

# Environmental Reference Group

## Minutes

**Date:** Monday, 11 October 2021  
**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Zoom

### Purpose

- 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, climate change, heritage, and transport management, in the context of Council’s roles and priorities.

### Membership

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Isla Day
<b>Members:</b>	Lynn Cadenhead, Arran Whiteford, Michelle Rush, Steven Almond, David Batchelor, George Hobson, Sally Faisandier, Clare Stringer, Mike Britton
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Cr Laurie Foon
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Siobhan Procter (Chief Infrastructure Officer), Mike Mendonca (Head of Resilience), Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CIO and CPO), Tim Johnstone (Principal Advisor Planning), Claire Barlow (Democracy Advisor), Alisi Puloka (Democracy Advisor)

## Meeting Procedures

**The meeting opened at 5:05pm**

No apologies received.

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Items

**Councillor update, Cr Laurie Foon**

Cr Foon updated members on several papers and discussions that went to the Planning and Environment Committee recently:

- Cycleway Network Plan
- Spatial Plan
- 57% goal – Zero-low carbon future
- Strategic Waste Review and options for the landfill

Members asked Councillor Foon for her opinion on the Te Kopahou Draft Network Plan. There was some discussion around the benefits of opening this new track and the importance of biodiversity. Cr. Foon recommended that the Chair ensures there is ERG input when this goes before the committee.

There was some discussion about members having the opportunity to workshop upcoming papers with officers, as a good litmus test for interest from the community.

Members also raised concern around the timeframes for consultation on some of the substantial pieces of work, in particular the Draft District Plan. Officers reassured the group that the Draft District Plan is a long-term engagement so the draft ahead of Christmas will not be the only opportunity to have input into the Plan.

Cr. Foon gave a summary of the Council meeting where they discussed the Three Waters Reform. She hoped that Council will move ahead with it, as it is something Wellington needs and the sooner there is a plan for how it will work, the better. The recommendation was solely to receive the information. Council has not been asked to approve or agree on any finer details yet.

Members asked about proposed changes to landfill options, curb-side compost collection and the Sludge Project timeline.

Councillor Foon shared the following interesting information links:

- Facebook public talk: [Old or Green? Is the Greenest Building an Old Building?](#)
- A good article on the landfill options: [Wellington Landfill Options](#)
- Newsroom article on Three Waters Reform: <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/three-waters-mayors-pushing-back-a-tide-of-effluent>

### **Significant Natural Areas, Presented by Tim Johnstone**

Tim spoke to his presentation on SNAs and ERG members provided some feedback.

There were mixed views among the group and some discussion on the following issues:

- [Draft Wellington City District Plan](#) – now available online.
- Balance between safety of people on their private property and protecting conservation values.
- Monitoring for compliance in the community.
- Classifications for vegetation.

Members thanked Tim for the presentation and requested a copy of the slides.

### **Three Waters Reform, Presented by Mike Mendonca**

Mike gave an update to the group on the government's proposed Three Waters reforms and the potential impacts for Wellington City Council.

He talked about the Mayoral Taskforce Report and the recommendation to Council that transformational change was required, as well as the establishment of the new water regulator, Taumata Arowai.

ERG members then discussed Council's views on the Three Waters Proposal as well as issues of equality and access to water in Wellington and whether Council had considered adding to the conversation about changing behaviours around water use.

Mike introduced the new Chief Infrastructure Officer, Siobhan Proctor, who will be the group's ELT liaison.

Members thanked Mike for the presentation and welcomed Siobhan to the group.

### **Members' portfolio updates:**

#### **Transport – Michelle**

Michelle has followed up on a previous discussion to seek an opportunity to provide input into Let's Get Wellington Moving proposals. Officers confirmed that this will be one of the projects for discussion at the Joint Advisory Groups meeting in November.

#### **Waste – Steven**

Steven has done some work on the proposed six options for landfill solutions. He will forward his initial thoughts to members (for input) in an email.

#### **Water – Lynn**

Lynn has been doing some reading into the Three Waters Reform and notes that Greater Regional Wellington Council, Wellington Water and Wellington City Council have differing views.

#### **Heritage – David**

Everyone is preparing for the Draft District Plan consultation. Wellington Heritage Week begins on 25 October.

### **Resilience – Sally**

There was a response from Canterbury regarding the Canterbury earthquakes. Sally will discuss this further with Mike, to gain some understanding of WCC's position.

### **Biodiversity – George**

There needs to be an ERG meeting for discussion on the draft submission for the District Plan. Lynn will find out when this can be done, within the consultation timeframe.

### **Transport - Arran**

Arran gave a brief update on the Greta Point Connection draft submission.

- Acknowledging the need to go on the road safely
- Heavy route which may require sacrifice to street parking
- Asking for more cycleways – or enough width for speedy cyclists.

The meeting ended at 7.01pm.

## **Information**

**Joint Advisory Groups meeting:** Tuesday 4 November at 5:30pm via Zoom

**Next ERG meeting date:** 8/11/2021

### **Actions from this meeting:**

1. Claire B to confirm the rules and the date for the joint session.
2. Steven to send email to members regarding options for the landfill, for input.
3. Claire B to ensure there is an ERG meeting scheduled for December.
4. Lynn to confirm agenda space for discussion on the Draft District Plan.