

# Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes

22 September 2009, Korimako - Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council

## **Present:**

Sea Rotmann (Co-chair)  
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer  
Councillor Wade-Brown  
Councillor Pannett  
Peter Gilbert  
Bev Abbott  
Ian Shearer  
Tushara Kodikara  
Philip Mladenov  
Mel Cutler  
Ralph Chapman

## **WCC Officers:**

Chris Cameron (Climate Change)  
Zach Rissel (Climate Change)  
Teena Pennington (Strategy, Planning & Urban Design)

**Guests/Speakers:** Simon Bannock (Beca)

## **Apologies**

### ***Members***

Hamish Allardice (Co-chair)  
Kathryn Maxwell  
Mike Ennis  
Nick Potter  
Nigel Smith (Youth Council)

## **GWRC Officers:**

Tami Woods

## **Mana Whenua**

### **Representatives:**

Graeme Hastilow

## **Welcome**

Attendees were welcomed and apologies recorded.

- The Group noted with regret the resignation of Ian Shearer, wished him all the best for his next role and thanked him for his valuable efforts and contributions.

## **Climate Change Workshop**

Cr Ahipene-Mercer introduced the workshop session, noting the important role of the ERG in assisting Council in the process of developing our climate change response.

Chris Cameron and Zach Rissel facilitated the session, which consisted of three parts:

### **1/ Overview and update**

The group was provided with a brief outline of the purpose of the workshop and progress in reviewing Council's Climate Change Action Plan:

- covering both mitigation and adaptation needs
- developing frameworks to allow for selection and prioritisation of actions
- tying into the 2010/11 annual planning process

## 2/ Climate change priorities

The group was asked to list their top 3-5 top climate change issues or priorities. Primary issues were listed on a whiteboard, with others added if they had not been captured by the group. The following table indicates the key issues raised in approximate priority order:

<b>Adaptation</b>	Identify the vulnerable parts of the city to future climate impacts and begin developing community resilience.
<b>Transport</b>	Faster and more reliable public transport (with consideration of light rail) and ensuring walking and cycling routes are improved. Provide leadership in encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles in Wellington
<b>Airport emissions</b>	Ensure that airport plans recognise a low-carbon future.
<b>Behaviour Change</b>	Raise awareness with the public and private sector and undertake more direct engagement. Focus on providing education and options for reducing resource consumption (energy, waste and water). Provide value drivers relating to demand side interventions and link to Government research. Ensure that key stakeholders are working together: Government, Regional Council, Local Authorities, businesses and NGO's.
<b>Buildings and energy</b>	Improved quality of the built environment to reduce energy consumption and. Reduce embodied emissions, refrigerant gases and provide incentives for commercial building retrofits.
<b>Renewable energy supply</b>	Maintain the goal of having 90-95% of New Zealand's electricity supply from renewable sources, which includes developing Wellington's strengths of wind and marine energy.
<b>Forestry</b>	Engage in a more active afforestation programme.
<b>Big polluters</b>	Develop policies and programmes that target big polluters through the "polluter pays" principle.
<b>Emissions Trading Scheme liability and opportunities</b>	Ensure the Council understands the implications and opportunities from the ETS
<b>Compact growth</b>	Continue a strong focus on compact urban growth

### 3/ Seven action areas

The following seven action areas were presented and discussed in turn by the group:

Buildings and energy, Land Transport, Aviation, Waste, Forestry, Council emissions, Adaptation

Discussion covered the key focus of each area, progress to-date and potential opportunities. Additional ideas for action were suggested by the group for many of the action areas. Particularly in-depth discussion was held around renewable energy and land transport and aviation emissions (including the impact of “peak oil”).

The workshop ended by rounding back to the top priorities identified in the earlier whiteboard session – finding that these had all been considered across the plan review.

The ERG was reminded of the current engagement on long term planning for central Wellington (**Wellington 2040**) and was encouraged to consider climate change implications for the central city. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/wellington2040.html>

## Next Meeting

Date to be advised

## ERG Draft Forward Programme for 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme / Key Items</b>
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 2. Climate Change
17 September	Climate Change: Workshop on the Councils action frameworks for mitigation and adaptation and Draft Action Plan
5 October	1. Update on the GPI from GW (Tami) 2. Scoping of the Committee report on ERG impact
7 December	1.

**The meeting closed at 7:35 pm**