

# Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on Thursday 26 February 2026

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 10.01am

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## Members Present

Councillor Duthie (Chair)  
Councillor Tupou (Deputy Chair) (From 10.02am)  
Councillor Connelly  
Councillor Elder  
Councillor Free  
Councillor Gaylor  
Councillor James  
Councillor Johnstone (Until 12.42pm)  
Councillor Rhodes  
Councillor Saw  
Councillor Staples

## Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

## Public Business

### 1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Saw

That the Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Councillors Makarini, Ponter and Woolf and the apology for early departure from Councillor Johnstone.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Tupou arrived at the beginning of the above item at 10.02am.

## **2 Declarations of conflicts of interest**

Councillor Connelly declared a conflict of interest regarding agenda item 8, Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza – Greater Wellington’s Response Approach.

## **3 Petition**

Sandra Stevenson, Peter Law and Paul Nation, Preserve Belmont Farm Park, tabled a petition and spoke to a presentation against removing farming in Belmont Regional Park.

## **4 Public participation**

Anthony Davies and Jonathan Ravens from Friends of Belmont Regional Park spoke to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030.

Tamsin Falconer from the Korokoro Environmental Group spoke to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030.

Robyn Smith with Whitireia Park Restoration Group spoke to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030.

Emily Mossman and Terry Joy from the Puke Ariki Pest Free group spoke to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030. A presentation was tabled.

Kena Duignan from the Ngāhere Korowai Collective spoke to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030.

Councillor Johnstone read a statement of behalf of the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet to agenda item 5, the Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030.

Corina Jordan from NZ Fish and Game spoke to agenda item 8 – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – Greater Wellington’s Response Approach.

## **5 Belmont Regional Park – Restoration Implementation and Grazing Requirements to 2030 – Report 26.7**

Jack Mace, Director Delivery and David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr James

That the Committee:

- 1 Agrees that the proposed restoration of Belmont Regional Park, including grazing, for the four-year period of 2026 to 2030 is consistent with Toitū te Whenua – Parks Network Plan.
- 2 Provides feedback on the proposed transitional grazing approach to inform officers' consideration and granting of a four-year grazing licence for Belmont Regional Park.
- 3 Requests:
  - a that all interested groups, including Preserve Belmont Farm Park Inc and recreation groups, are engaged in master-planning, and that master-planning includes opportunities for groups to gather, listen to each other and seek common ground
  - b that master-planning consider as a key focus area the role of ongoing grazing in Belmont
  - c that best-endeavours are taken to bring the outcome of master-planning to the Committee for consideration in late 2026 or soon after
  - d that the interim grazing license is negotiated on a collaborative basis to both facilitate grazing needs and enhance park values, considering support for reticulated water supply where necessary
  - e that staff defer inessential fence removal in retired areas until a spatial plan has been agreed
  - f that staff prioritise good neighbour expectations for managing boundary weeds including gorse and reducing wildfire risk
  - g that weed control within retired areas of the park is focused on weed species of greatest risk to healthy restoration
  - h that staff support the expansion of community-led predator control and support nursery development in the park to increase planting capability.
- 4 Supports:
  - a the restoration priority given to erosion-prone Porirua Harbour catchments in light of Te Waiora o Parirua
  - b staff working in partnership with mana whenua and encourage partnership at both governance and management levels

Moved as an amendment (to replace parts 2,3 and 4): Cr Staples / Cr Elder

That the Committee:

- 2 Notes:
  - a That during the Toitū Te Whenua public consultation process, for whatever reason, Greater Wellington failed to engage with the group of park users that wish to preserve the majority of the park as grazed farmland

- b That central government and public pressure to minimise rate increases will result in strain on restoration budgets
- 3 Recommends
- a That Greater Wellington offer a 5 year grazing license that emphasises low impact grazing and public access
  - b That no further areas are retired during this period except for the headwaters of the KoroKoro and Speedy's streams, their major tributaries, already identified significant wetlands and the erosion prone hills of the Porirua Harbour catchment
  - c That Greater Wellington's focus for the next 5 years is maintaining and nurturing the retired areas including weed and pest control
  - d That Greater Wellington put emphasis on being a good neighbour including preventing the incursion of weeds immediately across land boundaries.
- 4 Notes that Greater Wellington may not reach its 2030 emission targets if these measures are adopted.
- 5 Acknowledges the petition received from Preserve Belmont Farm Park Group

A show of hands was taken. The amendment was **carried** with 6 votes in favour and 5 against and became part of the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put:

- 1 Agrees that the proposed restoration of Belmont Regional Park, including grazing, for the four-year period of 2026 to 2030 is consistent with Toitū te Whenua – Parks Network Plan.
- 2 Notes:
  - a That during the Toi Te Whenua public consultation process, for whatever reason, Greater Wellington failed to engage with the group of park users that wish to preserve the majority of the park as grazed farmland.
  - b That central government and public pressure to minimise rate increases will result in strain on restoration budgets
- 3 Recommends
  - a That Greater Wellington offer a 5 year grazing license that emphasises low impact grazing and public access.
  - b That no further areas are retired during this period except for the headwaters of the KoroKoro and Speedy's streams, their major tributaries, already identified significant wetlands and the erosion prone hills of the Porirua Harbour catchment.

- c That Greater Wellington's focus for the next 5 years is maintaining and nurturing the retired areas including weed and pest control.
  - d That Greater Wellington put emphasis on being a good neighbour including preventing the incursion of weeds immediately across land boundaries.
- 4 Notes that Greater Wellington may not reach its 2030 emission targets if these measures are adopted.
  - 5 Acknowledges the petition received from Preserve Belmont Farm Park Group.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Duthie requested his vote against the motion be recorded.

The meeting adjourned at 11.53am after questions on the above item and resumed at 12:05pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42pm at the conclusion of the above item and resumed at 1:08pm. Councillor Tupou was not present when the meeting resumed.

Councillor Johnstone left the meeting when the meeting adjourned at 12.42pm and did not return.

Councillor Tupou returned to the meeting at 1.09pm

Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment, advised the meeting that agenda items 6 - Rōpū Taiao Strategic Framework, 7 - Gollans Valley Update and 9 - Whaitua Implementation Programme Progress Report, are withdrawn from the agenda in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.7.

**6 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – Greater Wellington's Response Approach – Report 26.53** [For Information]

David Hipkins, Director Knowledge and Insights, Andy Brown, Knowledge Risk Management and Resilience, and Roger Uys, Senior Environmental Scientist, spoke to the report.

**7 Climate Emergency Response Programme – Current Status and Upcoming matters – Report 26.35** [For Information]

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, Jack Roos, Manager Climate Change and spoke to the report.

**8 Te Rōpū Taiao | Environment Group Activity Update – Report 25.50** [For Information]

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

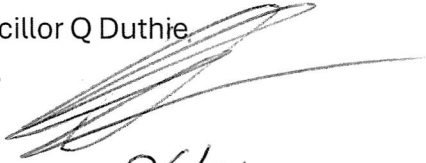
**Karakia whakamutunga**

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

The meeting closed at 1.38pm.

Councillor Q Duthie

**Chair**



Date:

26/3/2026

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