

# Environmental Reference Group

## Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

**Details:** Date: Monday, 9 November 2020  
Time: 5:04pm – 6:59pm  
Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī 113 The Terrace / Zoom  
Chair: Isla Day

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**Members present:** Steven Almond Sally Faisandier  
Mike Britton (via audiovisual link) George Hobson (via audiovisual link)  
Lynn Cadenhead Clare Stringer  
Arron Cox Chris Watson  
Isla Day Eleanor West

**Councillors present:** Cr Laurie Foon

**Staff:** Liam Hodgetts, Chief Planning Officer Baz Kaufman, Manager Strategy and Research  
Hedi Mueller, Democracy Advisor  
Carolyn Dick, Team Leader Strategy

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Topic	Description	Start time
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> Apologies were received for absence from Councillor Paul, and for early departure from Councillor Foon.  Moved Isla Day, seconded Arron Cox  <b>CARRIED</b>	5.04pm
2.	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b> No conflicts of interest were declared.	5.05pm
3.	<b>Update from Councillor Foon</b> Councillor Foon discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The upcoming decision on Shelly bay at the Council meeting of 11 November</li><li>A decision made on the future of the Central Library: Option C, which is the highest-level remediation.</li><li>Sewerage sludge workshop in the pipeline for December, with the preferred option for minimising sludge being thermal hydrolysis and digestion plant with thermal dryer. Cr Foon advised this won't mean that we will not need landfill extension but is a step in the right direction.</li></ul>	5:05pm

- The upcoming decision on the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw at the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of 12 November. Cr Foon does not foresee any issues with this being passed.

Members discussed:

- Contamination of water and seeing drug levels in waste run off.
- Pipe leaks in media today and the need for a conversation about water metering, ERG keen to be involved.
- Liam Hodgetts introduced himself as the new Chief Planning Officer, and discussed water meter charges, balancing charges against water sustainability, and the Central/Local Government Three Waters Reform Programme.
- Auckland's Watercare metering, which charges on amount of water you use and how people's behaviour is often clarified through needing to pay.
- Hard for Wellington Water Limited to justify charging for water when the leaks are so frequent and large.

**4. Advisory Group Model Review Discussion**

Carolyn Dick provided an overview of the advisory groups at WCC, why they were established and why the review was commissioned. She discussed the purpose of the review, what was out of scope, and outlined the review's recommendations and the responses to the recommendations.

The recommendations were grouped as follows:

- Purpose
- Processes and set up
- Work plans
- Practices

Caro discussed the recommendations and what these would mean for the Environmental Reference Group.

Members discussed:

- The differences between groups and that a uniform approach may not be desirable.
- ERG attendance as public participants at Council meetings, and that it can be a painful process with timing and only finding out the day before.
- Iwi connection – the previous chair Mark Fenwick had many iwi connections, but the group has found a lack of applicants with iwi connections in previous application rounds.
- Request for further information about Appendix 1: Further Survey Data. Scoring of advice provided by council officers was variable, request for feedback on who gave

**5:18pm**

	<p>the scoring, and whether the groups are valued if the scoring of the advice is so poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late provision of information and council staff getting out what they put in.</li> <li>• Formalising a workplan would assist council officers – that discussion is the feedback/advice provided, rather than submissions. If just writing submissions, then no different from any other organisation.</li> <li>• Councillors taking submissions from the advisory groups on board with more weight given to them compared to other groups.</li> <li>• Consider having a professional facilitator who can help target and structure discussion better. Clarification on the kind of advice Council staff seek and being more deliberate in agenda setting.</li> <li>• Pros and cons of replacing members through the year compared to one induction round.</li> <li>• Why there are apologies/no shows – potentially agenda driven or that the advice isn't being used. Motivation to participate stems from feeling that contribution is being valued.</li> <li>• Availability of prereading – having context for discussion and not having to figure it out during the presentation.</li> <li>• Feeling valued – end of year reporting perceived as a burden and not the best use of their time.</li> <li>• Council officers changing and not being available.</li> <li>• Population of Māori and the demand on their time as the need for Māori perspectives is high – possibility of paying at a different rate for it.</li> <li>• Upcoming report on Mana Whenua representation at Council and Committees on 3 December Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>ERG Chair(s) Election</b>  Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The pros and cons of the current co-chair leadership model.</li> <li>- Agenda setting ideas.</li> <li>- Expected workload for the Chairperson role.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moved Mike Britton, seconded Sally Faisandier:</b>  That the ERG appoint Lynn Cadenhead as Chair for the next six months, following discussions as part of the Advisory Group Model Review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>6:13pm</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Portfolio Updates</b>  Members discussed:</p> <p>Waste: Plenty of submissions on the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw about food waste; sewerage sludge needs to be a more prominent part of the discussion. The conversation also needs to change towards overconsumption.</p>	<p><b>6:39pm</b></p>

	<p>Water: The group is keen to have more input relating to the three waters.</p> <p>Urban Development: WCC consultation on Upper Stebbings Valley development is live now without much attention.</p> <p>Climate Change: Recent article in The Guardian about sea ice in the Arctic not forming as it usually would have by this time of year. Chris to follow up on LGOIMA request and to pass email trail onto ERG members and ELT liaison. Te Atakura Steering Group met recently and looked at range of business cases regarding resilience and mitigation.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Mike to catch up with George when he is back in Wellington.</p> <p>Resilience: Lynn, George and Martin will be making an oral submission on the Draft Spatial Plan and canvassed the group for point to specifically emphasize. Group members suggested the following were the highest priorities: Significant Natural Area overlaps, support for density in the right places, zero carbon, disaster preparedness, staging of growth, resilience, ensuring all voices are heard and not just the loudest/most powerful, biodiversity, and green spaces.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen to add overconsumption to principals of the Waste Portfolio.</li> <li>• Chris to Chris to follow up on LGOIMA request and to pass email trail onto ERG members and ELT liaison.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Previous Minutes Confirmation – 12 October 2020</b></p> <p>Subject to changing that Lynn (rather than George) joined Stephen at the Waste Bylaw hearings, the previous minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved Isla Day, seconded Arron Cox</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	6:57pm
8.	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>14 December 2020 – Agenda items due Friday 4 December 2020.</p> <p>Lynn to chair the meeting.</p>	

**Actions:** The following tables the actions, responsibilities and deadlines from previous meetings

Action Points	Responsibility	Deadline
1.		
2.		

General Business	
1.	

Portfolio Groups	ERG Lead		Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush		Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy and Siobhan Procter, Manager Transport and Infrastructure
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Isla Day, Steven Almond	Tom Pettit, Sustainability Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Arron Cox		Derek Baxter, City Engineer
Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer
Urban Development Agency/Urban Growth	Eleanor West	Sally Faisandier	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations			Nicky Karu, Manager Tira Poutama-Iwi Partnership
Biodiversity/Open Space	Mike Britton	Clare Stringer	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager