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**ORDINARY MEETING**

**OF**

**GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Time: 9.15am  
Date: Thursday, 11 June 2015  
Venue: Committee Room 1  
Ground Floor, Council Offices  
101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington

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**A. General Business**

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**CHAIR'S REVIEW - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Purpose**

1. This report outlines the progress of the Environment Committee against the Council work programme approved in February 2014 by Governance Finance and Planning Committee.

**Recommendation/s**

That the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. Receive the information.

**The Purpose of the Committee**

2. The Committee has a focus on climate change initiatives, enhancing the city's open spaces, protecting biodiversity in plant, bird and animal life, and ensuring there are high quality outdoor areas for residents and visitors to enjoy. The committee is also responsible for waste minimisation, energy efficiency and the three waters (drinking water, stormwater and wastewater).

**Highlights, significant events and successes: January 2015 – June 2015**

3. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for their hard work and engagement during the year. They have all shown a high degree of commitment to this area. A particular thanks to the two portfolio leaders (Councillors Lee and Ritchie) who have successfully led on a number of issues over the last five months. Staff have also done a significant amount of work, this is much appreciated. The first half of 2015 saw a number of successes and work on a number of issues including:
  - Approval of the Draft Suburban Reserves Management Plan in April, after a full day of oral hearings in February. I'm particularly pleased with the level of public input on the Plan. Many people expressed their strong commitment to retaining local playgrounds which was listened to. The playgrounds of particular concern were retained.
  - Approval of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in June, after a round of oral hearings in March.
  - Amendments to the Freedom Camping Bylaw after a trial period, these will be out for consultation soon.
  - Approval of a formal submission on the Town Belt Bill to the Select Committee.
  - Approval of Statements of Intent for Zealandia and the Zoo. Wellington Water's will be done through the Wellington Water Committee.

- Approval of money through the Living City Grant fund for a number of restoration projects around Karori and Waipahihi streams, Epuni Street and Long Gully Reserve. Money was also given for developing a community garden in Johnsonville and a number of trees were gifted to community organisations.
- A petition from hundreds of people was received for a new inner city dog park. Whilst there is no available funding for such an initiative this year, I intend to have another look at this project for inclusion in next year's Annual Plan.
- Heavy rains in April and May put the city's stormwater network under pressure. Whilst the city generally coped quite well with these incidences, there were a number of high profile failures which need closer attention. I would like to thank officers and staff at Wellington Water for their attempts to resolve these issues. Much more work remains however to be done to respond adequately to affected persons and businesses.

### **Our Monitoring Programme**

4. We considered quarterly reports from CCOs in March and June and final statements of intent in June. We have had presentations to the committee from all three CCOs. Regular meetings were also held with senior staff and board members. Both organisations continue to track well and I am grateful to the staff and boards of both organisations for their hard work to deliver on city outcomes.
5. I continue to monitoring Wellington Water through my membership on the Wellington Water Committee. I am finding Wellington Water staff responsive to issues relating to Wellington city which is pleasing to see. Significant work has been put into establishing a common set of performance measures for the five councils. I hope that these will be approved soon.

### **Operational matters and briefings**

6. Numerous meetings have been held with stakeholders and outside committees/organisations such as the Waste Forum, Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee (Harbour Committee) and the Animal Welfare Committee at Wellington Zoo. I have particularly appreciated listening to the advice of the Council's Environmental Reference Group. Their advice on water management, climate change and biodiversity in particular has been very valuable.
7. A number of decisions were made on licences and land transfers.

### **The Committee's Portfolio work**

8. There are two portfolio leaders on the Committee: Cr Ritchie (Portfolio, Natural Environment) and Cr Lee (Climate Change). Report back from the two councillors follows. I have responsibility for water and waste:

### **Climate Change**

9. **New Zealand's climate change target** consultation document: A submission has been lodged with MfE, noting the urgency of reducing global emissions especially over the next 15 years. The feedback from consultation will help inform New Zealand's contribution to emission reduction, when countries meet in Paris in December, to establish a new international climate change agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. **Schoolgen:** A partnership programme between Genesis Energy, participating primary and intermediate schools and Council, to install photovoltaic solar panels (2-6kw arrays) in schools. There are a total of 16 schools in the programme; 14 schools have been completed, and the last two are expected to be operational in July 2015. The Council is currently in discussions with Genesis Energy with the hope of continuing the programme with the possible option of larger scale, but fewer, photovoltaic arrays in schools and/or other institutions.
11. **Smart Energy Challenge 2015:** A Wellington-wide collaboration that brings together businesses, community partners, entrepreneurs to support ideas for smarter energy in Wellington. This year five teams come through the challenge:
- YouGo (electric vehicle carshare)
  - NoCar Cargo (cargo bike delivery)
  - CoffeEco (coffee grind collection with intent of making into biogas)
  - Energy Signals (electricity pricing in home monitor)
  - Switched on Bikes (electric bike tours and hire)
- Most of the teams have launched their crowdfunding campaigns or are raising money through other means e.g. sponsorship by partners. CoffeEco have pulled out of the challenge, as technical components of their idea (bioenergy) are too complicated for a non-technical team.
12. **Climate Change Action Plan 2013 update:** work to begin on the updating of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, to align with the strategy direction of the Council and external entities. The Council has an objective of reducing the city's Greenhouse gases by 30% over the next 5 years. Whilst the city's emissions are trending downwards, we have a long way to go if we are to achieve this target. Further work needs to be done on the Climate Action Plan to give more specific guidance to Council on how this target could be achieved.
13. **Rollout of LED lighting:** This initiative is largely driven by a desire to reduce energy and maintenance costs through the superior life offered by light emitting diodes LEDs. The evolution of street lighting has reached a new level of efficiency and effectiveness with the development of technologies utilising LEDs. As this technology matures and the opportunity cost of waiting for future evolutions narrows, it is timely for Council to take steps towards adopting and transitioning to LED lighting of streets and council own facilities.

#### **Natural Environment**

14. **Protection of the natural environment:** the focus on officers in this area has been on completing the just approved Biodiversity Strategy by the Environment Committee and the Suburban Reserves Management Plan. These are very significant pieces of work and are a great credit to staff and the public who informed both pieces of work. The Biodiversity Strategy has a significant work programme attached to it which now have to be implemented. The document is a significant step in protecting the city's environment and I look forward to seeing a step change in this area.
15. **Town Belt bill:** after many years of work, the bill has now been presented to Parliament. I would like to particularly acknowledge Cr Ritchie's work in this area and

the many members of the public who have engaged in the process to get this piece of work to this point. At this point it is difficult to know when the bill will be debated but we obviously hope that it will be this year.

16. **Freedom camping:** the review promised of the Freedom camping bylaw after the last summer was duly completed. Officers recommended that restrictions are placed on the entrance to the Te Koupahou Reserve car park after residents made well considered submissions about the need for such restrictions. Consultation will begin later in the month.

### **Three waters and waste**

17. **Sewage sludge:** In the waste area, the reduction in the scope of the landfill project is to be welcomed as per our Long Term Plan but we have hit somewhat of a plateau in terms of the amount of waste that we can feasibly reduce. Finding long term solutions for treating sewage sludge is a priority as this is one of the barriers that we are facing in achieving our waste minimisation goals.

**Regional co-operation on waste:** with increasing regional co-operation in the management of water and the regional economy, it is hoped that there can be more improvements in the waste area whilst democratic control is maintained over policy and assets. Some thinking is occurring on how this might play out which will be put to Council for their consideration in due course.

18. **Water resilience:** ensuring that our water infrastructure is resilient continues to be a challenge. High profile issues relating to stormwater inundation mean that much more priority needs to be given to meeting the needs of a few residents and businesses that have been adversely affected. A significant amount of work will be put into attempting to find solutions to these issues but they are complex and some solutions will be expensive.

The issue of who will fund the Prince of Wales Reservoir has not as yet been resolved but I'm hopeful that it will be this year. Greater Wellington Regional Council's project to build a pipeline under the harbour has not made further progress but is still a live issue.

Funding approved for modelling our stormwater and wastewater systems (subject to final approval in June) will allow this project to begin. I hope that Wellington Water will be able to find some savings in this project as at \$9m it is not an inconsiderable cost. The decision (subject to a final vote in June) to reduce funding for network renewals will be closely monitored over the next six months and into the future.

Service Plans for all types of infrastructure will be approved later in the year and aim to be in line with budgets approved in June.

### **The key foci for the next six months**

19. There are a number of key challenges to meet in the next six months and for the rest of the triennium. Some of these issues have been highlighted above. The specifics of the programme include:

*Generic*

- Considering changes to the RMA and their impacts on water, waste and the natural environment.

*Three Waters*

- Working with adversely affected communities and property owners on solutions to deal with stormwater inundation
- Work to begin on modelling our stormwater and wastewater systems.
- Finalising new Service Plans for waste and water and other relevant infrastructure and ensuring that they are robust.
- Introduction of more water fountains
- Resolution on the funding for the Prince of Wales Reservoir issue
- More joint work with Porirua focused around the Harbour, especially through the Whaitua Committee
- Monitoring the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy, through a joint committee
- Further work on Water Sensitive Urban Design rules hoped to be completed by the end of the year.

*Waste*

- Looking at further opportunities to co-operate with other Councils on waste
- Establishment of the fund for waste minimisation initiatives (subject to Long Term Plan approval at the end of the month)
- Investigation into a bid to the Ministry of Environment Fund to do work on treating sewerage sludge.
- Further work to be done on an updated Regional Waste Minimisation Strategy once the current one expires in 2017

*Natural Environment*

- Further progress on the Children's Garden
- Skyline route completion
- Finalisation of Town Belt Bill in Parliament
- Development of a CBD-high density and suburban medium density open and green space plan
- Further work on the Truby King heritage park and the heritage garden at the Halfway House in Glenside
- Work towards the completion and opening of a major new recreation park- Spicer's Recreation Park
- Consideration of restrictions at Te Koupahou Reserve Entrance car park for freedom campers
- Beginning work on the Animal Control Bylaw

*Climate Change*

- A re-focused and more strategic Climate Change Action Plan is to be developed
- Working with the community on the Island Bay Seawall project
- Development of a citywide resilience strategy once the Chief Resilience Officer is appointed.

Item A.1

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**Attachments**

Nil

Author	Iona Pannett, Councillor
Authoriser	Sally Dossor, Director Governance