

Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes

6 April 2009, Korimako - Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council

Present:

Hamish Allardice (Co-chair)
Councillor Wade-Brown
Councillor Pannett
Kathryn Maxwell
Nigel Smith (Youth Council)
Peter Gilbert
Bev Abbott
Ian Shearer
Mel Cutler
Nick Potter
Liz Hibbs

Apologies

Members

Sea Rotmann (Co-chair)
Mike Ennis
Philip Mladenov
Tushara Kodikara
Graeme Hastilow

WCC Officers:

Genevieve Drake (Policy)
Maria Archer (Infrastructure)
Chris Cameron (Climate Change Office)

GWRC Officers: Tami Woods

Mana Whenua Representatives:

Guests/Speakers:

Welcome

Attendees were welcomed and apologies recorded.

Draft minutes from the 2/3/09 meeting were moved for confirmation by Ian Shearer and seconded by Bev Abbott – carried.

Water Consumption Figures – Maria Archer

Maria Archer – Manager Infrastructure/Planning presented on Wellington's water consumption figures with reference to the draft LTCCP targets of 350 l/p/d. There is some public confusion regarding how much water Wellington uses due to a range of consumption estimates. The following points were made in clarification:

- WCC purchases 30 million cubic meters of water from Greater Wellington per year (2007/8 figure).
- The current population figure used is 186,668 (based on 2006 census figure with estimated increase).
- Water consumption l/p/d [litres per person per day] figures that have been quoted for Wellington (per head of population) consumption have ranged from close to 500 l/p/d down to less than 200. In some respects most of them are correct, but they all mean different things.
- The upper end of the range is the total amount of water divided by the population (a gross figure of some 430 l/p/d) but this is not the amount of water used by each individual. It is important to note that this consumption figure includes

- commercial use of water and unaccounted water. The commercial use of water for small businesses and fire fighting is not individually metered.
- If we take the total amount of water consumed in the city, take off the amount that is used by commercial users with meters, and divide this by the population, the consumption of water closer to 350 l/p/d, but this is still not the amount of water used by each individual each day.
 - If unaccounted water is subtracted from the 350 l/p/d the figure of consumption is closer to 240 l/p/d. Unaccounted for water is the water lost through breaks and leaks, water used for fire fighting and flushing mains, water that is taken illegally etc.
 - Council is working towards addressing the unaccounted water consumption issues and determining a way of getting more accurate residential consumption figures.

Proposed Wellington Regional Policy Statement – Tami Woods

Tami Woods from Greater Wellington spoke about the Proposed Wellington Regional Policy Statement and the issues that are most likely of interest to WCC:

- Chapter 3 – Main topics of Regional Significance.
- Coastal Environment – outstanding landscapes/natural character. The policies provide the guidance. Councils declare the areas that meet the criteria.
- Energy Transport – urban development within urban zones and new rural policy regarding efficiency policies 54 and 55.
- Stormwater – policy framework – Regional Council more involved in discharge to pipes.
- Natural hazards – avoiding development in high risk areas.

LTCCP – Councillor Wade-Brown

Councillor Wade-Brown did a presentation on WCC's draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 and encouraged ERG members to make a submission. Consultation closes on Monday 18 May 2009.

- The Environment operational expenditure is 124.8 m due to the following activities being included: wastewater and storm water, waste reduction and energy conservation, environmental conservation attractions, gardens and beaches, green open spaces and water.

Carbon Neutrality – Chris Cameron

Chris Cameron presented on the proposal for Council to re-focus its approach to corporate carbon neutrality by 2012 to line up with the city goal of aspiring to targets.

- The approach for carbon emissions is to reduce and off set carbon footprints.
- Members raised the issue of public perception of this change and whether it may be seen by the public as a decline in commitment.

- Members also discussed the value of investing in emission reductions rather than paying for carbon credits.

GROUP GOALS AND OTHER BUISNESS

The group discussed the value in working in detail on important issues prior to attending meetings and agreed that at times there would be significant preparation time.

World Water Day (22 March) was discussed. Displays were set up on Taranaki St Wharf from 9.30 am to 2 pm. The groups who participated included:

- *Wellington Regional Council* – water quality and how to fix tap washers
- *Wellington Residents' Coalition* and *Right to Water* focussed on the privatisation of water
- *Wellington Planting Groups* – display on riparian planting
- *UNICEF* – ran the great water race, drawing attention to the lack of water for many people
- *Regional Public Health* – public health aspects of freshwater resources and fluoride
- *Roof and Water Research Centre* (Massey University) – roof water collection
- *Eco Heating and Plumbing* – water saving plumbing devices.

Additions to Forward Programme

- Department of Conservation – Wellington Draft Conservation Strategy
- Ngati Toa's Treaty Settlement – Graeme Hastilow

ERG Draft Forward Programme for 2009

Date	Theme / Key Items
2 February	1. Final recruitment selection
9 February	1. LTCCP - engagement 2. Sewage and storm water mixing - inflow & infiltration 3. Sludge process – how this operates 4. Waste Operator Licensing Bylaw
2 March	1. Waste Minimisation Act 2008 – implications [recycling, cradle-to-cradle, consumption, design 2 Waste] 2. Wellington Regional Strategy – genuine progress indicators 3. Water Day – discussion 4. Group Goals – discussion
6 April	1. LTCCP – formal stage – Presentation 2. Greater Wellington – Proposed Regional Policy Statement 3. Group Goals – discussion
8 June	1. Update from Climate Change team 2. Transport and joint Road Safety/ERG Reference Groups meeting (Celia and Ian) 3. DOC – Wellington Draft Conservation Strategy

	4. Ngati Toa's Treaty Settlement – Graeme Hastilow
3 August	1. ERG impacts 2009 – December SPC report planning
5 October	1.
7 December	1.

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm

DRAFT