weighted to look at biodiversity and economic lenses. An output has generated in the form of a heatmap, which identified priority areas for work across the region. This serves as a regional strategic outlook and an integrated starting point for further discussion at catchment scale and subject to feasibility and resource availability.

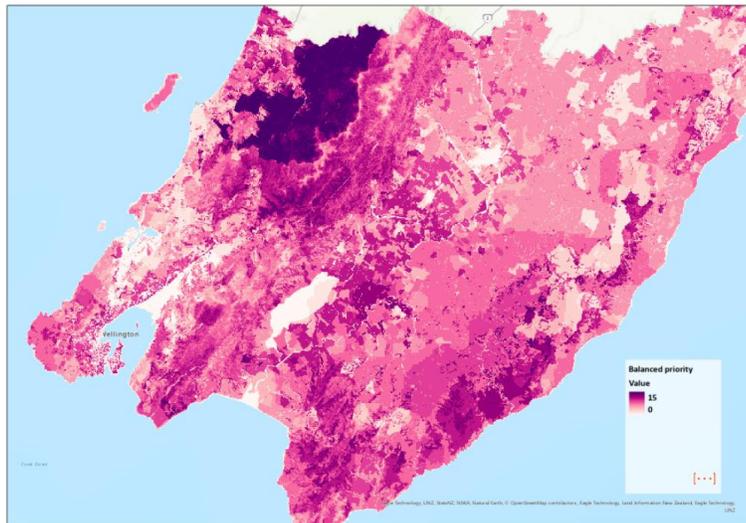


Image 2: Heatmap of priority areas through the Multi Criteria Analysis tool indicating priority areas. Darker areas hold higher priority than lighter areas.

9. Further development of the tool is planned over the next two years to address greater clarity on other predator species. The RPCP will continue work on mustelids

and cats and focus on pathways and connecting landscapes of control where knowledge indicates need.

10. This means that there will be a shift in resource allocation from its current area (Northern Wairarapa) to other areas across the region like the southern Wairarapa, areas around Lake Wairarapa, and the Kapiti foothills. This will likely have an impact for landowners in the current programme, where control will be applied with a more targeted approach. This also means that the programme can focus large scale operations in areas where there has been little to no control over the past 5 to 10 years.
11. Alternative control methods have been considered to assist conventional traps and aerial operations. These include prey species suppression where applicable, predator pathway management, collaborating with communities and mana whenua, and other predator control operations to maximise outcomes for biodiversity. A focus will be to actively seek out opportunities to scale up operations where possible, with a focus on cost effectiveness and bang for buck.
12. The review considered various delivery methods and confirmed that a ‘working with the willing’ approach was best for the region. In other words, we do not currently propose to compel landowners to take part.
13. There will be no additional funding requirement for landowners taking part in the programme, as the intent is for high priority predator control to be fully funded. The programme is funded through general rates.
14. Some landowners within the existing programme will see a reduction in service as we take a more targeted approach. We will work with these landowners to support them to transition to self-delivery of possum and predator control. Some of the options are to provide bait and traps at cost price, provide ongoing advice and where practical cost sharing opportunities.
15. The proposed change will take effect over the next three years. The change will be evaluated through a variety of measures to understand the benefits for both biodiversity and our communities. Further changes will be made to ensure the programme remains fit for purpose and remains an effective delivery programme under the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

16. There is no change to the current budget for this programme, which is why a strategic approach is required to redirect resources to areas where they are needed most. The budget for this programme is around \$2 million per annum, of which the majority is allocated in the Wairarapa.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

17. The change enables Greater Wellington to engage more effectively with mana whenua at place with a collaborative approach to protecting taonga species and

ecosystems. This includes better alignment and sharing of resources between Greater Wellington, mana whenua and other organisations.

18. The higher priority areas identified in the map include areas of known significance to mana whenua partners, such as areas around Wairarapa Moana and the headwaters of the Waikanae awa.

Te hiranga

Significance

19. The shift in the RPCP, although confined to predators, serves as a blueprint for a broader approach to how Greater Wellington works in the wider biodiversity space, with a focus on prioritising its work in areas where it is needed most.
20. In addition, the shift acknowledges that predator control needs a collective approach and provides connection points for other workstreams currently underway within Greater Wellington to enhance community and mana whenua priorities at place and seeks opportunities to collaborate within the wider landscape with other organisations such as Department of Conservation (DOC) and OSPRI.

Te whakatūtakitaki

Engagement

21. Through the review process we engaged with immediately impacted stakeholders including Rangitāne o Wairarapa, the Farming Reference Group, the Wairarapa collective and the Wairarapa Committee which had district representation as well.
22. We engaged internally across Catchment, Knowledge and Insight and Delivery with several subject matter experts to ensure our approach can link in with work across the organisation as we continue to work towards better integration.
23. We also engaged with OSPRI and DOC through the process. We were able to strengthen our working relationship with OSPRI, and information sharing has improved, which will assist future work planning.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

24. The first tranche of new priority areas for control will be signed off by the Director Delivery and the programme change will take effect from June 2025.
25. The pest animal team will then finalise the operational plan for these areas and will start engagement with mana whenua, landowners and stakeholders to start planning the work for the new financial year.
26. The team will liaise with landowners in the current control area regarding control devices (traps and bait stations in place) and support options as resources are re-allocated to new areas.
27. Over the next three years, we will review the effectiveness of the change and make further changes to the programme in line with our Regional Pest Management Plan

review and to reflect the outcome of collaborative planning with mana whenua, other agencies, and local communities.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Henk Louw – Principal Advisor Ecosystems, Delivery
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Group Manager, Environment

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>The proposed changes of the programme hold significant changes to how Greater Wellington approaches work for the benefit of biodiversity. Although there are no financial impacts, the change suggests reallocation of resources across the region with benefits to areas of high value biodiversity.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The proposed changes will enable more effective annual planning and advise future long-term plans. They will ensure more efficient delivery of predator control under the Regional Pest Management Plan under the Biosecurity Act 1993.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>The following teams have been involved with the preparedness planning to date: Knowledge and Insights, Delivery, Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, Delivery, Policy and Regulation, Communications, GIS-ICT, Strategy and Performance, Business Improvement.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>The change of the programme application will have impacts on the ground for landowners within the current programme. Long term impact if we do not make the change means that it would become increasingly difficult to defend the current control area, increasing the impacts of predators on biodiversity and the local economy.</p>

Environment Committee
15 May 2025
Report 25.162



For Information

CATCHMENT ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee on external-facing work within catchments, within the Environment group.

Te horopaki

Context

2. Environment Group is working to improve its effectiveness by promoting collaboration, both internally and with the community and mana whenua, to deliver improved environmental outcomes.
3. Staff from the Environment Group actively engage with various communities to achieve its goals, recognising the crucial role of local knowledge and participation in successful environmental outcomes. This external-facing approach is exemplified by several key initiatives outlined in the presentation attached.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

4. The examples of the Environment Group's work illustrate a shift from traditional, department-delivered activities to a more collaborative, outcomes-focused approach.
5. The presentation provides detailed examples of where better collaboration combined with a Catchment focus is leading to improved outcomes. This is across multiple outcome areas – environment, mana whenua and community, cost effectiveness and reducing previous duplication between agencies and internal teams.
6. Improved team-work and cross-team collaboration is an essential part to this change. Without this Greater Wellington would be ineffective in working more closely with the community to ensure their needs and perspectives are considered.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori

7. A focus for Greater Wellington is to improve outcomes for mana whenua and Māori. Effective partnering with mana whenua is a key focus area and key to a place-based way of working.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps

8. The Environment Group is moving away from a model of delivering isolated activities and towards a model that fosters collaboration, work with communities, and is focused on holistic environmental outcomes.
9. This outcome-focused approach is more likely to lead to long-term sustainability and environmental improvement.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment

Number	Title
1	Presentation of Catchment Engagement Update

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Writers	Rebecca Jamieson – Senior Advisor Catchment Engagement Tash Styles – Catchment Manager, Wairarapa Coast
Approvers	Nicola Patrick – Director, Catchment Lian Butcher – Group Manager, Environment

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation of the work programmes of Greater Wellington's Environment Group.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Development and implementation of related work programmes fall under the core activities of the 2023-2034 Long Term Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Internal consultation included the Environment Group and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are risks around managing expectations of progress towards a fully integrated and holistic approach to our work, operating in partnership and wider communications to interested parties.

Catchment Engagement





Context

This presentation shows examples of the Environment Group's work that illustrate a shift from traditional, department-delivered activities to a more collaborative, outcomes-focused approach.

Staff from the Environment Group actively engage with various communities to achieve its goals, recognising the crucial role of local knowledge and participation in successful environmental outcomes.





Te Awarua o Porirua | Porirua Stream

Harbour Accord riparian planting programme

Collaboration with PCC and GW on riparian programme.

Working together to target effective areas of land within the riparian margins in Porirua.

The combined programme offers landowners a high subsidy for land retirement and planting.

Harbour Accord signed on Waitangi Day 2025.



Wai-Māori monitoring

Supporting Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira-led monitoring that's informed by traditional mahinga kai locations and harbour testing.



Te Awarua o Porirua

Waiwhetū collaborative project plan

HCC, GW, WWL, mana whenua, and the community are now working together on an integrated catchment plan for Waiwhetū, with clearer roles, shared resources, and better coordination.



 **Te Whanganui a Tara | Waiwhetū Stream**

Photo: Lance @ flickr.com/lankee2009



Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai Partnership

A partnership between
Ātiawa ki Whakarongtai,
KCDC, DOC and GW.

Coordinated
implementation of fish
passage and monitoring
workstreams.

Enhanced resource
utilisation by partner
agencies.

 **Kāpiti** | Waikanae Awa



Kāpiti Whaitua Implementation Plan Leadership Group

Senior leaders from the ĀRT Collective, GW and KCDC have formed a group to coordinate decision making around prioritising and implementing the Kāpiti Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) recommendations.

Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board support

Building on past successes to bring a fully integrated work programme in and around the Wairarapa Moana reserves.

This is a key part of supporting Treaty Settlement implementation and supporting the Board's statutory role.



 Ruamāhanga | Wairarapa Moana



Launch of Hura Whenua in the Wairarapa with Rangitāne

Co-design framework to create, test and deliver operational projects with Mātauranga Māori.

Project 1 on the Mangatāre awa with teams across EG, Rangitāne iwi and hapū.



Pest Control Project in the Wairarapa

Providing traps and advice to groups alongside the Wairarapa Catchment Collective.

Connecting the purpose of pest control for biodiversity, erosion control planting and animal health, through catchment action plans.

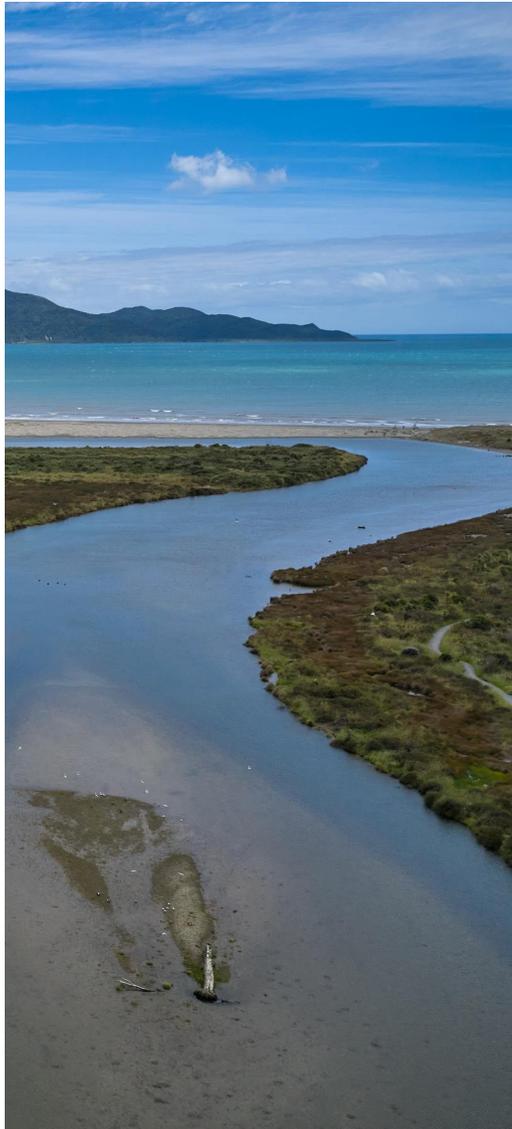
 Wairarapa Coast | Homewood



Inanga habitat restoration on the Whareama River

Joint project with Mountains to Sea Wellington, GW, members of the catchment group and the local school.

Cyclone Gabrielle damaged the habitat, and the community are coming together to learn and restore the habitat.



What is the impact and difference?

Examples of where better collaboration combined with a catchment focus is leading to improved outcomes – bringing in the right people in the right place, at the right time.

Across multiple outcome areas – environment, mana whenua and community, cost effectiveness and reducing previous duplication between agencies and internal teams.

Improved team-work and cross-team collaboration is an essential part to this change.

Effective partnering with mana whenua is a key focus area and key to a place-based way of working.

Environment Committee
15 May 2025
Report 25.167



For Information

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FUNDING UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Committee about the Community Environment Fund, the development of a coordinated Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework and support of community pest control both this financial year and into the future.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

Community Environment Fund

2. The Community Environment Fund (CEF) is a contestable fund for community volunteers, schools and rōpū kaitiaki carrying out environmental restoration projects to improve the health of te taiao. Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 per year for up to three consecutive years. Funded projects can include, but are not limited to - native plantings, pest animal and plant control and community plant nurseries.
3. The fund has been available in Porirua and Wairarapa Moana for 10 years and is now co-managed with Mana Whenua.
4. With budget applied to the Community Capability and Change team with the 2024-34 Long Term Plan the CEF model is now being rolled out across the region in a staged approach. The CEF model for supporting and enabling community mahi strengthens our partnership with Mana Whenua through joint decision making.
5. The timetable below shows the location and timeframe funds will open for applications this calendar year and next. All application periods are open for six weeks.

Fund	Application period
2025 Hutt	17 February – 30 March 2025
2025 Kāpiti	1 April – 11 May 2025
*2025 Wairarapa Moana	Early August – Mid September 2025
2025 Porirua	Mid August – Late September 2025
2026 Wellington	February – March 2026

2026 Porirua	July 2026 – September 2026
2026 Kapiti	August 2026 – September 2026
2026 Hutt	September 2026 –October 2026
2026 Wairarapa	September 2026 – November 2026

*This fund will be incorporated into the wider Wairarapa fund from 2026

6. We will work with Mana Whenua in each area to understand how they want to be involved in the funding process, including decision making around successful applications. A bespoke co-management approach for each fund will be developed depending on mana whenua interest and capacity for involvement.
7. The CEF is currently only available for projects on public land or land communally owned by Māori. This approach will be reassessed for the Wairarapa where comparatively many more restoration opportunities exist on private land. For example, the Wairarapa Moana fund currently supports projects on private land that result in positive outcomes for the wider public such as improved public access to some areas. Integration with other community available grant funds effective on private land is noted below under the Rōpū Taiao community funding framework.

Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework

8. For many years there have been a range of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) community funds targeting particular environmental objectives, but not all of these were managed consistently.
9. The Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework has been developed to coordinate how all the funds work together and summarise relevant information for both external audiences and staff. The Framework is in [Attachment 1](#).
10. The development of the CEF and funding framework are all part of a wider package of work being undertaken to better support community endeavours improving the health of te taiao, and Greater Wellington kaimahi supporting them.

Supporting community pest control

11. This financial year \$100,000 was allocated through the Long Term Plan to support community pest control.
12. The \$100,000 was designed to support community pest control in Kāpiti, the Hutt Valley and the Wairarapa. This is because pest control in Wellington is already being supported through the Predator Free programme, and in Porirua through the Community Environment Fund.
13. Of the \$100,000, \$33,000 is being used to support pest control by the community catchment network in the Wairarapa, and \$67,000 is being split across groups working in the Kāpiti and Hutt Valley areas. The majority of funding is being used on pest animal control materials; however pest plant control is also being supported in high priority areas. Staff have developed criteria to equitably distribute this funding where it will be most effective.

14. 2024/25 funding for community-led pest control will transition into the Community Environment Fund in future years where funds will be available to the whole region, and groups, schools and rōpū kaitiaki involved in pest animal and/or plant control can apply to this fund.

Strategic alignment

15. Funding for school, community and rōpū kaitiaki groups improving the health of te taiao aligns well with all three Rōpū Taiao Strategic Shifts.
 - a *Te Whāriki in action: Improve outcomes for mana whenua and Māori.*
 - i The Community Environment Fund will be co-managed with mana whenua in each area.
 - b *Engage, collaborate and partner: Think collectively and work collaboratively to maximise impact for the environment and people.*
 - i The CEF will involve collaboration with local councils and Department of Conservation (DOC) to collectively support environmental initiatives on public land. We will also collaborate to identify and support learning and networking opportunities for the wider restoration community.
 - c *Catchment approach: Deliver integrated catchment approaches that lead to holistic local outcomes.*
 - i The CEF is organised by catchment to enable a bespoke place-based approach enabling environmental, mana whenua and Greater Wellington priorities to be considered.
 - d *Nature based approaches: Increase the balance of nature-based approaches in our work.*
 - i Nature based approaches are preferentially supported through the CEF criteria.
16. Alignment with all three Rōpū Taiao 10 year outcomes is woven through this workstream to include:
 - a Safeguarding and restoring ecosystems and natural environment across our rohe
 - b Fostering connection to nature
 - c Supporting our communities

Collaboration

17. Communications plans are developed for each CEF to target community groups not already linked into existing restoration community networks and people who have not yet formed a group. Greater Wellington collaborates with local councils, DOC and other organisations in each area to tap into existing networks, and the fund is promoted through various newsletters (e.g. Mauri Tūhono panui), noticeboards (e.g. community board noticeboards) and websites (e.g. local council and DOC websites). The CEF is also promoted internally to staff in contact with community groups who may be interested.

18. Staff work with local councils and the DOC where Community Environment Fund projects are on their land. All funding is contingent on written landowner approval and staff from relevant agencies are invited to site visits with applicants to discuss any concerns. Once projects are funded, these agencies will manage any weed control contracts associated with the work on their land, on behalf of Greater Wellington and the group. Landowners may also pay for part of the work (e.g. weed control or tree removal), support the group with additional staff resources (e.g. to produce restoration plans for the project) or provide ongoing support and advice to the groups involved.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

19. No additional funding is required. All programmes referred to in the Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework, including the CEF will be allocated from existing budget within Environment Group.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

20. Mana whenua partners are being engaged to develop co-management approaches to the Community Environment Fund. There are many options for mana whenua to be involved such as:
 - a Assessing applications, carrying out site visits with applicants and developing recommendations for funding alongside Greater Wellington staff,
 - b Making decisions on funding with Greater Wellington managers, and
 - c Annual review and adaptation of any CEF programme within their rohe to ensure processes enable their involvement and environmental outcomes align with their aspirations for te taiao.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

21. The assessment criteria for applicants to the Community Environment Fund include how the mahi of the applicant will enhance the resilience of te taiao in the face of climate change, and how they are planning to deal with the results of climate change in their project (eg, water shortages, flooding, drought, more extreme weather events etc).

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

22. Greater Wellington will continue to roll out the Community Environment Fund across the Region in a staged approach over the next two years. All funds will then open annually.

23. The Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework will be used to ensure joined up, consistent and visible access to, and use of different Greater Wellington funding streams.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Jo Fagan – Raunui Tūhono Matua Community Capability Advisor Huia Gray – Raunui Ārahi Tūhono Team Leader, Community, Capability and Change David Boone – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Manager, Ecosystems and Community
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> Greater Wellington has a mandate to support and promote efforts to improve the health of te taiao in the Wellington region.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> This mahi aligns with Rōpū Taiao strategic shifts and strategic objectives as outlined above, and was funded through the last Long Term Plan
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework was developed in consultation with relevant Greater Wellington staff.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> The work of the Community, Capability and Change team has involved collaborating with Rōpū Taiao teams to identify and address auditing requirements associated with Greater Wellington funds. Over the next couple of years this will extend to reviewing health and safety support of volunteers, schools and rōpū kaitiaki that receive Greater Wellington grants.

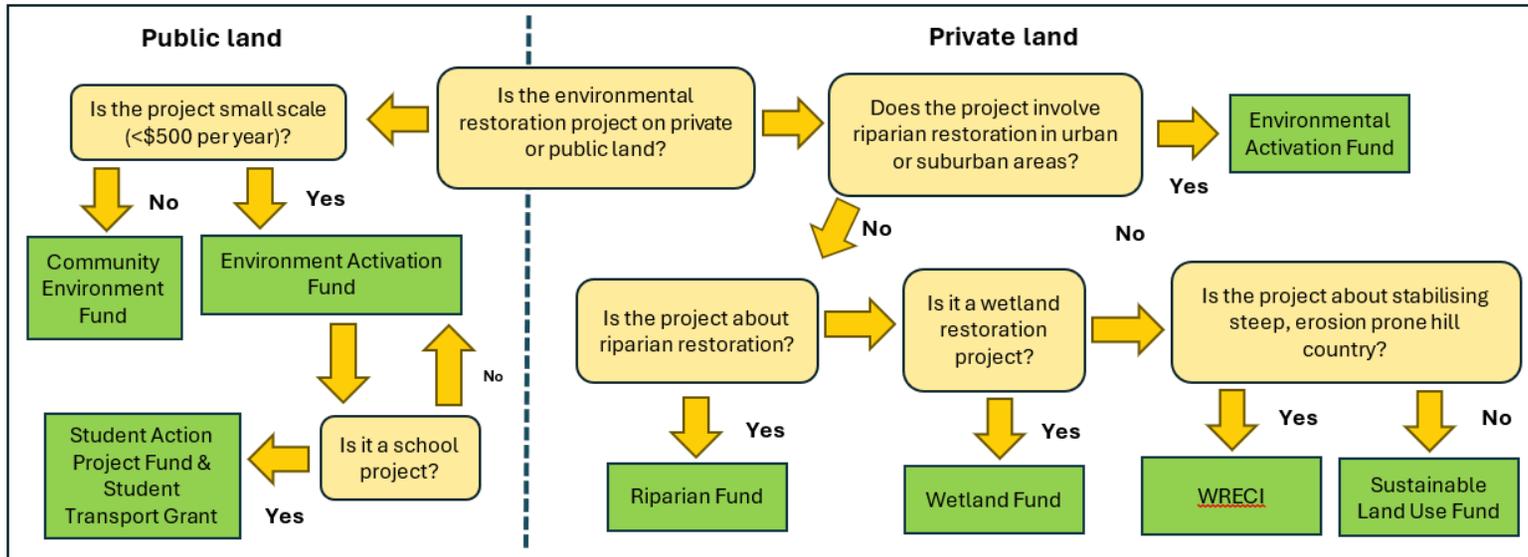
Attachment 1 - Community Environmental Funding Update

Rōpū Taiao Community Funding Framework

This Framework lists all of the Rōpū Taiao funding currently available to landowners, community groups, schools and rōpū kaitiaki and how they work together.

The first diagram and table outline the information that will be available to the public through the GW website, whilst the second diagram and table provide additional information available to GW staff.

Information available to the public (on our webpage; the design team will create a web friendly version)



Funding information relevant to community groups

Note: The Fish Passage and KNE funding are not mentioned in this table, as they will only be accessible to groups through the CEF process.

Whaitua Catchment	Fund + Email inbox	Aspect	Information
All catchments	Environmental Activation Fund (in development) TBC	When?	Open all year (first come, first served if meet the criteria)
		How much?	Up to \$500 per year per project
		Target audiences	Private landowners in urban, suburban and peri-urban areas restoring riparian and wetland areas on land they own Community groups doing small scale restoration projects on public land
	Sustainable Land Use Fund (SLUF) Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	When?	Application rounds in October, December and February (subject to change).
		How much?	Variable
		Target audiences	Farmers and lifestyle block owners looking to implement sustainable land management practices on their land.
	SLUF Community Fund Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	When?	Open all year (first come, first served if meet the criteria)
		How much?	Small grants up to \$2k, large grants up to \$10k
		Target audiences	Community groups looking to implement sustainable land management practices on private land in line with catchment action plan outcomes.
	WRECI Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	When?	Application rounds in October, December and February (subject to change)
		How much?	Variable depending on alignment with criteria and available funds.
		Target audiences	Private landowners with erosion prone hill country.
Riparian programme Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	When?	Application rounds in October, December and February (subject to change)	
	How much?	Variable depending on alignment with criteria and available funds.	

Attachment 1 to Report 25.167

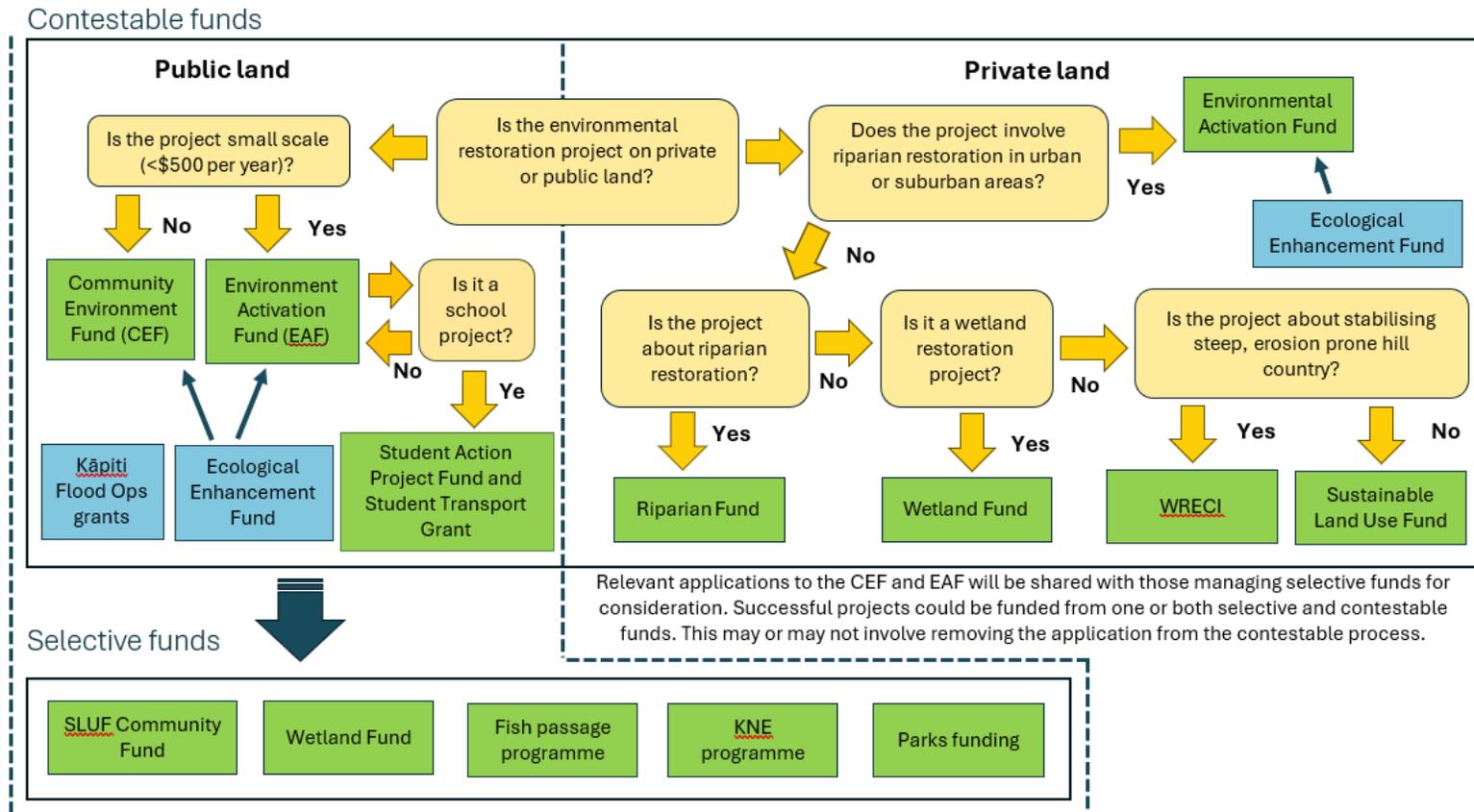
		Target audiences	Farmers and lifestyle block owners restoring riparian areas on their land.
	Wetlands Fund Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	When?	Open all year.
		How much?	Variable depending on alignment with criteria.
		Target audiences	Wetland restoration projects on private or public land
	Student Action Project Fund Biodiversity@gw.govt.nz	When?	Open all year (first come, first served if meet the criteria)
		How much?	Up to \$500 per school, per year
		Target audience	School environmental restoration projects.

Attachment 1 to Report 25.167

Whaitua Catchment	Fund	Aspect	Information
All catchments	Student Transport Grant Biodiversity@gw.govt.nz	When?	Open all year (first come, first served if meet the criteria)
		How much?	Up to \$500 per school, per year
		Target audience	School fieldtrips to learn about te taiao or carry out environmental restoration projects.
Kāpiti	Kāpiti Community Environment Fund Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	When?	Applications open
		How much?	Applications can apply for up to \$10K per year for up to 3 years
		Target audiences	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land.
Te Awarua-ō-Porirua	Porirua Community Environment Fund Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	When?	Applications open
		How much?	Applications can apply for up to \$10K per year for up to 3 years
		Target audiences	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land.
Te Whanganui-ā-Tara	Wellington Community Environment Fund Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	When?	Applications open
		How much?	Applications can apply for up to \$10K per year for up to 3 years
		Target audiences	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land.
	Hutt Valley Community Environment Fund Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	When?	Applications open
		How much?	Applications can apply for up to \$10K per year for up to 3 years
		Target audiences	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land.
Ruamāhanga + Wairarapa Coast	Wairarapa Community Environment Fund (from 2026) Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	When?	Applications open
		How much?	Applications can apply for up to \$10K per year for up to 3 years
		Target audiences	Community groups doing restoration projects. Still to be confirmed is whether the fund will extend to projects on private land.

Background information relevant to staff

This information won't be available to the public through the GW website.



Funding information relevant to GW staff

This table lists each of the different funding streams supporting community action within Rōpū Taiao and outlines how they will work in conjunction with the Community Environment Fund (CEF). It also outlines the roles of different teams in terms of delivering that funding and supporting the groups involved.

Groups can potentially be funded through multiple funding streams eg. a school restoring fish passage to a wetland in a KNE on a Regional Park could conceivably receive funding from the KNE programme, Wetlands fund, Fish Passage programme, Parks funding, Community Environment Fund and the Student Project Action Fund. The CCC team will use a dashboard accessible to all staff to track and aid reporting against these different funding streams.

If applications to one fund better fit another fund, they will be encouraged to apply for the most appropriate fund instead (eg, an unsuccessful application to the Wetland fund could be asked to apply to the CEF fund in their area instead).

All references to groups in this document refers to groups of landowners, community volunteers, schools and/or kaitiaki who access GW funding to carry out environmental or recreation enhancement mahi

*More detail on the CEF process steps are provided below this table

Whaitua Catchment	Fund, staff & email	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
All catchments	Environment Activation Fund (in development) Jo Fagan TBC	Supporting small environmental restoration projects on public land, providing seed funding for groups getting started and supporting urban landowners to restore riparian or wetland areas on their land	Open for applications all year. Funding distributed on a first come, first served basis if applicants meet the criteria. Note: This fund is under development, due for release late 2025.	Up to \$500 per year per project (\$50K total per year from 2025-26)	CCC team	Any CEF applications \$500 or less will be diverted into the EAF. Any applicants wanting more than \$500 per year for projects on public land will be referred to the next CEF application round in their area.	There may be some overlap with the CEF which will be addressed on a case by case basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Fund matching Modified grant agreements Payment Reporting 	Less admin-heavy processes will be developed based on CEF processes.	N/A	Fund administration including decision making.
	Sustainable Land Use Fund (SLUF) Kolja Schaller Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	Supporting sustainable land management practices on private land	Three application rounds throughout the year. Expressions of interest forms sent to farmers and supported by Advisors.	Variable depending on alignment with criteria and available funds. Total programme funding: \$2,200,000 incl SLUF Community Fund.	Environment Restoration	Entirely on private land	No overlap.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online application/ expression of interest forms sent to farmers Cost sharing up to 50% with landowners 	Fund delivery and management including decision-making, purchasing and contract management.	Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc

Whaitua Catchment	Fund, staff & email	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
All catchments	SLUF Community Fund Kolja Schaller Environment.Restoration@govt.nz	Supporting sustainable land management practices by community groups	Open for applications all year. Funding distributed on a first come, first served basis if applicants meet the criteria.	Variable depending on alignment with criteria and available funds. Part of SLUF programme funding outlined above.	Environment Restoration	Entirely on private land.	There may be some overlap with the CEF which will be addressed on a case by case basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	Assessments carried out on case-by-case basis. Different assessment criteria will be used.	Fund delivery and management including decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Grant agreements Payment Reporting Sharing key reporting metrics
	WRECI Ethan Coulston Environment.Restoration@govt.nz	Reducing erosion on erosion prone hill country	Three application rounds throughout the year. Expressions of interest forms sent to farmers and supported by Advisors.	Variable depending on alignment with criteria and available funds. Total programme funding: \$1,939,000	Environment Restoration	Entirely on private land	No overlap	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online application/ expression of interest forms sent to farmers Cost sharing up to 50% with landowners 	Fund delivery and management including decision-making, purchasing and contract management.	Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc
	Riparian Fund Catherine McManus Environment.Restoration@govt.nz	Stabilising riparian areas on private land	Three application rounds throughout the year. Expressions of interest forms sent to farmers and supported by Advisors.	Variable depending on alignment with riparian fund criteria. Total programme funding \$459,000.	Environment Restoration	Entirely on private land.	No overlap.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online application/ expression of interest forms sent to farmers Cost sharing up to 50% with landowners 	Fund delivery and management including decision-making.	Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc
	Fish Passage programme Ashley Webby fishpassage@govt.nz	Reinstating fish passage in high priority areas	Fish passage remediation projects are prioritised and funded. In some circumstances they may involve groups.	Variable depending on alignment with fish passage fund criteria	Environment Projects	Also supports projects on private land, and/or being undertaken by agencies/ contractors. Funding is not given to groups but generally spent on fish passage remediation works.	Groups who want to restore fish passage in high priority areas.	N/A	Equipment is purchased and installed directly (ie, instead of providing funding to groups). Contractors and/or consultants may be used. This will be provided outside of the CEF process.	Fish Passage fund delivery and management including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> decision-making purchasing of equipment installation assistance with monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting groups with Fish Passage team as appropriate Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc CEF processes Sharing key reporting metrics

Whaitua Catchment	Fund, staff & email	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
All catchments	KNE programme Kim Broad Kim.Broad@gw.govt.nz	Protecting the biodiversity values of the best examples of representative ecosystems left in the region	Each KNE site has an associated annual budget. Occasionally these include funding for groups undertaking KNE restoration projects.	Variable depending on alignment with KNE plans etc.	Environment Restoration	Private landowners with KNEs	Groups who want to restore areas within a KNE	For CEF applicants who qualify for KNE programme funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications • Fund matching • Assessments and recommendations • Decision making • Site visits • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting 	KNE plans. Agreements with landowners. KNE funding isn't contestable, so if groups receive funding, decision-making is undertaken by staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing alignment with KNE funding • Site visits • Assessments • Recommendations development • Informing decision-making regarding Wetlands funding • GW contact for groups • Advice for groups • Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc • CEF processes • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting • Sharing key reporting metrics
	Wetland Fund Lindi Eloff Environment.Restoration@gw.govt.nz	Restoring the biodiversity values of priority wetlands	Wetland restoration and protection projects are prioritised and funded. In some circumstances they may involve groups.	Variable depending on alignment with criteria Total programme funding in 2025-26: \$527,000	Environment Restoration	Mostly on private land. Will fund plants, but not weed control or planting contractors.	Groups who want to restore wetland areas.	For CEF applicants who qualify for Wetland funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications • Fund matching • Site visits • Assessments and recommendations • Decision making • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements with landowners • Online application form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing alignment with Wetlands fund • Site visits • Assessments • Recommendations development • Informing decision-making regarding Wetlands funding • GW contact for groups • Advice for groups • Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc • CEF processes • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting • Sharing key reporting metrics
	Student Transport Fund (STF) Te Kawa Robb or Renée Mason Biodiversity@gw.govt.nz	Enabling schools to transport students on fieldtrips to learn about and/or restore te taiao.	Open for applications all year. Funding distributed on a first come, first served basis if applicants meet the criteria.	\$15,000 (spread between the STF and SAPP). Up to \$500 per schools, per year.	CCC team	This will be worked out on a case by case basis. Depending on the situation, student transport could be funded through either or both funds.	Schools who want to transport students to restoration activities associated with a CEF funded project.	N/A	Current application forms and processes will continue to be used.	N/A	Fund administration including decision making ie, if it qualifies, it's funded.

Whaitua Catchment	Fund, staff & email	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other <u>teams</u> roles	CCC team role
All catchments	Student Action Project Fund (SAPF) Te Kawa Robb or Renée Mason Biodiversity@gw.govt.nz	Enabling schools to carry out small scale restoration projects.	Open for applications all year. Funding distributed on a first come, first served basis if applicants meet the criteria.	\$15,000 (spread between the STF and SAPF). Up to \$500 per schools, per year.	CCC team	CEF applications from schools up to \$500 per year will be diverted into the SAPF. If SAPF is used up, they will be diverted into the EAF. SAPF projects over \$500 will be referred to the next CEF application round in their area.	The CEF is a way to fund larger projects.	N/A	Current application forms and processes will continue to be used.	N/A	Fund administration including decision making ie, if it qualifies, it's funded.
	\$100K Biodiversity fund (2024-25 financial year only) Glen Falconer & Mark McAlpine	Supporting community groups involved in pest control in the Hutt, Wairarapa and Kapiti	Relevant staff will offer to purchase materials for groups who fit the criteria.	\$100,000 (\$33K Wairarapa Catchment Collective + \$57K Hutt Valley and Kapiti pest control groups)	Catchment, Biosecurity, CCC team	Groups are provided with pest animal and plant control equipment only ie, not funding.	No overlap.	N/A	Assessment criteria provide transparent decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group assessments and decision-making. Completing reporting tables. Purchasing and distributing equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with development of assessment criteria and reporting tables. Reporting on how the money was spent.
All catchments	Parks funding Ricky Clarkson (Eastern Parks) and Jeremy Paterson (Western Parks) Parks@gw.govt.nz	Supporting community groups doing environmental restoration projects on Parks land	Groups working on Parks land will be encouraged to apply to the CEF for funding. Groups with community nurseries will continue to be supported by staff purchasing materials for them.	?	Parks, CCC team	Funding only available for groups working on Parks land.	CEF processes can be used for all Parks groups receiving funding rather than materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	Parks staff purchase materials for groups running plant nurseries on Parks land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing alignment with Parks funding Site visits Assessments Recommendations development Informing decision-making regarding Parks funding GW contact for groups Advice for groups Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting Sharing key reporting metrics

Whaitua Catchment	Fund, staff & email	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
All catchments	Parks track maintenance funding (in development)	Supporting community groups to develop and maintain walking and cycling tracks in regional parks	This fund has not yet been developed.	\$ amount to be determined.	Regional Parks (both Rangers and Maintenance teams)	Groups involved in track development and maintenance in regional parks	No overlap with CEF as not environmental restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	The CCC team can support the Parks team with developing and delivering a fund using CEF processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading promotion, applications, assessments, recommendations and decision-making Groups' GW contact Advice for groups Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Assisting with fund development and delivery including promotion, applications, assessments, recommendations and decision making as needed Grant Agreements Payments Reporting Sharing key reporting metrics
Kāpiti	Kāpiti Community Environment Fund Te Kawa Robb or Jo Fagan Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land in the Kāpiti area.	Will use CEF process set out in table below.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	CCC team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Fund coordination and delivery
	Kāpiti Flood Operations grants Jo Fagan Jo.Fagan@gw.govt.nz	To support the Friends of Ōtaki and Friends of Waikanae groups in line with the group agreements.	Each year the correct amount of support will be decided by Flood Operations staff in partnership with the groups and communicated to CCC staff to administer the funding. Budgets coming from Knowledge Water Resilience.	Up to \$17,000 but more likely to be around \$10,000 per year between the two groups	Flood Operations & CCC team	This funding is not contestable.	Some CEF processes will be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	Decision-making by Flood Operations staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Operations GW contact for groups Advice for groups Oversight of group activities Knowledge Water Resilience Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Grant agreements Payment Reporting Sharing key reporting metrics

Whaitua Catchment	Fund	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
Kapiti	Ecological Enhancement Fund (not yet available - will be tied to a resource consent that is on hold)	Meeting consent requirements by supporting community groups, mana whenua, DOC, Wellington Fish and Game, Landowners and individuals for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the natural character of the environs connected to the Waikanae and Ōtaki rivers.	Will be administered through the CEF and EAF.	TBC	Flood Operations, Consents Management & CCC team	This fund will only be used for stream and wetland restoration projects on or connected to the Waikanae and Ōtaki rivers	This fund will be incorporated into the CEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications • Fund matching • Site visits • Assessments and recommendations • Decision making • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW contact for groups • Advice for groups • Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting • Sharing key reporting metrics
Te Awarua-o-Porirua	Porirua Community Environment Fund Te Kawa Robb or Jo Fagan Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land in the Te Awarua o Porirua area.	Will use CEF process set out in table below.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	CCC team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion • Applications • Fund matching • Site visits • Assessments and recommendations • Decision making • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc • Fund coordination and delivery
Te Whanganui-a-Tara	Wellington Community Environment Fund Te Kawa Robb or Jo Fagan Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land in the Wellington area	Will use CEF process set out in table below.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	CCC team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion • Applications • Fund matching • Site visits • Assessments and recommendations • Decision making • Grant agreements • Payment • Reporting 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc • Fund coordination and delivery

Whaitua Catchment	Fund	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other <u>teams</u> roles	CCC team role
Te Whanganui-a-Tara	Hutt Valley Community Environment Fund Te Kawa Robb or Jo Fagan Community.Environment.Fund@gw.govt.nz	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land in the Hutt Valley	Will use CEF process set out in table below.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	CCC team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Fund coordination and delivery
	Ecological Enhancement Fund Jo Fagan and Jacky Cox Jo.Fagan@gw.govt.nz and Jacky.Cox@gw.govt.nz	Meeting consent requirements by supporting community groups, mana whenua, DOC, Wellington Fish and Game, Landowners and individuals for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the natural character of the environs connected to Te Awa Kairangi and the Wainuiomata rivers.	Administered as through the CEF and EAF.	\$25K Upper Hutt & \$25K Hutt City initially. Fund likely to change depending on when Otaki/Waikanae commences. Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	Consents Management, Flood Operations & CCC team	This fund can only be used for stream and wetland restoration projects on or connected to Te Awa Kairangi and the Wainuiomata rivers	Incorporated into the CEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing alignment with EEF funding Site visits Assessments Recommendations development Informing decision-making regarding EEF funding GW contact for groups Advice for groups Oversight of group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Delivering the CEF process for the EEF Sharing key reporting metrics

Whaitua Catchment	Fund	Fund purpose	How it works	\$ involved	Teams involved	Distinction from CEF	Overlap with CEF	*CEF processes used	Other processes used	Other teams roles	CCC team role
Ruamāhanga and Wairarapa Coast	Wairarapa Community Environment Fund (from 2026) Jo Fagan Community.EnvironmentFund@gw.govt.nz	Community groups doing restoration projects on public land in the Wairarapa. This fund is under development and may also include projects on private land.	Will likely use CEF process set out below but processes will be reviewed if incorporating SLUF Community Fund.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year.	CCC team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Fund coordination and delivery
	Wairarapa Moana Community Environment Fund (only up to 2025 – from 2026 it will be absorbed into the Wairarapa CEF) Rebecca Hillyard Waiwetlands@gw.govt.nz	Groups doing restoration projects on land falling within the Wairarapa Moana project area. This includes private landowners where the project will benefit the public.	Will use CEF process set out in table below.	Up to \$10,000 per group project per year. \$15,000 available in total in 2025-26.	CCC team & Environment Projects team and/or Catchment team	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Applications Fund matching Site visits Assessments and recommendations Decision making Grant agreements Payment Reporting 	N/A	To be explored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff support with training, networks, H&S, resources etc Fund coordination and delivery

CEF Process

Process step	Explanation
1. Promotion	Promote the application period via activities outlined in a Comms plan.
2. Applications	Receive and acknowledge applications and ensure they meet knockout criteria ie, that they qualify for funding. Share applications with landowners (eg, DOC and local councils) and discuss any of their concerns. Applications will only be considered for funding if they receive written permission from landowners for the project (via email).
3. Fund matching	The CCC team will investigate with relevant teams whether any of the applications align well with any other community support funding streams. Any applications that don't match other funds will go back into the CEF pool.
4. Site visits	Applications are assessed to identify any concerns that need to be addressed and/or additional information that needs to be collected during site visits. Site visit records are kept, and photos taken to inform assessments and recommendations. Landowners and GW staff involved in other funds that the project may qualify for are invited to site visits along with mana whenua representatives.
5. Assessments and recommendations	Score applicants against fund criteria and develop recommendations for funding based on assessment scores. Where projects are funded by other funding streams (see table below), slightly different funding criteria may be used.
6. Decision making	The decision-making panel with appropriate representation (ie, ideally equal decision making with mana whenua partners depending on their capacity and interest) makes decisions based on recommendations and discussions with relevant staff. Applicants will be notified as to their success or not once decisions are finalised. Projects funded by other funding streams may or may not be included in this decision-making process.
7. Grant Agreements	All successful applicants will sign grant agreements outlining what the funding can be spent on, reporting requirements, privacy issues and health and safety responsibilities.
8. Payment	Payment will be made after the conditions of the grant agreements have been met. Where planting is involved, a restoration plan approved by the landowner is required.
9. Reporting	All applicants must send in reports outlining achievements and all receipts to provide an audit trail proving the money was spent as agreed. The Business Support team will process financial reports.

Environment Committee
15 May 2025
Report 25.205



For Information

TE RŌPŪ TAI AO | ENVIRONMENT UPDATE - MAY 2025

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on:
 - a The strategic direction and priorities of the Environment Committee
 - b The work underway across the Wellington Region and within each catchment.

Te tāhū kōrero Background

2. Progress on action items from previous Committee meetings is outlined in [Attachment 1](#).

Strategic Direction

Linking our work to our strategic direction

3. In response to Councillor's requests to see how our strategic direction leads to tangible results we are starting work on options to test in the next few months and apply in the new triennium. In the meantime, as with the previous report, we have identified how the items covered in this report link to the 10-year outcomes of the Rōpū Taiao Strategic Framework. The icons represent each of the overarching 10-year statements, which are provided in more detail [Attachment 2](#). Briefly, they are:



Safeguarding and restoring ecosystems and natural environments across our rohe



Fostering connection to nature, recreation and safe harbour navigation

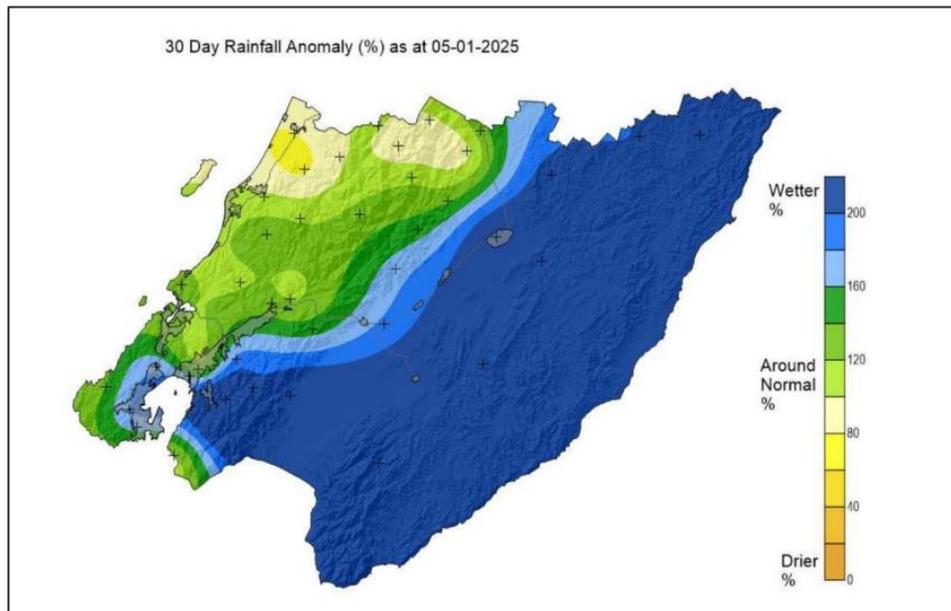


Strengthening regional resilience and supporting our communities

Regional Overview

Climate drivers and seasonal summary outlook

4. The seasonal climate summary report for summer 2024-25 and the outlook for autumn 2025 has been completed.¹ In short, summer 2025 has entered the history books as one of the most unusual in the recent past.
5. We had a weak La Niña active in the climate system, but this El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) event was like no other. Initially, December 2024 was characterized by very dry conditions in the Wairarapa, with plenty of warm days promising a hot summer ahead. Masterton ended up having the third hottest December on record!
6. But everything started changing as easterly rainfall events developed earlier than predicted, as Christmas approached. Bitterly cold temperatures followed into the new year, with conditions more typical of the middle of winter. Such cold summer weather is extremely unusual for a La Niña. After the big flip, Martinborough had the coldest January on record, while Wellington ranked as the third coldest January (measured at the airport station).
7. It was bitterly cold on the eastern coast for most of the month, with Castlepoint measuring the second coldest January on record (data since 1972) and very few if any opportunities for pleasant swimming. To add to the mix, it was much warmer on the Kāpiti Coast, which in fact ended up having the second hottest February on record at Paraparaumu (data since 1953). Overall, it was an extremely dry summer in Kāpiti (third driest summer on record for Paraparaumu), though not as severe as what was observed in Taranaki and further north.



¹ https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2025/03/Climate_Drivers_Summer_2025.pdf

8. On 5 January 2025, our 30-day rainfall monitoring (image above) showed much wetter (blue area) conditions than normal all over the Wairarapa. This was a very unusual La Niña summer, with extremely cold and wet conditions persisting early in the new year taking many by surprise. It was the coldest January on record in Martinborough, and the third coldest at the Wellington Airport meteorological station (data since 1962). On the same day the rainfall map above was taken, Martinborough had a maximum daytime temperature of only 14 degrees (equal second lowest on record for January), and people were using their wood burners as if in the middle of winter.

Climate outlook for autumn 2025:

9. International climate models seem to agree that most of the climate drivers will remain about neutral for the rest of autumn. In the absence of any major atmospheric and oceanic forcings, the locally warmer than normal water temperatures should play a role in maintaining an elevated risk of heavy rainfall events, as we advance to the cold season.
10. Seasonal anomalies should continue with a slight tendency towards a wet signal on the east coast and a dry signal on the Kāpiti Coast, before transitioning to a colder westerly regime with positive rainfall anomalies west of the ranges likely towards winter. For the most part, we expect temperatures to remain above average (i.e. as originally predicted), now that we seem to have left the persistent southerlies behind.

Update on Coastal Monitoring Programme, Marine Biosecurity and Environmental reporting



11. In March 2025, in association with Sea Week, we commenced a social media campaign to profile some of our most interesting and unique Natural Resources Plan (NRP) Schedule F4 marine habitats and species. This will continue for approximately 10 weeks and we will evaluate engagement and interest with this material before deciding next steps. There are no resources to undertake a larger piece of work, so we are testing the waters with a smaller campaign in the interim.
12. We are also supporting the Worser Bay community with their proposal for a marine management area and the associated community conversation. Our role has been to host meetings with community, mana whenua, local schools, and Department of Conservation (DOC), and to provide technical input regarding marine biodiversity values and advice regarding consenting. This culminated in a Worser Bay Beach Carnival Day on 30 March 2025, where our staff and councillors supported the community conversation for a voluntary no-take area.



13. The above photo was from the Worser Bay Beach Carnival. Greater Wellington provided technical advice and input to the engagement material and posters and financial support for printing. Councillor Saw and Julie Anne Genter (MP for Rongotai) were there.
14. We carried out the first vessel hull fouling surveys in December 2024 as part of Greater Wellington’s emerging marine biosecurity surveillance work under the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership.² The majority of vessels in Wellington marinas had low levels of fouling (375 vessels, 61.8%), meaning they are in relatively good condition and meet the biosecurity requirements for travel to other regions such as Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman. However, 38.2% (232 vessels) had a higher level of fouling, meaning they would not meet inter-regional biosecurity standards without cleaning prior to departure. These findings provide a baseline assessment of the level of fouling on stationary recreational vessels berthed in five marinas and will inform future biosecurity planning, engagement with vessel owners, and ongoing monitoring efforts to reduce and prevent the spread of marine pests.
15. Greater Wellington has joined the marine vessel portal to capture and report on marine biosecurity surveillance and support us in assessing marine biosecurity risk regionally and nationally (Clean Below? Good to go).³ We also updated our Greater Wellington pest info page to include marine pests.⁴
16. We have secured additional funding in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) for a marine biosecurity officer and \$100,000 for operational expenditure (OPEX) for continuing our involvement in the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, and to carry out our own education, advocacy, advice and monitoring throughout

² <https://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/news/344-marine-pest-surveys-in-five-wellington-marinas-reinforce-the-need-for-boaties-to-clean-boat-hulls-before-travelling>

³ <https://www.marinepests.nz/>

⁴ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/pest-and-weed-central/>

the Region. These new resources will commence in July 2025, and we have spent the last eight months mapping out the work programme for the role.

17. In partnership with Biosecurity New Zealand, we have replaced old marine biosecurity signage at Wellington marinas, distributed educational pamphlets at boat shops and marina offices, engaged with numerous boaties, and supported events with our new marine biosecurity banners and interactive puzzles. We attended a regional meeting to develop a sector position on marine pathway management and have committed to contribute towards advancement of this work.
18. Regarding the marine and coastal programme more broadly, we are in the throes of planning our activities for next year. The focus for our marine work will align with LTP and NRP/Regional Policy Statement (RPS) priorities including, ongoing development of the marine biosecurity programme, setting targets for ecological restoration (especially in Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour in line with Ngāti Toa Rangatira priorities), climate resilience, further mapping of our high biodiversity marine habitats, and our core State of the Environment estuary and harbour monitoring. We are at a pivotal point in our planning as we establish a future work programme that is more holistic and connected to freshwater and land-based monitoring, and, crucially, co-designed with iwi/hapu. This includes a student project focusing on the development of an ecological restoration approach to achieving desired environmental outcomes.
19. We have had many inquiries about our online environmental reports. We are in the process of updating how we produce our annual environmental reports across all domains in Knowledge and Insights, and across the Environment Group more broadly. In the meantime technical reports can be found in the online Greater Wellington document library.

Natural Resources Plan Change 1

20. Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (PC1), notified on 30 October 2023, is in the hearings stage, with recommendations from Greater Wellington officers and submitters being heard by the independent Hearings Panels.
21. Hearing Stream 2 (HS2) was completed in April 2025. This covered the objectives for fresh and coastal waterbodies in Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara whaitua and related water quality and ecosystem health policies. These are significant provisions in the plan change and they have attracted a lot of attention from submitters, with 15 speaking in person throughout the hearing.⁵
22. The officers and external experts are now preparing for Hearing Stream 3. Hearing Stream 3, covering earthworks, rural land uses and forestry activities, will commence between 19 and 30 May 2025.
23. Hearing Stream 4 and 5, were scheduled to take place in June and July 2025. However, they have now been combined as Hearing Stream 4 and will take place

⁵ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/updating-our-regional-policy-statement-and-natural-resources-plan/natural-resources-plan-2023-changes/nrp-pc-1-hearings/hearing-stream-1-overview-and-general-submissions-3/>

between 12 and 26 August 2025. This hearing will cover stormwater, wastewater and freshwater action plans and is also expected to attract a lot of attention from submitters. The final hearing, Hearing Stream 5, is now planned for October 2025. It will comprise an integration reply including a final set of consolidated and revised Plan Change 1 (PC1) provisions including any amendments to the Hearings Stream 2 Objectives resulting from the topic-specific provisions in Hearings Stream 3 and 4.

Regional Policy Statement Change 1 

24. Components of RPS Change 1 that were not appealed have become fully operative from 22 April 2025. These are the freshwater and integrated management sections, and these now provide operative direction to both Greater Wellington and territorial authorities.
25. The following mediation has been scheduled:
 - a Mediation on indigenous ecosystems from 20 May to 30 May 2025.
 - b Mediation on natural hazards from 9 June 2025 to 13 June 2025.
 - c Climate change mediation from 16 to 20 June 2025.
 - d Mediation for transport and urban development is yet to be scheduled but is likely to be completed by mid-August 2025.
26. Officers are preparing guidance on the newly operative parts of RPS Change 1 for internal users, territorial authorities, and mana whenua, and are continuing to connect with internal teams around implementation processes and priorities.

Flood risk management – community engagement 

27. Between February and June 2025, we have undertaken or are planning five pieces of community engagement across the region relating to flood risk management, updates of each of these follows. Note that the dates of the engagement periods are subject to change but have been provided as an indication of what is planned.

Waipoua flood risk management options for the Masterton urban area

28. **Engagement period:** 17 February to 16 March 2025
29. **Purpose:** To seek feedback from the wider community on four concepts for managing the flood risk to Masterton including: improving and extending stop banks in existing locations; increasing channel capacity through extensive work in the channel; retreat some stop banks; and nature-based solutions in the upper catchment.
30. **Update:** Engagement completed. The outcomes of this, along with the preferred option report, are being presented to the Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee in May and then will be brought to the Wairarapa and Environment Committees in June.

Featherston flood hazard modelling (Donalds and Abbots Creek) Stage 3

31. **Engagement period:** 20 March to 6 April 2025

32. **Purpose:** To seek input from the community about their recollection of the 2 December 2018 flood events to help calibrate the flood hazard model.
33. **Update:** Engagement completed. Two stalls were held at the Featherston Markets on consecutive Saturdays. Approximately 50 people were spoken to across the two markets. The information collected from these discussions are being used to help calibrate the flood hazard model.

Kāpiti flood hazard modelling (Ōtaki, Waitohu, Mangapouri, Mangaone, Waikanae) Stage 3

34. **Engagement period:** Now 7 to 31 May 2025
35. **Purpose:** To seek input from the community about their recollection of various flood events relating to each river or stream to help calibrate the flood hazard models.
36. **Update:** Engagement was delayed by a couple of weeks to align with the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) engagement period on their stormwater modelling, and to ensure that calibration maps have been produced. Greater Wellington are joining KCDC's engagement events including a webinar and three drop in sessions across Kāpiti across three Saturday mornings.

Upper Hutt flood hazard modelling (Hutt River) Stage 4

37. **Engagement period:** Now to 12 May 2025 (dates to be confirmed with Upper Hutt City Council)
38. **Purpose:** To inform the community and stakeholders that Greater Wellington have completed the flood hazard modelling to look at the risk of river flooding to Upper Hutt. To present the new flood hazard maps for their catchment for a 1% annual exceedance probability flood both with and without the predicted impacts of climate change.

Featherston flood hazard modelling (Donalds and Abbots Creek) Stage 4

39. **Engagement period:** Now to June 2025
40. **Purpose:** To inform the community and stakeholders that Greater Wellington have completed the flood hazard modelling to look at the risk of river flooding to Featherston from Donalds and Abbots Creek. To present the new flood hazard maps for their catchment for a 1% annual exceedance probability flood both with and without the predicted impacts of climate change.

Update on Transmission Gully compliance issues



41. Since December 2024, the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has assumed responsibility from CPB HEB Joint Venture for delivery of the outstanding consent requirements related to the Transmission Gully Project (TGP). As previously reported draft Enforcement Orders were prepared due to certain consent requirements not being fulfilled, however these have not been formally lodged with the Court as NZTA is actively working towards closing out the consent requirements.

42. They have agreed to deliver a programme of outstanding and overdue Key Actions identified by Greater Wellington within mutually agreed and clearly defined timeframes. The agreed actions include:
- a reinstating fish passage through culverts and stream diversions,
 - b resolving hydraulic and ecological outcomes for stream diversions,
 - c undertaking remedial planting and maintenance,
 - d applying for a retrospective consent to offset the reclamation of 3km of Horokiri Stream which occurred as part of the TGP works and was not authorised by the Board of Inquiry consent, and
 - e delivery of a post-construction marine sediment deposition report for the Pāuatahanui Inlet.
43. There are also other consent requirements not currently overdue, including additional fish passage requirements, completion of fill sites, and the removal of temporary culverts.

Pest Animals 

44. Rabbit monitoring across the region has begun, with night counts, placement of fly traps to detect the RHD virus and monitoring rabbits to the Modified McLeans Scale. There are no further wallaby sightings. Rook control has been completed with no crop damage reported. Staff attended a Regional Rook Workshop in Napier in late February 2025 to compare each region's control results and trends. As a result we can identify and work through any knowledge gaps and possible research initiatives that might help us locate rooks in low densities as we strive for eradication across all Regions.
45. Community fund pest control equipment – projects have been decided upon in the Kāpiti and Te Whanganui-a-Tara areas, with materials purchased, and plans underway to install and distribute the equipment. We are working with Catchment collectives in the Wairarapa to obtain materials required in these areas.

Fast Track Projects Update 

46. We are yet to receive any substantive applications through the fast track process. The table below summarises pre-application activity associated with proposed fast-track consenting projects within the Region:

Belmont Quarry Development, Lower Hutt – Winstone Aggregates (Schedule 2 listed project)

Pre-application discussions commenced in February.
Engagement is also occurring with Winstone Aggregates, DOC (landowner) and Greater Wellington's Delivery function, on matters relating to the potential land exchange (and potential conditions) component of the application.
Winstone Aggregates have advised that they are planning to lodge an application by the end of the year.

Mount Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua – Classic Developments (Schedule 2 listed project)

Pre-application discussions commenced in March.
 Classic Developments indicated that they are considering a range of possible consent pathways for the project, including the standard RMA resource consent process and the fast-track approvals process.
 Classic Developments advised that they would look to lodge an application between June and August.

Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal – Wellington International Airport Limited (Schedule 2 listed project)

Wellington International Airport Limited (WIAL) have approached Greater Wellington to organise pre-application consultation, which is set to commence early in May.

Certified Farm Environment Plan implementation 

47. Greater Wellington is working with farmers in priority catchments to implement Certified Farm Environment Plans (cFEPs). Engagement sessions have been rolled out in all eight priority catchments, most recently the Kōpuaranga, Makahakaha, and Tauweru catchment. The Environment Restoration team has been developing several key resource documents to support farmers and certifiers to develop cFEPs (eg. two exemplar cFEPs (a sheep and beef system example, and a dairy system example), an updated cFEP template and associated guidance document). Additionally, cFEP workshops are held every three weeks from March through to June in the Masterton office by the Environment Restoration Advisors. Further communications have been delivered to farmers, certifiers, and key industry stakeholders to inform them of catchment due dates and Greater Wellington’s available support.

Fire Risk in Regional Parks – cooling down! 

48. The fire season has now come to an end with all parks open and no restrictions in place.

Te reo Māori signage in our parks 

49. As part of the Delivery function’s parks storytelling project, we have contracted a certified te reo Māori translator. The contract also includes general park signage; translating and adding te reo Māori to new/replacement signs as they are produced. As we progress into map boards there will be an opportunity to revisit area names with our mana whenua partners.

Enviroschools – expected cut in Government funding  

50. Due to an expected central government reduction of funding to the Toimata Foundation, the current delivery model of the Enviroschools programme in the Wellington Region is no longer sustainable. The Toimata Foundation has indicated that it will be unable to support the current arrangement beyond 1 July 2025. This funding cut poses a significant challenge to the continuation of the Enviroschools

programme, which has been instrumental in fostering sustainability education in over 150 schools and early childhood centres across the Region. We are currently assessing options for the programme.

Restoration Day 

51. After deferring the 2024 Restoration Day event, the Community, Capability and Change Team, supported by Mauri Tūhono, Knowledge and Insights, Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, and Delivery and Planning, are using the Restoration Day Strategy review to plan a small-scale event for Kōanga (Spring) in September 2025. The event or ‘activation’ will be guided by the principles of *Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui* (the Mauri Tūhono framework). The design of the event is currently in progress and will serve as a practical application of the framework. Feedback from this event will be crucial in adapting future Restoration Day events.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua

Pest Animals 

52. Goat control has been undertaken in Puketiro Forest for Eastern Parks. Recloaking Papatūānuku planning has begun for the 2025-26 financial year (FY) control to help protect the winter 2025 plantings. Night shooting has been completed at all sites with 307 browsing animals removed across all the parks for this programme.

Catchment 

53. Te Wai Ora o Porirua - Porirua Harbour Accord coordination group continues to meet fortnightly and are currently drafting a project plan and summarising all partners work programmes in one place. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira are developing the mauri ora framework – Te Wai Ora o Parirua for catchment planning.

Wairarapa Coast

Pest Animals 

54. Langdale and Tinui possum control is underway and negotiations are happening for possum and goat control work in and around Te Awaiti. Additional traps are being added to Opouawe and Homewood key native ecosystem (KNE) and a new KNE predator trap networks are being set up in Mataikona, Owahanga and Te Kawakawa – Black Rock KNEs.

Eastern Hill Cyclone Gabriel 

55. Sites works have begun at the Waiteko site to prepare for the cableway build. The “A” frames have arrived for the structure and are stored at the nursery. The Cableway has a target date of 22 May 2025.
56. Time studio model for the Whareama is up and running in Hydrotel. Deltares flood forecast model is due for delivery the end of May. The smart signage procurement is underway.
57. Greater Wellington is presenting the Eastern Hill funding work at the Catchment scheme committee at the Whareama annual general meeting (AGM) at the end of May 2025.

Wairarapa Catchment Collective 

58. The Pest Animal project is growing momentum and complimenting Greater Wellington's pest animal work. The purchase of hardware for three Catchment Community groups will occur before the end of the financial year from the Community Capability and Change budget.
59. Catchment groups continue to grow with initial meetings facilitated with interested landowners in Waihenga and Tukuramuri areas over the past two months.

Ruamāhanga

Publicly notified consent application



60. South Wairarapa District Council's resource consent application (WAR230290) to continue the discharge of treated wastewater into Donalds Creek and the discharge of contaminants to air from the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is progressing. The applicant is currently engaging with submitters to clarify their concerns. A hearing is likely to be held in July 2025. Taumata Arowai's wastewater standards as currently proposed would not apply to this WWTP due to the low dilution ratio.

District Planning



61. Since the last Environment Committee Report, Greater Wellington officers have attended hearing stream 7 (Energy and Network Utilities), hearing stream 8 (Transport, Subdivision and Financial Contributions) and hearing stream 9 (Contaminated Land, Hazardous Substances and Natural Hazards) for the Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP).
62. At each attendance Greater Wellington's evidence focused on the need for the WCDP to give effect to the Operative RPS and to have regard to RPS Change 1. Officers also sought alignment with relevant national direction including the National Policy Statements for Indigenous Biodiversity, Freshwater Management Urban Development, Electricity Transmission and Renewable Electricity Generation.
63. At hearing stream 7 on Energy and Network Utilities, Greater Wellington sought amendments to the WCDP to manage the adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and electricity transmission activities on indigenous biodiversity. As a result of expert conferencing, a new policy in the Ecosystem Chapter was drafted which directs the management of adverse effects of renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission on indigenous biodiversity. Consequential amendments supported by Greater Wellington officers have been made to the rules for renewable electricity generation activities in the Energy and Network Utilities chapter. A key submitter on electricity transmission activities did not participate in this conferencing. They have rejected the conferencing outcome, therefore at this time no changes have been made to the rules managing the adverse effects of electricity transmission activities on indigenous biodiversity. Officers anticipate that these provisions may be subject to more conferencing with relevant submitters.

64. At hearing stream 8 on Transport, Subdivision and Financial Contributions, Greater Wellington supported the changes made by the S42A⁶ reporting officer with respect to our submission. Greater Wellington continued to seek increased consistency of the transport policies with RPS Change 1 to promote multi-modal transport options and include requirements for travel choice assessments. Greater Wellington officers also requested the addition of a new policy to manage the effects of subdivision on freshwater. Officers reiterated Greater Wellington's position that the WCDP should seek the integration of new subdivisions with existing public and active transport networks and services to align with RPS Change 1. The s42A reporting officers supported the relief requested to improve policy direction for multi-modal transport systems, requirements for travel choice assessments and the addition of a new policy for managing the effects of subdivision on freshwater.
65. Greater Wellington officers attended hearing stream 9 on Natural Hazards on the 31 March 2025. Greater Wellington appeared alongside the S42A reporting officer to provide expert evidence to the hearing panel on Greater Wellington's flood hazard modelling. Officers also supported the natural hazards provisions including the adoption of a risk-based approach and inclusion of flood vulnerability areas in the WCDP. Officers sought amendments to the Natural Hazards chapter including use of the term 'minimise' in the chapter objectives, retention of policies to protect critical lifeline infrastructure and recognition of visitor accommodation as a hazard sensitive activity. The hearings panel issued a minute to further assess matters raised by Greater Wellington in the hearing. Correspondence between officers is ongoing on these matters.
66. Greater Wellington officers have prepared evidence for hearing stream 13 Rezoning, to be presented on the 13 May 2025. This evidence supports the S42A authors recommended amendments to reduce the Carterton Future Urban Zone (FUZ) to protect highly productive land and to rezone Stoney Creek, Rough Hill Forest and Tauanui Forest. Greater Wellington officers have requested further information on the findings of the Wairarapa councils' investigation on the constraints on the medium density residential precinct (MDRP) zoning. Subject to this investigation Greater Wellington officer have sought an increase to the MDRP zoning extent in Masterton to support housing choice and reduce pressure on the FUZ. The evidence reiterates Greater Wellington's position to remove the low-density residential precinct across Martinborough and Greytown to achieve consistency with RPS Policy 59 (retaining productive capacity of HPL) and RPS Change 1.

Pest Animals



67. Greater Wellington is setting up Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work with Pukaha to carry on the important rabbit, mustelid and possum work in the Pukaha buffer area. Greater Wellington has carried out possum control in the buffer area and raised trap boxes to try and limit the hedgehog catch to free the traps up

⁶ S42A reports are prepared before a hearing to help the process, including reasons for accepting or rejecting submissions, etc

for ferrets. Tararua Foothills, Westerns and Homebush Te Ore Ore possum control operation has begun

68. The Wairarapa Moana pest control program is trending along to schedule and the operational areas for the 2025/26 FY have been confirmed by the Wairarapa Moana Coordination Group. This includes all existing sites, with some new sites near the top of the lake. Bittern sightings at Boggy Pond wetlands and Pounui Lagoon have been regular in the past couple of months. Formal monitoring at key sites by the have demonstrated that Bittern and Spotless Crake are generally on a similar population trend as compared with previous surveys (FY2023/24). This is a great result after the years of intensive predator control around Wairarapa Moana wetlands. Night shooting for rabbits at Ōnoke spit has been completed during this period with low numbers of rabbits present at this site compared to previous years

Kāpiti

Waikanae River instream works

69. Greater Wellington has lodged an application with DOC for a concession to undertake gravel recontouring within the Waikanae Estuary. It is believed DOC is actively processing this application. Should the concession be approved, and erosion risk along the true left bank (northern side) increase, works will be undertaken in June 2025. However, should the erosion risk remain acceptable, works will not be undertaken until December 2025 as this is the preferred timing for both ecological reasons and operator safety.

Publicly notified consent application

70. Kāpiti City District Council's (KCDC) resource consent application (WGN220191) to continue the discharge of treated wastewater into the Marzengarb Stream and the discharge of contaminants to air from the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is progressing. The applicant is currently engaging with submitters to clarify their concerns. A hearing date is yet to be confirmed. Taumata Arowai's wastewater standards as currently proposed would not apply to this WWTP due to the low dilution ratio.

Pest animals

71. Stoats and ferrets have been caught as part of predator pathways operation along SH1 Otaki to Waitangirua. This brings the total of mustelids caught to 18 since the network commenced, with a ferret hotspot around Nga Manu and stoat hot spot in the lead up to Wainui saddle from the Kāpiti side. Kāpiti dominated client enquires with the majority of these rabbits enquiries and sales making up a large proportion of the pest animal teams advice and cost recovery workload.
72. The Kāpiti Community Environment Fund (CEF) is currently open for applications, closing on 11 May 2025. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai have confirmed their involvement for this year and will attend site visits as well as be involved in decision making regarding applications.

Parks 

73. Te Mahere spatial planning at Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP) Whareroa is progressing well. Greater Wellington is working in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust and next steps are to engage external consultants, agreed by both Greater Wellington and iwi partners, to assist with the project.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara

Publicly notified consents 

74. The resource consent for the continuation of the Horokiwi Quarry has been publicly notified, with submissions closing 21 May 2025. A consent duration of 35 years is sought and includes earthworks, discharge of sediment laden water and a water take from Newlands Stream. The receiving environment for sediment laden discharges is the Newlands Stream and ultimately the coastal marine area of Wellington Harbour.

District Planning 

75. The deadline for submissions on Hutt City Council's district plan review was extended to 2 May 2025. Greater Wellington will be making a submission, focusing on natural hazards, freshwater, climate change, transport, and urban development. The tone of the submission is largely supportive of the direction of the district plan review.

Moonshine stop bank option assessment 

76. The Moonshine stop bank options assessment investigation is underway and due for recommendations, with a final preferred option by the end of June 2025. This investigation will evaluate options, systematically using a multi-criteria analysis to ensure the best option is taken forward to the detailed design phase for implementation. Internal stakeholders have been consulted, and engagement with NZTA, Upper Hutt City Council, and Wellington Water has been arranged to ensure organisational alignment.

Pest animals 

77. **Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Zero ungulate project:** Planning is progressing with a draft control plan for the FY2025/26 ready for review. A trail camera network has been installed and the first lot of data collected to give pre control information. DOC has been engaged regarding working together along the boundary and assisting with technical advice. Remote accommodation for hunters in the Orongorongo catchment has been investigated and there is a proposed design that will be suitable for us and Wellington Water.
78. Wainuiomata/Orongorongo aerial 1080 planning is well underway, with consultation completed and bait ordered. We are working with Wellington Water on a risk management plan for the water supply, which will form part of the approval to Te Whatu Ora. The timeframe for the application is late May 2025. We assisted EcoFX/OSPRI in their Northern Remutaka aerial 1080 operation with track checking tasks, manning of gates and extra signage.

79. Scheduled pest animal cost recovery work is up to date with territorial authorities. Ongoing collaboration is happening with Wellington City Council, Victoria University and Zealandia to investigate Kaka interactions with bait stations and ways to reduce them. We've observed a decline in possum numbers in Te kopahau, with only 866 caught during the latest service. This trend is supported by the monitoring completed in February 2025. It is a positive result and one to build on in subsequent years.

Predator Free Wellington 

80. Staff from the Predator Free Wellington (PFW) team have attended several national hui aimed at informing the national strategy for Predator Free 2050. Our subject matter experts have inputted on such things as innovation on new tools, data, monitoring systems and rat elimination.
81. As expected, based on trends over previous recorded years, the PFW team has recorded greater rat catches in some operational areas. The PFW team is continuing to eliminate the target species effectively. The pressure from rat numbers is expected to reduce as the weather cools.
82. Greater Wellington has established an inter-agency communications group with PFW Ltd. So far, the group has drafted a communications protocol/framework for effective collaboration between Greater Wellington and PFW Ltd to maximise opportunities to celebrate, demonstrate value and manage branding.
83. Staff from the PFW team have consulted and collaborated with Predator Free Banks Peninsula, inspiring work to lead a national community of practice to share best practice and project work.
84. Currently 482ha of the second phase of the Eliminated Project with 334 ha under active control. The operation has advanced to Melrose, expanding the operation to 60% of the Phase 2 area.
85. In early April 2025 we detected our first possum in our project area, and we are leveraging Greater Wellington's expertise in possum control.
86. One of our technical officers installed a network of chew cards at Wellington Zoo to understand the population of predators present. The zoo is committed to partnering with us in eliminating all target predators from the site.
87. In late March 2025 we worked with community members to build 135 wooden trapping tunnels. These tunnels will be distributed around the various community groups in Wellington.

Snorkel events 

88. The Community Capability and Change Team partnered with Mountains to Sea Wellington to deliver three free snorkel events at Taputeranga Marine Reserve between January and March this year. Over 450 participants explored the reserve's biodiversity and learned about its value and threats. A weekday school holiday programme event boosted tamariki participation. Another event with D-sport enabled participants with disabilities to participate using adaptive equipment and supported by trained staff. This received excellent feedback and has set the stage for future more accessible snorkelling initiatives.

Parks 

89. Work on the lighthouse keeper’s cottage at Ōrua-Pouanui/Baring Head is nearing completion. This will be the second house to be completed and is being done in a hip-1970's style. The work was made possible by a \$200,000 gift from the Nankervis estate. We aim to open the house to public bookings within the next two months.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings
2	Rōpū Taiao Environment Group 10 Year Outcome Statements

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Approver	Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i> The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation of the work programmes of Greater Wellington’s Environment Group
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Development and implementation of related work programmes fall under the core activities of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan
<i>Internal consultation</i> Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington’s Environment Group
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> This report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial and health, safety and wellbeing risks and associated implications.

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
8 August 2024	<p>Te Rōpū Taiao Environment Group Update – August 2024 – Report 24.375 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: Officers to include more graphs and diagrams in future update reports, particularly showing trends over time in environmental regulation.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>Comment: Regarding trends in Regulation, we are currently looking into a format and product to supply this information, linking in with the timing we are required to provide such information through national monitoring systems and internal reporting. In the meantime, it would be helpful to understand from the Committee if there are any particular regulation related trends that they want to be regularly informed on.</p>
20 February 2025	<p>Greater Wellington Involvement in the Approvals Process under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 – Report 25.59 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested that officers arrange a briefing on the proposed Belmont Quarry Development Fast Track project</p>	<p>Status: Complete</p> <p>Comment: Briefing provided via Council workshop on 29 April 2025</p>
20 February 2025	<p>Te Rōpū Taiao Environment Update – February 2025 – Report 25.23 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested a report on contestable community funds, including a schedule of current funds and future funds, fund guidelines, and how Greater Wellington manages the funds.</p>	<p>Status: Complete</p> <p>Comment: Community environment funding update meeting item scheduled for Environment Committee 15 May 2025</p>

Attachment 2. Rōpū Taiao 10-year outcome statements

Further detail on the Rōpū Taiao outcomes can be found in the Strategic Framework that was referenced in the previous report. The summarised 10-year outcome statements are:



Safeguarding and restoring ecosystems and natural environments across our rohe

Air, land, ecosystems, freshwater bodies, the coastal marine area and the indigenous species that live in these environments throughout catchments are enabled to thrive in an integrated and connected way.



Fostering connection to nature, recreation and safe harbour navigation

Mana whenua and communities across the region are connected to te taiao and know the stories of their home. Everyone can safely access and connect to nature across our regional parks network, river corridors and harbours.



Strengthening regional resilience and supporting our communities

Mana whenua and communities are becoming more resilient to the effects drought, flooding and sea level rise in ways that support a thriving environment. Net greenhouse gas emissions in the Wellington region are reduced.