

Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes 13 June 2011 Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council

Present:

Hamish Allardice (Co-chair)
Peter Gilbert
Phil Hancock
Sarah Free
Claire Graeme
Bev Abbott
Claire Graeme
Tushara Kodikara
Mike Ennis
Marc Slade
Councillor Ritchie

Apologies

Councillor Lester
Tushara Kodikara
Phil Hancock
Sea Rottman

WCC Officers:

Zach Rissel (Senior Policy Advisor)
Amber Bill (Manager, Engagement and Reserves)
Sherilyn Hinton (Senior Strategy Advisor)

Agenda

1. Biodiversity Action Plan and performance measurement
2. Miramar Structure Plan
3. Climate Change Action Plan update

Biodiversity Action Plan and performance measurement

Amber explained the Key Native Ecosystem network (borrowed from DOC) and how WCC has developed a strategic plan to manage these ecosystems. Council identified risks to these ecosystems, which were mainly from weeds and pests.

Some Key Native Ecosystems were added through WCC managed ecological assessments and the development of the Northern Reserves Management Plan.

Feedback from ERG:

- There has been good progress with possum control. What about rat numbers? Amber responded that there isn't very good data on rats.
- There is a goal to eradicate possums from the Miramar Peninsula and data is suggesting that this is pretty much successful.
- DOC and Council working on 3-yr project to eradicate goats from South West Wellington
- Query about whether plan change is needed to farm goats? Amber responded that farming goats can be monitored through existing bylaw.
- Very good feedback for Parks and Gardens from volunteer groups.
- Amber commented that we have made good progress against biodiversity baseline indicators from 2001.
- Query about publicizing volunteer work more. Amber trying to collect information on hours worked by volunteers.

- Comment that the best initiative we can do is to continue the allocation of plants to groups.
- WCC/GWRC – there is huge demand for support and both WCC and GWRC are working to make groups more self-sustaining and get better value from volunteers.
- Is there any possibilities to expand the programme – e.g. get another Ranger?
- There is a significant social dimension to the volunteer work in terms of engaging youth and facilitating community interaction. These projects have multiple benefits.

Miramar Peninsula Framework

Sherilyn presented the Miramar Peninsula Framework.

Query about what was the level of investment or scope of investment to achieve development objectives. Sheryilyn commented that is high level at this stage.

Cr Ritchie – what is the process for disposing of land. Serilyn explained by going through the slides.

Sherilyn discussed how Airport has forecasted that 10,000 jobs are expected to be linked to the Airport expansion and what would this look like for the Peninsula?

There is currently a lot of pressure on parking and this is one critical issue being looked at.

Query whether infill housing will be introduced in the town centre and Sherilyn responded that a range of development options are being considered with the community.

Climate Change Action Plan

Chris Cameron presented the Climate Change Action Plan update on the initiatives undertaken this year.

Query on need for focus on solar energy.

Query on need to focus on little things such as automated taps.

Query on what Govt departments were doing to respond to CC.

The new CCAP should have targets for renewable energy sources and better transport targets (e.g. km of cycleways).

The new CCAP needs to look at creating new cycle corridors.

Movement of buses through the city needs thorough examination.