

Environmental Reference Group

Annual Report for the period January 2016 – December 2017

Purpose

The Environmental Reference Group's (ERG) purpose is to:

- Advise Council on the best ways to improve Wellingtonian's quality of life environmentally, socially, culturally and economically by protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Bring knowledge and insight into Council around the environment, including water, energy, waste, biodiversity urban design and transport management, in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

Portfolios

During 2016 and 2017 the ERG has experienced many changes in membership but has retained and benefited from a diverse mix of well qualified and experienced members across a wide range of disciplines. The principal areas of interest to the ERG are split into portfolios with single or shared leads as displayed in the table below:

Portfolio Group	ERG Lead
Transport	Paula Warren
Climate Change	Chris Watson
Waste	Martin Payne
Urban Growth/Open Space	Graeme Sawyer; Kena Duignan
Water	Chris Paulin
Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead
Urban Design Agency	Shenagh Gleisner; Mark Higham
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations	Mark Fenwick
Biodiversity	Lynn Cadenhead; Mike Britton

Policies and Strategies

During the period of this report, the ERG consulted with various WCC officers on a number of WCC plans and strategies, including:

- The open space planning process
- The Wellington Water Modelling
- Urban Development Authority principles and priorities
- The Waste Minimisation Plan

Submissions

During the period, the ERG provided submissions to Council on:

- The Place Space Policy

- The Wellington Regional Waste Minimisation Management Plan
- The Annual Plan (2017)
- The Animal Policy
- The Shelly Bay Development

The main themes that the ERG has focused on through their submissions have been:

- Encouraging Council's efforts to increase integration across units, to overcome the negative effects of "silos".
- Highlight to the council the importance of developing good performance indicators and targets that will encourage work towards priority outcomes, and help mainstream programmes such as 'Our Natural Capital'.
- Emphasising the need to invest in cultural change, not just infrastructure change, to address some of the long term issues facing the city, including climate change.
- Highlighting climate change adaptation as we predict it will be a critical part of building a resilient city. That adaptation should address a range of issues, including but not limited to sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns and more frequency and strength of extreme weather events. It is important that any adaptation improves biodiversity and environmental outcomes and community resilience.
- ERG emphasised that water sensitive urban design is critical to Wellington's future. While the Council has a good policy, it should be moved in a timely manner to implementation and it should be ensured that work is integrated with regional water planning and the three waters policy.
- ERG indicated that it would like to see a long term solution developed for waste that does not involve extension of the landfill, and encourages steady progress towards a zero waste city.
- While acknowledging that Wellington has made great progress in tackling biodiversity issues and building community involvement through initiatives such as Predator Free Wellington, ERG believes that it is vital to ensure that support for work with biodiversity priorities in other areas and initiatives also continues to grow.

Feedback

During the period, the ERG provided feedback on:

- The Resilience Strategy
- The Outer Green Belt Management Review
- The Predator Free Project
- The Let's Get Welly Moving proposal

Assessment on Process

In many cases Councillors and Council officers have adapted to the ERG's preferred strategy of early engagement and targeted expert advice. Positive and constructive submissions have been made on key plans and policies. For example, the ERG made a positive submission to the controversial Shelly Bay development through a better understanding of the intricate nature of the iwi/Council

relationship and was able to balance the environmental concerns with the wider benefits to iwi and Wellington City.

Likewise, the ERG contributed to early discussions on the Outer Green Belt Management Review, the 2017 Annual Plan and the Predator Free Project. Working closely with Council officers can only enhance this process in the future and the ERG members are keen to be involved with workshops and meetings outside of the monthly meetings. Some support for this time should be considered.

Challenges

Challenges for the ERG include communication between members outside of meetings (technology and timing issues) and building trust with Council officers.

Issues to Consider

The ERG would like to recommend the following:

- The ERG would like to encourage Council officers to provide background reading prior to presenting at meetings and to provide specific questions they would like advice on. Presentations should be brief with plenty of discussion time.
- The ERG is keen for more involvement with Councillors outside of meetings and submission processes but also continued and increased involvement within meetings.
- The ERG feels that Council could better utilise the extensive network the ERG members have within the environmental space.
- The ERG believes it would be an immense help to create feedback loops after discussion and submissions. For example, the involvement of Councillor Gilberd, David Chick and Moana Mackey in the ERG meetings has made the ERG's efforts feel valued and heard.
- The ERG would like to encourage more diversity and representation from iwi, youth and other groups that could contribute on environmental matters.
- It has been noted that the ERG provides scientific and expert advice that feeds into political discussion making. This political reality often dilutes our message. Feedback from Council when this happens would be useful to ensure that the ERG still feels valued.
- On a specific topic the ERG would like to be involved with the next LTP as soon as officers' start thinking about what it will contain and how the ERG can contribute.

Wellington City Council Environmental Group

Profile of members as at December 2017

Mark Fenwick (Chair)

For the last six years Mark has been employed by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) as a marine ecology technician. He has a varied role, working on the environmental impacts of fishing on marine habitats and fisheries stock assessments for hoki, oreo, orange roughy, blue cod and crayfish. He also works on environmental impact studies for major developments, including roads and sea floor mining.

Mark is a beneficiary member of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, the Wellington Tenth Trust and the Palmerston North Maori Reserves Trust and he affiliates to Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi and is a descendant of Te Whiti O Rongomai. His marae is Te Tatau o te Po in Petone and he currently sits on Te Atiawa ki Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Potiki Trust (the marae fisheries trust).

He has an MSc from Victoria University, Wellington where he studied the genetic relationships of the New Zealand freshwater mussels (Kakahi) in conjunction with DoC, Iwi and Te Papa. While studying he worked in various roles at the National Museum, Te Papa Tongarewa in the Natural Environment department, the highlight of which was his involvement with the defrost and preservation of the colossal squid where he had a high profile role as the lead technician.

Outside of work, Mark is a keen fisherman and diver and a part-time dive instructor, helping other people discover our fantastic coast and underwater world. He spends time tramping in the Tararua Ranges, chasing trout, and just generally enjoying the great outdoors. Mark is passionate about our natural environment and believes that tangata whenua have a key role to play in ensuring that our environment is used in cautious, sustainable ways.

Mike Britton

Mike has a background in protected area management with a special interest in national parks and nature protection. He is a former General Manager of Forest & Bird and also Assistant Director of Fish & Game New Zealand. More recently, Mike has become involved in fundraising, primarily for nature protection. Over the last three years he has helped raise money with BirdLife International for island restoration, predator control and the development of sustainable livelihoods in the Pacific. Mike is a member of the Tongaririo Taupo Conservation and the Taupo-nui-a-Tia Management Boards.

Lynn Cadenhead

Lynn Cadenhead is a registered landscape architect with a zoology honours degree and an environmental science background. She recently relocated to Wellington from Nelson where she was an active member in Heritage Nelson and the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Nelson branch, chairing both groups and writing submissions.

Lynn has been involved in a wide range of environmental and community projects, both as a professional landscape architect and as a volunteer. These have included landscape assessments, revegetation reports and projects, reserve and playground designs, and involvement in roading and transport issues.

Kena Duignan

Kena Duignan has worked both internationally and in New Zealand in a range of roles to help people reduce our negative environmental impacts, especially when it comes to our food systems. She currently works as a Political and Media Advisor for the Green Party.

Kena has a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies and a Masters of Environmental Studies.

She is a Wellingtonian to her bones. Outside of work hours, she spends time out and about in the city, bush and beach with her whanau and friends. She also runs a nature playgroup, volunteers with the Brooklyn Food Group and sits on the board of Wesley Community Action.

Shenagh Gleisner

Shenagh Gleisner has particular expertise in central government, having been a CE in the public sector and worked in many agencies across the state sector. Her expertise is as a generalist, with a good understanding of how advisory committees work well with the political system to contribute and influence. Shenagh has a particular interest in biodiversity, as a volunteer at Zealandia, and in urban planning, transport and social enterprise.

Chris Paulin

Chris Paulin is a marine biologist with 37 years' experience as a marine biology curator at the National Museum of New Zealand (Te Papa Tongarewa), where his research ranged from the taxonomy of New Zealand fishes to traditional Māori fish-hooks and customary fishing techniques.

Chris has published in over 60 scientific papers, including descriptions of 17 species new to science, as well as eight books on NZ fishes and marine life, and fishing in New Zealand. Now self-employed (fishhook Publications & Photography), Chris specialises in macro-photography and has produced two books on the intertidal biota of the Wellington South Coast, and Taranaki regions, and in 2016 published "Te Matau a Maui: fish-hooks, fishing and fisheries in New Zealand".

Martin Payne

Martin, a professional qualified engineer, runs a design and consultancy company focussed on sustainable water and energy management systems. His particular interest in Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles recognises the impacts of stormwater, transport, waste management and land development on aquatic environments. He has currently completed several papers towards a Masters in Public Health (Environmental Health) with a focus on residential rainwater harvesting.

As a long time environmental advocate, urban water researcher and resident in Wellington City, Martin firmly believes that the natural environment makes an essential contribution to the prosperity and liveability of Wellington City and that protecting this taonga can be achieved by an engaged community. As co-ordinator of Friends of Owhiro Stream, he has been involved in the physical restoration of this urban stream, as well as acting as a strong advocate for the protection of these sensitive environments at local and regional government levels.

Graeme Sawyer

Graeme comes from a background in the water industry, and latterly has gained experience in public policy development in waste, science commercialisation and environmental monitoring. He is currently self-employed as a stakeholder engagement consultant.

Graeme is active in his local Johnsonville community, where he presides over the local residents' group, the JCA. With a degree in Zoology and a strong interest in native trees and ecology, he recently began a project to construct new walking tracks accompanied by re-vegetation with endemic canopy species in the parks & reserves of northern Wellington.

Graeme has a particular interest in how the city might ensure that higher density suburban development is complimented by improved "liveability", particularly with regard to quality, including the quality of public greenspace, and endemic biodiversity.

Paula Warren

Paula is an ecologist who works as a policy advisor for the Department of Conservation. Her work over the last 26 years has covered a wide range of legislative and systems reforms, including development of the Resource Management Act, foreshore and seabed legislation, development of an outcomes approach for conservation management, and prioritising and reform of protected areas legislation.

Paula was New Zealand's lead technical delegate for the Convention on Biological Diversity for 6 years, including being a member of the technical bureau for the Convention, and being the NZ Clearing House Mechanism and Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point. She has done voluntary and paid work in Latin America focused on biodiversity and biosecurity systems reforms, and is Secretary of the Friends of Galapagos NZ.

Paula is involved with a number of restoration projects in the region, including chairing the Growing Places Trust that has been set up to implement place-making initiatives in transport corridors. She is also a walking and public transport users' advocate. She is a former member of the Wellington Regional Transport Committee.