

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 12 December 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

Chairperson:	Michelle Rush (Co-chair), Shannon Wallace (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Spencer Clubb
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Nīkau Wi Neera, Cr John Apanowicz (alternate)
WCC Staff:	Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CPO), Emily Deans (Democracy Advisor), Silas Manuera (Advisor, Mataaho Aronui)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5.03pm.

Members introduced themselves.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Moana Mackey – for lateness;
- Arran Whiteford, Leteicha Lowry, Kym Fell – for absence.

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

MB/SC – apologies carried.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Councillor Wi Neera shared the following updates with the group:

- The first Kōtau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee was last week. The zero waste strategy paper and the e-bike trial were both approved.

4. Councillor Apanowicz shared the following updates with the group:

- The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was also approved to be developed in 2023.
- Councillors have been briefed on sludge minimisation and the plan for redevelopment at Moa Point around reducing the waste that goes to the Southern Landfill.
- Membered questioned Councillor on why the move to green waste collection is so slow and how ERG can support this work by Council.
 - Cr Wi Neera is interested to hear from ERG about any advice they have and please do send through submissions.
- The Democracy Advisor will find the timeframe for Zero Waste consultation.
 - Chris Mathews has advised that the Zero Waste strategy will go out for consultation in February 2023.
- Members noted for the Zero Waste submission, that Council should make things easy for people to participate in the circular economy and green waste collection.
- Spencer will coordinate the ERG submission on the Zero Waste Strategy.

5. Tūpiki Ora and Tākai Here, *Presented by Silas Manuera.*

- Silas presented slides and spoke to the mahi the Mataaho Aronui team has done over the past year.
- The Mataaho Aronui team gives strategic advice to all Council, manages partnerships with Mana Whenua, and supports Business Units.

- Tākai Here was signed 29th April 2022 at Pipitea marae on the anniversary of Te Tiriti being signed in Wellington.
- Tūpiki Ora was adopted on the 5th of May unanimously by Council.
- Tūpiki Ora Action Plan was adopted on the 1st of September but the design is still being finalised. This is Council's contribution to Māori wellbeing for the next year. What are different business units doing to achieve hauora for Māori? This is a strategy for all communities to use.
- There are key actions in the Tūpiki Ora Action Plan around Te Reo capacity, including an amendment made by the previous Council under action 3.4 to build Te Reo Capacity to include Advisory Groups, Community Board members and Elected Members. What is our contribution to the vision of a bilingual Wellington for 2040? Tūpiki Ora is around setting up conditions for groups to participate in a way that works for them.
- Tūpiki Ora Action Plan is for the next 3-5 years.
- What is your role as ERG? Initial suggestion are:
 - i. Align activities to Tūpiki Ora.
 - ii. Thinking and oriented to understanding mana whenua ways of thinking.
 - iii. Work towards doing good rather than being busy.
- ERG members asked clarifying Questions
 - Silas clarified that the Tūpiki Ora Action Plan was signed and approved on 1 September 2022.
 - Silas clarified that Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed here in Wellington harbour on a ship.
 - Silas gave the following initial ideas on how do we get from busy to achieving something?
 - Planning and thinking are important but within a realistic scope with tangible outcomes.
 - Having a safe space for Māori to land and to be themselves is a good way to attract and maintain talent.
 - Relationship building rather than engagement.
 - Lack of understanding of Māori as having different values and ways of working.
- Members spoke in pairs about how ERG will respond to Tūpiki Ora and Tākai Here, then members shared the following thoughts with the wider group:

- Discussed the challenges of representation, Cr Wi Neera talked about how Wellington has many Urban Māori and are disconnected to their whānau. How do we go beyond ticking boxes?
- Members gave feedback that Mataaho Aronui is doing a really great job!
- Representation on ERG is a big issue, we are lacking mana whenua voices around the table. Are there more meaningful ways we can engage with Mana Whenua – could we pay them more?
- We have our portfolio update to be done by February, this is a good opportunity for us to stand up and do our own mahi to ensure Māori perspectives, especially of mana whenua, are in there.
- How do we get Māori input from the bottom up? If local hapū define what is important to them then we can support that mahi. Trust is essential, we need to trust mana whenua and they need to trust us. Allow mana whenua to tell us what they think is important and build on that.
- One thing to keep in mind when asking iwi for things is that there is a capacity bottle neck. The demands of iwi have accelerated incredibly, they may not have people within the hapū who have that skillset.
- Silas added that Tūpiki Ora and Tākai Here were written with mana whenua voices, look at the detail there as this is what mana whenua want.
- ERG asked Councillors if Council is supporting the capacity building of mana whenua?
 - The respect and influence of mana whenua is coming through within Council.
 - Councillors want to understand more of the environment.
- There are difficulties of trying to share the load in terms of Māori participation. If there are Māori members, they are often expected to lead a lot of the work in that space. It is important to find a way for all of us to gain a Māori skillset to help share that load. We also talked about how for us to understand the Māori relationship with the environment to start our work from a more informed place.
- The processes we do things are very westernised, would be beneficial if we can incorporate Te Ao Māori into our actions such as submissions.
- Our systems and processes are not designed for proper partnership.
- The Mana Whenua and Treaty relations line-item in the portfolio is not helpful as this is something everyone has responsibility for.
- Fresh water health document, Whaitua report developed by mana whenua is another important document to read and understand.

- Members expressed how they are looking forward to having Councillor Wi Neera on ERG as a mana whenua perspective.
- Beneficial to do the research within the portfolios we have, what are the values within our portfolios – maybe there are existing iwi management plans?
- Look at big list of indicators in Tūpiki Ora Action Plan to hold Council to account on these strategies.
- As a group we could take time each meeting, to share research and readings on matauranga Māori. Get our baseline up to understand place-based stories.
- Members discussed in different pairs, what is one thing we can do on ERG that's a good place to start?
 - More representation (long term) through recruitment.
 - Start and end with a waiata with our meetings.
 - Ensure our portfolio statements are up to date and include Te Ao Māori lens and perspective.
 - Ensure everyone is familiar with the key points of Tūpiki Ora Strategy and Action Plan, Tākai Here.
 - Each take one of those portfolios for each meeting and set aside small amount of time to consider matauranga Māori in that subject area.
 - Take 5 before we start writing a submission to think about how your worldview is impacting the submission.
 - Taking on a personal responsibility that between hui we read and think about Te Reo, Māori matauranga and biodiversity and Wellington History and do before the portfolio review.
 - [Rauora framework](#) would be a good piece of reading to do – an excellent report for MoE on climate change from a Māori perspective.
 - Opening karakia or whakatōki or piece of reading or reflection for our meetings along the work we do as ERG.
 - Learning Te Reo Māori.
 - Councillor Wi Neera challenged members to be material in your thinking rather than symbolic – will you be materially helping or will you just be making yourself feel good?
 - Developing a guide or checklist to inform our submission writing.
 - Members agreed to come back to all of these points but start with the following actions:

1. Open and close meetings with a karakia.
 2. Everyone to read and reflect on the [Tūpiki Ora Strategy, Action Plan, and Tākai Here](#) and make sure that we build those into our portfolio review in February.
 3. Create a checklist/guide for submissions.
 4. As we are doing our work thinking about how we can make a material difference.
6. District Plan group discussion, *Led by Shannon Wallace*
- ERG has made further District Plan submissions supporting and opposing other submissions and has been served submissions who made comments on ERGs submission. Shannon will put all the submissions on the shared drive, half are in support and half are opposed. We need to be better at being earlier to give us time to enable us to get to agreement.
 - Sally apologised for being very late on responding.
 - Next steps are that the process will start hearings in February and ERG will do an oral submission. Shannon will send the timetable through when it comes.
 - Members thanked Shannon for coordinating it.
7. Moana shared the following updates with the group:
- District plan hearings will start in February and will take up all of next year.
 - Traffic Resolutions for Golden Mile will be consulted on in the new year.
 - Transitional Cycleway will be consulted on in the new year.
 - The development response plan is assistance for businesses while we move through construction. We have a new approach, to use social media and incentives to promote businesses where construction is taking place. We are talking to central government about what we can do if this doesn't work. Wellington is moving into a decade of disruption.
 - Members raised the leaks in Wellington, 40% of Wellingtons Water leaking – is this being addressed?
 - Moana responded that we continue to work with Wellington Water, they are balancing how they prioritise different areas. Wellington Water are aware that we can't have a water conservation agenda with this level of leaks. It is a balancing act, they can't be everywhere all the time. This work is prioritised in our LTP with dollars.
 - Members suggested having more signs saying when construction is around supporting pipes and fixing pipes.
 - Is there anything ERG can do to support? No, you are already supporting well across key areas.

- The engagement team is looking at everything we are planning on engaging on to make it as coordinated as possible – we are aware of engagement fatigue. We are looking to package things up together across WCC and LGWM.
- Members thanked Moana for coming to our meetings and listening to all our questions.

8. Members shared the following updates with the group:

- Transport:
 - We have made a submission on LGWM consultation on Thorndon Quay.
 - Michelle gave an oral submission on Ngaio and Aro Valley cycleways as well.
 - The next consultation LGWM thoughts on the Golden Mile traffic resolutions which opens in May. There will be substantive engagement in July/August. Traffic resolutions are about anything that we need to enforce, eg removing carparks, removing cars, mobility parks, bus stops – therefore it will be useful to produce a submission.
- Waste & Circular Economy:
 - Spencer spoke to Chris and they were pleased to get the Zero Waste Strategy to Council. They will come back in the new year during the consultation period. There was a request to have Chris come back to ERG during the consultation period.
 - Jenny Elliott's contact details were shared with Spencer.
 - Democracy Advisor to ask Councillor Pannett if she wants any support from ERG with the development of the new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

9. General Business

Mike raised the increase of dog attacks on penguins around Evans Bay Parade.

- Local Forest and Bird seeing dog attacks around Evans Bay and the marina. What is the Council doing about this issue?
- Democracy Advisor to reach out to the protected animal team to find out what WCC is doing to prevent dog attacks on penguins.

The meeting concluded at 6.57pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 13/02/2023

Actions from previous meetings:

- ERG members to review and update portfolio statements (ahead of planning meeting in February 2023).
- Democracy advisor to organise presentation to ERG on Wellington Water and the reform process.

Actions from this meeting:

- ERG members to read and reflect on Tūpiki Ora Strategy and Action Plan and Tākai Here.
- ERG members to consider relevant parts of Tūpiki Ora and other relevant research and reflections to bring into the portfolio review.
- ERG members to open and close meetings with a karakia.
- ERG members to develop a checklist for submissions to ensure Tūpiki ora and mana whenua perspectives are front of mind.
- Democracy Advisor to check consultation timeframe for the Zero Waste Strategy (February 2022).
- Democracy Advisor to reach out to the protected animal team to find out what WCC is doing to prevent dog attacks on penguins.
- Democracy Advisor to ask Councillor Pannett if she wants any support from ERG with the development of the new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Arran Whiteford	Shannon Wallace	Joe Hewitt, City Insights Manager
Climate Change	Sally Faisandier, Arran Whiteford	Steven Almond, Sam Satterthwaite	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste & Circular Economy	Spencer Clubb	Clare Stringer, Steven Almond	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Water	Michelle Rush	Shannon Wallace	Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier	Spencer Clubb	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Ben Zwartz	Sam Satterthwaite	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design; Phil Becker, Manager City Development
Mana whenua and treaty relations		Spencer Clubb	
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Cultural Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Cultural Heritage Manager Pouarahi Tu Taonga