

Environmental Reference Group

Annual Report for the period January 2018 – December 2018

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 2018 the ERG has experienced some 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
Water	Chris Paulin
Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead
Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth	Mark Higham
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations	Mark Fenwick
Biodiversity/Open Space	Mike Britton
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead

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 Public Places Bylaw
- The new WCC te reo policy
- The WCC Long Term Plan
- Predator Free Wellington project
- The WCC Parking Policy review
- The Zero Carbon Capital Plan
- The WCC Outer Green Belt Management Plan
- The Whaitua process

Submissions

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

- The WCC Long Term Plan
- The Regional Land Transport Plan

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 'Pest Free Wellington'.
- 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, population growth and resilience.
- 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.
- 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 Predator Free Project

- The Public Places Bylaw
- The new WCC te reo policy
- The Outer Green Belt Management Plan
- The WCC Long Term Plan
- Predator Free Wellington project
- The WCC Parking Policy review
- The Low Carbon Capital Plan
- The WCC Outer Green Belt Management Plan

Assessment on Process

More and more Councillors and Council officers have adapted to the ERG's preferred strategy of early engagement and targeted advice. Positive and constructive submissions have been made on key plans and policies. For example, the Long-Term Plan that was largely supported by ERG.

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 as should the level of remuneration for members that has not increased overtime.

Challenges

The major challenge facing ERG is retaining members. ERG has been lucky to attract high calibre members covering many disciplines, but these people are in demand in the workforce and increasingly they struggle to find time for ERG or their circumstances change with new roles and challenges. ERG will continue to recruit as necessary.

Issues to Consider

The ERG would like to recommend the following:

- ERG would like to remind Council officers that we encourage them 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 and workshops.
- 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 review representation from iwi, youth and other groups that could contribute on environmental matters for example currently is no representation from Iwi on ERG possible due to a funding loop. This should be redressed by an amendment to the ERG terms of reference.

Wellington City Council Environmental Group

Profile of members as at December 2017

Mark Fenwick (Chair)

For the last ten 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 roading 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.

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.

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.

Andrew Wilks

Andrew Wilks leads the Sustainability Office at Victoria University. He has experience in planning and delivering environmental initiatives including climate change action, energy efficiency, travel demand management, water conservation and waste minimisation. He has a strong network with sustainability practitioners in business, academia, the student body and has good relationships with council officers. He is also a board member of Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability. He has lived in Wellington for 20 years and has 2 children who he chases around the recreational facilities of the northern suburbs.