

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 9 August 2021

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 (Acting Chair)
Members:	Mike Britton, Lynn Cadenhead (Zoom), Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Chris Watson, Eleanor West (Zoom)
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Tamatha Paul
WCC Staff:	Mike Mendonça (Chief Infrastructure Officer), Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CIO and CPO), Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Claire Barlow (Democracy Advisory), Geoff Lawson (Team Leader Policy)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:06pm

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

Arron Cox, Steven Almond, Isla Day

CW/GH apologies carried

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

CS/GH minutes carried

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Member of the public attending – Ally Hassell

Items

3. Councillor Update, *presented by Cr. Tamatha Paul*

Cr. Paul updated members on her visit to Otari Bush that morning and the Te Kopahou Tracks hearings the previous week. She also gave a brief outline of the various workshops that Councillors would be involved in over the coming weeks.

There was some discussion around the location of the proposed temporary cycle network and how the group's views on indigenous biodiversity could be included as work on the transport network progresses. This is something that members can feed into when projects reach the detailed design stage.

The Climate Action Group are looking at ways that they can feed into Regional Plans and have requested that Greater Wellington Regional Council provide a presentation on public transport plans.

If ERG members want to have input into the LGWM decision about Cobham Drive it would be helpful if they spoke to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as encouraging grassroots groups to be active over the next few weeks.

4. Policy Work Programme, *presented by Geoff Lawson*

Geoff outlined the large programme of policy work that Council is undertaking over the next 12 – 18 months. There was some discussion around the scope of Build Wellington and incentives for developers and builders to build greener buildings.

Members requested that Alison Howard speak to them about how Climate Emergency and Zero Emissions targets are feeding into WCC's workstreams.

5. Members Updates

- Transport – not a great deal happening but the Cobham Drive proposal had been more controversial than expected.

- Waste – Steven was not available to speak but Mike Mendonça indicated that WCC are undertaking a strategic review of how waste is managed in Wellington.
- Water – Arron was away. There was some discussion around Three Waters Reform and the group's interest in where the Council are positioned currently.
- Resilience – Lynn gave a brief outline of the Environmental Defence Society Conference and indicated that she would email further information to members.
- Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth – District Plan is being notified later this year and the Natural and Built Environment Exposure Draft makes interesting reading.
- Mana whenua and Treaty Relations – Cr. Paul provided an update on the appointment of mana whenua representatives and group members agreed that one of them should be appointed as portfolio lead on this.
- Biodiversity/Open Space – George updated the group on the District Plan, Natural & Built Exposure Draft, and his regular meetings with Ecology manager
- Heritage – Sally, David and Lynn are meeting with Mark Lindsay later this week for an update.

Hedi asked members if there was anything on the Policy Work Programme that they wanted to include in their work programme and reminded the group of their requirements to provide an Annual Report and Proposed Work Programme to Council. Lynn has started work on the Annual Report and requested input from other members on what they want to include and any updates on their bios.

The meeting concluded at 6:46pm

Information

Next meeting date: 13/09/2021

Actions

- Request for Roger Blakely (GWRC) to talk to the group about public transport plans.
- Request for Alison Howard to provide an update on where/how the Climate Emergency and Zero Emissions targets fit into WCC's policy work.
- Request for the Ecology Manager to present to ERG on the Draft Green Network Plan
- Group members to appoint someone as the portfolio lead on mana whenua relationships.
- Include the following question in the ERG feedback form "What are the most useful points that came out of the meeting?" Hedi to send the current form to staff who attended the last two meetings.
- ERG members to book time with Cr Paul to discuss the Three Waters Reform and WCC's position on this.
- Group members to provide details for Annual Report to Lynn.