
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE GROUP

1. Purpose of report

To report on the work and achievements of the Environmental Reference Group (ERG) in 2012 and to state the intentions of the group for 2013.

2. Executive summary

The Environmental Reference Group has produced their Annual Report covering the period February to December 2012 and this is attached as Annex One.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note the work and achievements of the Environmental Reference Group in 2012.*
- 3. Note the Environmental Reference Group would like some formal feedback from Council regarding the perceived value of its contribution and the continued relevance of its Terms of Reference.*

4. Background

The Environmental Reference Group (ERG) is an advisory group set up under a Terms of Reference¹ to inform the work and activities of Wellington City Council on issues relating to the natural environment, including biodiversity, water, energy and waste management.

The purpose of the ERG is to:

- provide feedback and advise the Council on its natural environment policy, planning and asset management matters (including the development of the Council's Long Term Plan) in the developmental stages of all relevant projects and policies.

¹ <http://wellington.govt.nz/~media/your-council/meetings/files/torenvironment.pdf>

- be an information conduit to and from the Council via liaison officers.
- identify and comment on the broad spectrum of community expectations and concerns associated with the management of the natural environment.

5. Discussion

The Annual Report from the ERG is attached as Annex One. It contains details of the advice and feedback provided to Council on a wide range of topics during 2012.

ERG has also started addressing long-standing issues relating to the way it operates. The group is seeking ways of maximising the contribution that its knowledgeable and experienced members can make to Council's decision making processes each year given that the available funding limits it to six meetings per year.

At its meetings in October and November 2012, ERG used the latest versions of the Council's Strategy and Policy Work Programme as a framework for identifying key areas of interest for ERG. (See Appendix 4). This analysis will contribute to the development of a work programme for ERG during 2013.

Annex One includes member profiles outlining the skills and background of the group.

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

ERG has written its report which is attached in Annex One.

5.2 Financial considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the report require increased funding.

5.3 Climate change impacts and considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the ERG's report has climate change impacts or considerations.

5.4 Long-term plan considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the ERG's report will impact on Council's Long Term Plan.

6. Conclusion

This report provides a summary of the work and activities of the ERG in 2012.

Contact Officer: Sandra Crews, Advisor, Consultation and Engagement

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

This activity fits with the outcomes of the Consultation & Engagement strategy.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The Environmental Reference Group is managed through existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations for this report.

4) Decision-making

This report does not require significant decision making.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

No general consultation has been undertaken for this report.

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation with Maori has been undertaken for this report.

6) Legal implications

There are no legal implications from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The activities of the Environmental Reference Group are consistent with existing policy and support ongoing policy development.

2012 Annual Report for the Environmental Reference Group (ERG)

This annual report is for the 2012 calendar year. It is organised under the following headings:

- Overall assessment 2012
- Activities and achievements
- Looking ahead to 2013

Additional information is in four appendices:

Appendix 1 Agenda items in 2012

Appendix 2 ERG members and changes in membership during 2012

Appendix 3 Profiles of ERG members

Appendix 4 Topics of interest to ERG on SPC's Forward Work Programme for 2013

Overall assessment of 2012

ERG has provided advice and feedback to Council on a wide range of topics during 2012.

ERG has also started addressing long-standing issues relating to the way it operates. We are seeking ways of maximising the contribution that our highly skilled members can make to Council's decision making processes each year given that the available funding limits us to only six meetings per year.

The ERG would like some formal feedback from Council, regarding the perceived value of its contribution, and the continued relevance of its Terms of Reference.

Activities and achievements

Members

A total of 36 applications were received in late 2011 when Council sought expressions of interest in ERG membership. Seven new members were appointed in January 2012. Three members resigned during the year and were replaced by three new members. Appendix 2 lists the 15 ERG members as at December 2012. Members' profiles are in Appendix 3. These profiles demonstrate the wide range of expertise that is available to Council through ERG.

Meetings

ERG met seven times in 2012. One of these seven meetings was an extra meeting, held in February 2012, with the primary purpose of providing induction for new members and a refresher for continuing members. Key induction topics included conflicts of interest and how Council manages its relationships with Iwi. The timing of this meeting delayed the first ERG business meeting of the year until 12 March 2012.

Council staff approached ERG for input and advice on a wide range of topics during 2012. The usual format involved a presentation from the relevant officer(s) followed by a discussion and recording of the group's oral feedback and advice. Many Council officers have responded positively to ERG's request for early involvement in the development of items on Council's work programme. This preference, however, did not prevent ERG from responding positively when time-lines were tight. We were pleased, for example, that officers sought our input when finalising Council's draft submission to Greater Wellington Regional Council as part of its review of bus services.

ERG also allocated significant amounts of meeting time late last year to reviewing the way it operates. During 2012, ERG found that six 2-hour meetings per year was limiting, given the range of Council activities with links to ERG's terms of reference and the diversity of members' interests. Tight time frames for lodging submissions also limited the opportunities for developing an agreed ERG position at a meeting.

At its meetings in October and November 2012, ERG used the latest versions of the Council's Strategy and Policy Work Programme as a framework for identifying key areas of interest for ERG. (See Appendix 4). This analysis will contribute to the development of a work programme for ERG during 2013.

Feedback and advice to Council

ERG's main ways of providing feedback and advice to Council during 2012 were through engagement with staff at ERG meetings and through written submissions to Council or staff.

During 2012, ERG engaged at several different levels of Council's business

- Its long term strategic directions, e.g. the draft Long Term Plan, and early stages of the Living City programme
- Its policies, e.g. the Open Spaces Framework, the Cycling Programme, Water Conservation Plan
- Its strategic programmes, e.g. Our Living City
- Its services to households and businesses, e.g. trade waste collection bylaws.

ERG also provided comments to assist Council prepare its submissions to:

- the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the draft Local Government Amendment Bill No 1
- Greater Wellington Regional Council on the review of bus services.

ERG has received appreciative feedback on the value of its advice from several Councillors and members of staff.

The ERG would like some formal feedback from Council, regarding the perceived value of its contribution, and the continued relevance of its Terms of Reference.

Acknowledgements

Members benefited from the involvement of Councillors Ritchie and Lester in ERG meetings. ERG sees participation of Councillors in ERG meetings as a key information conduit to and from Council and its committees, especially the Strategy and Policy Committee.

ERG has valued the services and support provided by both its liaison officers during 2012. Graeme Shimmin, Council Liaison Officer left for Auckland City Council after the June meeting. Sandra Crews from the Consultation & Engagement team replaced Graeme as Liaison Officer in July 2012. ERG's liaison officers also play an important role in ensuring the timely dissemination of agendas and minutes to the rest of Council and the public via Council's website.

ERG members would also wish to record their appreciation of all of the council officers who made presentations at our meetings and responded to our questions and comments. The quality of presentations was high, and we appreciated officers' willingness to listen, as well as their responsiveness and appreciation of our feedback.

Appendix 1: 2012 Agenda Topics

Date	Agenda topics
20 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Induction programme by Council staff including Nicky Karu, Treaty Relations Manager• Preparation of ERG Annual Report for SPC• Outline of WCC Policy Forward Programme
12 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation about conflicts of Interest by Vincent Falloon• Presentation on WCC Policy Forward Programme – Tass Larsen• Outline of WCC’s draft submission on GWRC Bus Review – Tass Larsen• Presentation and discussion about Bylaws & Trade Waste Collection Review with Mark Jones• ERG Annual Report for 2011
16 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback following presentation of ERG Annual Report to SPC• Presentation on Draft Long Term Plan – Councillor Ritchie• WCC Policy Forward Programme, LTP & 2040 – Tass Larsen• Presentation about Zealandia — Councillor Ritchie
11 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Government Reform – Allan Prangnell• Update on Water Conservation & Efficiency Plan – Paul Glennie, Capacity• Feedback from presentation to SPC about ERG;s submission on Draft LTP and ECO-City proposal – Bev Abbott• Wellington Airport Noise and Insulation/Energy Efficiencies – Sea Rottman

6 August

- Presentation and discussion about Home and Energy Saver Programme with Zach Rissel, Chris Berry and Johnny Parker
- Presentation and discussion about Open Spaces Framework with Mike Oates and Mark Jones
- Presentation and discussion about Wellington's Cycling Programme with Paul Barker
- Discussion of ERG processes for preparation of advice and submissions – Howard Markland

1 October

- Presentation and discussion about the Eco City/Natural Capital work programme with Catherine Leining
- Policy Forward Programme - Geoff Swainson
- ERG planning meeting
 - What ERG has achieved and how should the ERG operate? - Sarah
 - ERG work priorities – Howard

26 November

- ERG planning meeting continued.
- Google drive – working together on documents
- Presentations about Draft Town Belt Management Plan – Councillor Ritchie, Bev Abbott,

Appendix 2: Membership as at December 2012

	Year joined	Title	First Name	Last Name
1	2008	Dr	Sea	Rottmann
2	2008	Mr	Hamish	Allardice
3	2009	Mr	Peter	Gilberd
4	2009	Ms	Bev	Abbott
5	2010	Ms	Sarah	Free
6	2010	Mr	Phil	Hancock
7	2010	Ms	Claire	Graeme
8	2012	Mr	Matt	Barclay
9	2012	Mr	Charles	Barrie
10	2012	Mr	Nick	Crocker
11	2012	Ms	Jane	O'Loughlin
12	2012	Dr	Sophie	Mormede
13	2012	Mr	Howard	Markland
14	2012	Mr	James	Wall-Manning
15	2012	Ms	Alina	Siegfried

Resignations during 2012

	Year joined	Title	First name	Last name
1	2012	Ms	Josephine	Newman
2	2012	Mr	David	Rohan
3	2010	Mr	Marc	Slade

Appendix 3: Profile of members as at January 2013

Howard Markland (co-chair)

Howard is currently working as a Senior Adviser with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with previous work experience in the UK, Australia, United States and Bolivia. Much of his 25 year career has focused on environmental management roles, such as research scientist, regulator, consultant, programme manager and policy adviser. His experience most relevant to the work of the ERG includes 5 years as an environmental regulator with the Greater Wellington Regional Council, and 6 years in Environmental Health roles with local councils in the UK. He is also involved in community work, which has included starting an environmental restoration group in Northland, helping with the Kaibosh food recovery programme and coaching children at the Karori Pirates swimming club.

Sarah Free (co-chair)

Sarah has qualifications in electrical engineering, teaching and public health. She has worked for some years for the Sustainability Trust in Wellington first as a household energy advisor, setting up and manning the Home Energy Advice Centre, and more recently as an independent contractor carrying out on-site home energy assessments. Sarah is also studying economics papers at Victoria University with a view to undertaking research into the benefits for New Zealand of a more widespread uptake of small-scale photovoltaic generation. As well as being co-chair of WCC's Environmental Reference Group, she is a member of the Electricity Authority's Retail Advisory Group, a member of the Sustainable Energy Forum, and secretary of the Domestic Energy Users Network.

Alina Siegfried

Alina's environmental interests stretch far and wide, with a particular interest in ecosystem services and the sustainable management of freshwater resources. She currently works for the Green Party (Parliamentary Services) as an Environmental Issues Assistant, undertaking research, campaign work and logistical support for Green Party MPs. She also has experience working as a district planner in the Rangitikei and in the NGO sector with a provincial environmental group in Canada, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. As Water Issues Coordinator she ran community engagement programmes, made policy recommendations to the provincial government and collaborated with other stakeholders in source water protection planning. Alina is currently involved with Waterlution, an organization focused on facilitating learning and cross-sector collaboration on freshwater management. She also is a keen performance poet who recognizes the potential of poetry, storytelling and the arts in general to inspire environmental and social change in a constructive way. Alina runs the monthly poetry series Poetry in Motion at Heaven Pizza.

Bev Abbott

Bev recently retired after many years in a variety of central government organizations'. Her ten years with the Department of Conservation included national roles in conservation education, visitor services and tourism concessions. During five years with Tourism New Zealand, she helped resolve issues between the tourism sector and government departments. Other jobs have developed her passion for strategic alignment and informative reporting. Six years on the Wellington Conservation Board provided insights into local and regional conservation challenges. She's a long-term active member of the Wellington Botanical Society, and has drafted and presented many submissions on their behalf. The joys of retirement include increased opportunities to attend a wide range of public meetings, seminars and conferences, and joining the team of voluntary guides at Otari-Wilton's Bush. She's been on ERG since early 2009.

Charles Barrie

Charles has recently completed a Masters of Design Thesis exploring collaborative community process in the sustainable design of suburban and urban public space. Charles has a background in ecological restoration, landscape construction and community development. For the last four years Charles has been: contracting to Porirua City Council as an environmental education project manager, coordinating the Kai o te Aro community garden and project managing the Catchment Community project on the Owhiro Stream - <http://catchmentcommunity.tumblr.com/> - <http://catchmentcommunity.tumblr.com/> <http://catchmentcommunity.tumblr.com/http://catchmentcommunity.tumblr.com/>

Claire Graeme

Claire studied Ecology and Geography at Otago University and has worked for over fifteen years in the environmental field. She has worked primarily for the Department of Conservation; as a regional resource management planner, ecologist and later at the national office in central government environmental policy with a particular focus on freshwater issues. She has also worked for four years in London as a planner for local councils and also at the Environmental Protection Agency. Claire lives in Seatoun with her husband and 3 boys and so is involved in kindy and school activities. She is currently not working but maintains her conservation interest through voluntary work such as being a member of the Wellington branch Forest and Bird Committee.

Jane O'Loughlin

Jane works at the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority doing corporate communications. Prior to this, Jane worked as press secretary to David Parker,

the then Minister of Energy, Climate Change and Land Information, and before that a journalist at Radio New Zealand, focusing on transport issues.

Thanks to this background, Jane has a good knowledge of the energy sector, particularly energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change issues, both on a practical household level, and on a national and strategic level.

Jane has spent several years as a volunteer on the Aro Valley Community Council, taking on projects that involve community consultation and advocacy, particularly to do with urban planning, to protect the Valley's environment and historical features.

Jane's main interests are in community development, urban design, and waste management. She is a keen cyclist. She believes progress needs to be measured by the health of our society and environment, as well as our economy.

Matt Barclay

I am a Geography teacher with a good understanding of the level of environmental awareness among secondary students; I also bring knowledge of the networks that exist in the education sector.

I am community minded and have a sense of being responsible for the city that I live in which is a product of 170 years of community development and involvement. I believe that it is important that the decisions made by WCC are well-informed and have a sustainable long-term focus. I strongly believe in the triple bottom line view of society, which measures social, environmental and economic sustainability.

My particular interests include; the impacts of climate change on our city; and ensuring that transport options are accessible and connecting people and places. An aspect of this is to use best quality urban design principles, which make services easily available to our people.

Nick Crocker

The way that Wellington presents itself is important as it affects the perceptions of future visitors or residents. I have a Bachelor of Architecture from VUW, undertook post grad research in energy use, lecturer Building Environment at CIT [1996-1999]. I am interested in being involved in considering the city's natural environment and environmental policies.

The Appropriate Technology for Living Association [ATLA] is a local environmental group I was actively involved in for over 10 years. Group held talks/workshops on technical and environmental issues, earth building, passive solar design, solar collectors and cookers.

Involved with a group interested in environmental & sustainability issues which formed to develop a sustainable development organisation, arranged a Green

Wellington day in Newtown with stall and a series of talks - this has now become the Sustainability Trust.

Peter Gilberd

Peter works for the Royal Society of New Zealand, where he helps run the Marsden Fund (Government funding for research projects in science, mathematics, social sciences and humanities). An interest in restoring the environment through native tree planting with Woodridge Planters and the Seton Nossiter Park Working Group has led him into extensive community initiatives in Newlands involving schools, scouts, corporate groups, churches, residential homes, and Community Work. He is on the committee of Nga Hau e Wha o Paparangi, the Wellington Regional Manager for Trees for Survival, and a founder member of the WCC-supported Jay St Community Garden and Nursery.

Phil Hancock

Phil has worked with resource efficiency since completing a degree in Environmental Studies at Victoria in 2001. He has worked as a Waste Minimisation Officer for Masterton and Carterton District Councils, and managed resource recovery at Trash Palace in Porirua. More recently Phil has worked with energy efficiency, managing significant residential insulation and lighting projects across New Zealand. Phil represented the Insulation Association of NZ on the Standard's committee rewrite of the recessed lighting standard.

Phil is a founding member and current Trustee of Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust, which manages a QE11, covenanted 400ha block in South Taranaki ranging from wetland to sub alpine.

Dr Sea Rottmann

Sea is a behaviour change consultant, with improved energy use as her focal interest. Her current main project is being Operating Agent for Task XXIV on Behaviour Change for the IEA's DSM Implementing Agreement (www.ieadsm.org). This work means that she now spends several months a year in Europe. She previously worked at the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority as Principal Scientist and has been co-chair of the Wellington City Council's ERG for 4 years. She is also on the board of trustees of the Sustainability Trust, the Monarch Butterfly Trust and is actively involved in the NZ Green Party, especially the Rongotai branch, which she convenes.

Dr Sophie Mormede

Sophie is a fisheries scientist with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, providing some of the science which informs the quota

management system. She previously worked as a consultant in the water industry (drinking and wastewater) and as a process engineer in that field. In her spare time, she is a board member of the Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve, a committee member of the Wellington Underwater Club and active scuba-diver, with strong involvement in community clean ups and advocacy for the marine environment. She is also a volunteer at Zealandia, although not as much as she would like.

Appendix 4: Environmental Review Group: Areas of Interest (Meeting summary from 1 October 2012)

Strategic Area	Work Programme	Key Pieces of Work	ERG Interest
Transport	Regional projects (including long haul flights)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin Reserve to Airport Improved transport and economic outcomes from Port Access from State Highway 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co chairs for transport & ERG to get together Track Airport company Master Plan Note possible impacts of port and rail
	Encourage sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and Cycling (mode share, point of difference) Public Transport Spine study Options for the trolley bus network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on public & alternative transport and community impacts OAP focus
Economy & Jobs	Attract talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Haul Aircraft landing in Wellington Destination Wellington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runway extension impacts Runway noise
	'Open for Business' services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for Business (understanding business drivers and working to enhance them) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green growth development opportunities
Capital City Status	Investment partnerships with government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Park & physical enhancements Civics Programme Strong Government Partnerships Strong Links with Education 	
	International relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong International Relations leveraging our capital city status 	
Earthquake Resilience	Resilience planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy and Strengthening Options to manage Heritage and Earthquake Resilience Sea level Rise (informed debate and engagement on the issues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise, extreme weather events) Community/neighbourhood resilience (including business continuity, rainwater storage, community gardens) Overlaps with CDEM
Eco-City	National/international recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Open Spaces Framework that protects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Spaces Framework

ANNEX ONE

Strategic Area	Work Programme	Key Pieces of Work	ERG Interest
		<p>and enhances our City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Minimisation / Water Conservation • Partnerships with Victoria University, business and govt to enhance and develop our credentials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management/minimisation • Water Conservation • Biodiversity action plan implementation • Town belt (defining feature) • Maritime/harbour focus
Community Participation	Develop a volunteering strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of losing GWRC care groups • Community projects (e.g. eco-restoration, community gardens)
	Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Affordable Housing Strategy • Engagement Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement for environmental issues & opportunities • Support school environmental programmes?
Reform & Governance	Local government reform engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity commission • Local Government Reform • Financial Sustainability policy implications / asset management planning assumptions • District Plan review • Review currency of Council strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental topics from District Plan Review (new scope) • National policy statement on indigenous biodiversity • Local government reform impacts on environmental monitoring/protection
Other			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthworks (gully filling, watercourse culverting & sediment control) • Sustainable energy generation • Pest management (ecosystem impacts)