

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT – JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

TALOFA LAVA, NOA'IA, MALO NI, MAURI, FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU, NI SA BULA VINAKA, KIA ORANA, MĀLŌ E LELEI, AND WARM PACIFIC GREETING FROM THE PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

BACKGROUND

The Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) is one of five Council community advisory groups providing a broad range of advice and connection to specific Wellington communities.

PAG brings its Pacific knowledge and insight into Council on how the needs of Wellington's Pacific communities can be addressed in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

Whilst PAG is not seen as representing all Pacific people in the city, members utilise their significant support and leadership roles within their ethnic and local communities to enhance the responses and services the Council provide.

PAG's Pacific membership includes representatives from; Cook Islands, Fiji, Melanesia, Micronesia, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers the engagements and activities undertaken by the Wellington City Council Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

This last year has been one of continuing adaptation, working around periods of uncertainty as everyone has tried their best to live and work with the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been reflected in our meetings being in largely hybrid formats or fully online, depending on the environment/context.

Our Pacific communities have continued to show resilience, though not without challenges. Many of our PAG members were out in the communities even more so, helping and working on the front lines to provide support to those families and those needing support. We also acknowledge our Tongan communities impacted by the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami in early 2022.

We have continued with strengthening our focus to build and strengthen a strategic approach to advising and supporting the Wellington City Council (WCC) and ensuring that the input and engagement for Council work and projects was at the early stages of the processes, rather than at later stages where our advice and input would have little to no effective impact. We have seen growth in this area over the past year, and encourage Council to continue to do so.

Our PAG members represent not just their respective nations, but also a diverse range of professional experiences and industries. They bring this cultural and thought diversity to each meeting, and we learn from each other as well.

As part of being true to our respective cultures, we have adapted the format of our PAG meetings to better reflect how meetings are held in our communities. We have dedicated time at the start of each PAG meeting towards whakawhanaungatanga (Māori terminology) of building relationships between PAG members and also Council staff. It is that emphasis on relationships that sets the tone for the rest of our formal agendas – a chance to share a little bit about our respective cultures and also establish and build trust – which lends itself to deeper engagement and understanding, more open information and knowledge sharing. It is our hope that this is also a way for Council staff and guest presenters, to take a piece of that experience away with them, so that no matter who is on PAG in the future, they will have some new piece of knowledge and/or understanding about Pasifika cultures and perspectives.

We also encourage Council to continue to use the Ministry for Pacific Peoples’ Kāpasa Policy Framework. Following our signed Memorandum of Understanding a few years ago on its use, it would be insightful to hear if/how it has been useful for Council staff.

It has been a broad array of topics covered this year, and we look forward to the next year ahead.

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP – AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

Name	Pacific Nation	
Natalia Fareti	Samoa	<i>Co-chair</i>
Anthony Carter	Samoa	<i>Co-chair</i>
Gerron Ale	Tokelau	
Joep Berwick	Fiji	
Anthony Carter	Samoa	
Maria Clark	Niue	
Mino Cleverly	Samoa	
Sunia Foliaki	Tonga	
Kira Hundleby	Melanesia	
Maikali Kilione	Fiji	
Jocelyn Kua	Tokelau	
Lisa Pouvalu	Tonga	
Sandra Tisam	Cook Islands	
Tino Vaireka	Cook Islands	
Senia Bartley	Tuvalu	

Vacancies (as at 30 June 2022):

Micronesia: 1

Tuvalu: 1

PAG Meetings held - 13

Chair, Deputy Chair, and Council Democracy Officer/s meetings held – 15

BUILDING ON THE FINDINGS OF THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUP REVIEW 2020

The Advisory and Reference Group Review report was completed on 19 June 2020.

The Review sought to;

- understand the advisory group model at the time of the review and its effectiveness
- a Council desire to ensure that the advisory groups are able to provide unique feedback to Council
- participation is of value to their members

We have continued to build on the recommendations that the report outlined, including:

- having Council staff helping to provide more structure to the development of our PAG work plan,
- increased stability of liaison staff participation (i.e. we have had the same democracy officer for a steady period, who has been very helpful).
- we have also appreciated having a senior Council staff officer regularly attending (Chief Planning Officer), along with a recently appointed (at the time) Engagement Manager.

These have been incorporated to PAG's working model. We continue to encourage Council to proactively engage with PAG as early as possible in the co-design process for strategies and plans, as this ensures that Pasifika perspectives are not only heard, but also acted on in a meaningful way. We thank Council and those staff that have done so, such as with the Accessibility Action Plan – it was refreshing and very welcome, to have the chance to provide early insights and inputs before any plans were formalised or well developed already.

The below outlines the subjects that were presented and discussed at PAG meetings over the past year. These have aligned with our agreed work plan for 2021-2022:

- Community (including the Fale Malae)
- Reform (including Local Government Reform)
- Transport (including LGWM)
- Housing
- Environment
- Internal WCC change

SUBJECT	PRESENTER/FACILITATOR	PAG INPUT/COMMENT(S)
PAG Induction & Preparation for PAG Chair(s) Election	Sean Johnson – WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming newly appointed PAG members, • Presentation on overview of Council work, and PAG’s role in informing that work,
WCC Representation Review	Sean Johnson - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion on the Representation Review.
Meeting with Ministry for Pacific Peoples	Co-Chairs Anthony Carter and Natalia Fareti, meeting with Faalogo Vaai, Senior Advisor at the Ministry for Pacific Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of our respective objectives, work plans • Invitation to MPP to attend PAG meetings as observers, mutual agreement to share information, knowledge.
PAG Workplan	Clare Lundon – WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and prioritising key areas of relevance for the forward program with PAG members.
Three Waters Reform	Mike Mendonca - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level presentation of the key issues and work being undertaken by WCC.
WCC Inclusion Strategy	Liam Hodgetts - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion. • Feedback from PAG members. • PAG support
Tūpiki Ora: 10-year Māori Strategy	Johnnie Freeland - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion. • Feedback and suggestions made by PAG to help the strategy succeed.
Human Rights Commission (HRC) – National Inquiry Pacific Pay Gap Inquiry	Robyn Paiti - HRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and PAG discussion and feedback provided to HRC. • Information on the enquiry to be shared with

		communities to encourage participation in the engagements.
Economic Wellbeing Strategy	Kerryn Merriman - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on the strategy, suggestions on ways to help rebuild Wellington's economic impetus post-Covid 19.
Open Space and Recreation Review	Shona McCahon – WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAG discussion and feedback.
Accessibility Action Plan	Melissa Wells - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAG brought in early to this process while it was still in the very early stages of development – which was much appreciated.
Local Elections 2022	Sean Johnson and Jennifer Parker - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion, including new Wards ad marketing campaign. Encouraging communities to enrol, and to vote.
City Housing proposal – Annual Plan Consultation	Angelique Jackson - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation, discussion and feedback, especially around density, rents, and locations.
Southern Landfill – Annual Plan Consultation	Abi Kibble - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion.
District Plan Consultation	Anna Stevens - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and initial discussions and feedback.
WCC Comms and Engagement	Georgina Lamb and Lexy Seedhouse - WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early insights, to be discussed in more detail.
Community Facilities Review	Kristine Ford – WCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion, initial feedback provided. Invitation to Kristine to come back to PAG following her survey results analysis.

RECRUITMENT OF PAG MEMBERS

Following the appointment process for new members in the second half of 2021, we were very pleased to welcome six new PAG members:

- Gerron Ale – Tokelau
- Jope Berwick – Fiji
- Maikali Kilione – Fiji
- Sandra Tisam – Cook Islands
- Tino Vaireka – Cook Islands
- Maria Clark – Niue

We also welcomed back the remaining members as returning representatives. Anthony Carter and Natalia Fareti were voted in as the new Co-Chairs in August 2021.

In May/June 2022, we sought applications to fill existing vacancies on PAG (two for Tuvalu, and one for Micronesia). We were excited to welcome our newest member of PAG:

- Senia (Nia) Bartley - Tuvalu

Being representatives for our respective communities has been and is, an honour for all of our PAG members, and we all stand committed to bringing our communities' voices to the Council table.

A long-standing area that PAG would like to have reconsidered in the Terms of Reference in future, is around appointing community representatives for those nations that have historically been difficult to fill on PAG, i.e. the second Tuvaluan position, along with the Micronesian position. These roles have often been challenging to fill, firstly due to lower populations of those communities, and secondly due to members of those communities tending to live outside of the Wellington City Council boundaries (e.g. in Porirua or the Hutt Valley). A consistent absence/vacancies of those positions over the last several years means that those communities' perspectives will not have been present. This is something PAG will be discussing and reviewing during this next year.

SUMMARY

The Pacific Advisory Group has continued to act as a conduit for their respective cultural community groups, bringing and reflecting their views, and also our own lived experiences and insights, to Council. Similarly, our members have shared what we have learned from Council through the different presentations, consultations open, and knowledge mutually shared, back to our communities.

PAG looks forward to further contributing to and sharing in the Council's work, and to ensure that our Pacific communities' needs and aspirations are not just relayed, but also incorporated into that work. While we reflect our communities' experiences and views to Council, we in turn are asked by our respective communities how PAG's feedback, recommendations, and submissions are taken into account. We want to ensure that we are

doing our best by them and know that their, and our, voices and experiences are being taken on board. We encourage Council to bring PAG, and other advisory groups, into the co-design process of strategies and plans as early as possible and thank those Council staff who have done so.

PAG members both past and present have all served with great passion and commitment. Their passion and commitment is fuelled by the expectation and accountability of the Pacific communities we serve.

As we continue to adapt around the impacts of Covid-19, we acknowledge the various challenges that our communities in particular have faced. Our PAG members have been busier than ever helping on the ground, providing support services in multiple ways as our communities try to recover from the impacts of Covid-19 and lockdowns over the past two years. However, we remain committed to helping them recover, rebuild and improve wellbeing.

Finally, we would like to thank those Council staff who have been ever supportive and helped with the efficient running of our PAG meetings and engaging with alofa and a deep sense of purpose: Councillor Teri O'Neill, our Executive Leadership Team representative; Liam Hodgetts – Chief Planning Officer, our amazing Council Liaison Officers; Sean Johnson and Clare Lundon (who both moved on to other roles within Council – we were sad to see them go but thank them for their mahi, support and welcoming smiles at every PAG meeting!), and especially to our new Council Democracy Advisor Alisi Puloka, who has been a wonderful support to PAG and especially to us as Co-Chairs (mālō 'aupito Alisi!).

Ngā mihi nui to all our Council and PAG aiga!

Anthony Carter and Natalia Fareti

Co-Chairs of the Pacific Advisory Group

Pacific Advisory Group Work Programme – 2022-23

Introduction

The Pacific Advisory Group terms of reference requires an annual work programme to be developed and presented to the relevant Council committee once a year. The work programme will be determined jointly between the Pacific Advisory Group, Council officers, chair of the appropriate Council committee, and the Councillor liaisons.

The work programme is set out below and highlights key areas of work that the Pacific Advisory Group will contribute to over the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Purpose

As per the advisory group terms of reference, the purpose of the Pacific Advisory Group is to:

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great City, where Pasifika peoples thrive and contribute to Council's priorities.
- Bring knowledge and extra insight into Council about how the different needs of Wellington's Pasifika communities can be addressed in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the *Communication* and *Involvement of communities* points [in the terms of reference].

Draft work programme:

In the 2021-22 year, the Pacific Advisory Group will contribute to Council projects and priorities in the following areas:

- Community (including the Fale Malae)
- Economic Development
- Transport (including LGWM)
- Housing
- Environment
- Internal WCC change

This work programme is not prescriptive and the group may work on projects outside of these priorities.