

# Environmental Reference Group

## Minutes

**Date:** Monday, 11 July 2022

**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Venue:** Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

### 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.

### Attendance

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Steven Almond
<b>Members:</b>	Michelle Rush, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Clare Stringer, Mike Britton, Sally Faisandier
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Cr Tamatha Paul, Cr Laurie Foon (Alternate)
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Siobhan Procter (Chief Infrastructure Officer), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor), Stephanie Steadman (Senior Waste Planner)

## Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
  - Moana Mackey, Spencer Clubb, Michelle Rush, Arran Whiteford, George Hobson – for absence.

**SA/MR – apologies carried.**

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Items

3. Councillor Paul shared the following updates with the group:
  - Council is trying to make significant decisions before the election period so has been busy in recent weeks. Recent decisions include:
    - Approval of the Proposed District Plan for Public Notification
    - Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) – approval of option one as the preferred programme option.
  - Approval of the District Plan included rolling back of some provisions, including SNAs.
  - Work on transitional cycleways is continuing.
  - Consultation is open on the Botanic Garden ki Paekākā to city route.
  - Council has had workshops in the last few months on climate adaptation and are waiting on regional and national guidance. There is an upcoming Council workshop on engaging with communities on adapting to climate change (9 August).
  - Cr Pannet and Cr Paul are to sign off the final changes to the District Plan as chair and deputy chair of Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee. Cr Paul will report back to ERG on this.

Cr Foon shared the following updates with the group:

- Thanked the ERG for their help in making decisions and providing advice.
- The Annual Plan was adopted.
- The Sludge Minimisation Facility Business Case has been signed off.

Members discussed the judicial review of the Newtown cycleway in September.

Members supported option one over option four as the preferred programme option for LGWM, given the differences in cost and emissions between the options.

Regarding the District Plan decision on the Johnsonville Railway Line, members were concerned this was in contravention of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development.

4. Welcome to new members.

Members introduced themselves and shared a fun fact about themselves.

5. Introduction to WCC, *Presented by Leteicha Lowry.*

Leteicha gave an overview presentation of Wellington City Council, explaining the role and functions of Council, and advisory groups.

6. Para Kai update, *Presented by Stephanie Steadman.*

Stephanie presented to the group the [findings of the Para Kai trial on Miramar Peninsula](#), in which residents trialled kerbside food waste collections and composting methods. From the trial, it was found that kerbside collection was most effective of the two methods in diverting food scraps from landfill.

Members asked about resources given to trial participants, and commented that participants may have already been composting before the trial, leading to composting not having as much of a measurable impact in the trial.

Members asked whether compliance rates were high. Officers responded that compliance rates had been relatively high. There was initial confusion about what could go into the compost, and people did not understand how to look after the systems. Instructions on the underside of bin lids were useful, until these got mouldy. An email inbox offered support to participants, but was reliant on people reaching out.

Members were interested in the connections to the District Plan and Multi-Unit Developments.

7. Group discussion - resolution of Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee, 23 June 2022 - Approval of Proposed District Plan for Public Notification

Members discussed their thoughts on the resolution to approve the Proposed District Plan for public notification. Members were concerned with the legality of the decision regarding SNAs and requested an update from officers on this.

Members remained keen on cross-advisory group discussions on the District Plan and suggested, if provided case studies by the District Plan team, they could organise sessions with other advisory groups to collaborate. Liaison officers can assist with administration for these sessions eg. setting up Zoom meetings, but informed the group that a workshop run by the ERG on this topic would be outside of official ERG meetings, and would therefore be on a voluntary basis.

The group discussed the possibility of commissioner training for ERG members. This will be investigated further by WCC officers.

8. Updates

Leteicha shared the following updates with the group:

- Due to the workload of the District Plan team, WCC will be unable to host a joint advisory group meeting regarding the District Plan at this time.

- A joint advisory group meeting on Let's Get Wellington Moving is instead being investigated as a possibility.

Members shared the following updates with the group:

- Steven on waste: WCC Zero Waste Programme briefing will be in mid-August (will be viewable by the public on WCC's YouTube).
- Michelle on transport: The Golden Mile is currently out for consultation. A proposal to lower speed limits beyond the central city has been slow tracked until after the election.
- Sally on urban design: There has been media attention around Tākina, the convention centre, regarding the number of people it will bring to the city, where they will be accommodated whilst in the city, and the climate change impacts.
- Michelle on water: Some of the ERG's suggestions were included in revisions to the District Plan.

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

**SS/SA – minutes carried.**

The meeting concluded at 7:06pm.

## **Information**

**Next meeting date:** 8/08/2022

### **Actions from previous meetings:**

- Michelle to write submission on Three Waters prior to 20th July, based around ERG principals.
- Leteicha to reschedule Economic Wellbeing Strategy update presentation.

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

- Leteicha to follow up with District Plan team to request case studies on applications of the plan.
- Leteicha to follow up re: commissioner training for ERG members.
- Leteicha to schedule leadership election and review of portfolios/workgroups in next meeting.
- WCC officers to confirm resilience Council officer for portfolios/workgroups.

**Portfolio / Working Groups:**

To be reworked at future meeting.

<b>Portfolio Groups</b>	<b>ERG lead</b>	<b>ERG Support</b>	<b>Council Officer</b>
Transport	Arran Whiteford		Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy
Climate Change		Steven Almond	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Michelle Rush		Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier		
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Sally Faisandier		Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua and treaty relations			
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager