

# Environmental Reference Group

## Minutes

**Date:** Monday, 14 February 2022

**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Venue:** Online (via Zoom)

### 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

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Lynn Cadenhead (Chair)
<b>Members:</b>	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Arran Whiteford, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Michelle Rush, Clare Stringer
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Cr Laurie Foon (Alternate)
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Damian Storey (Democracy Advisor), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor)

## Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:02pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Clare Stringer – for lateness;
- Cr Tamatha Paul, Isla Day, David Batchelor, Chris Watson – for absence.

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

**MR/SA minutes carried.**

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor) was introduced and welcomed to the group.

## Items

3. Councillor Update, *Presented by Cr Laurie Foon*

Cr Foon updated members on the Annual Plan and the predicted rates rise of 9.1% this year, mostly due to the accumulation of capital projects with water being the main one. Two main areas of the Annual Plan are City Housing and Waste. There are three options for consultation on residual waste disposal options, being the preferred piggyback option, closure of the landfill and exportation of waste to another facility, and waste to energy. The consultation plan will come to the ERG for feedback. This will be deliberated in the Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 and will then go to the broader community for consultation.

The Kerbside Service Review Waste Modelling Options and Resource Recovery and Investment Planning papers will be going to the Infrastructure Committee meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 (papers will be out on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March). Information on the Miramar composting trial will come through as part of the Kerbside Service Review information.

An economic paper will be going to Council next week including discussions of low carbon and zero carbon. This will be going out for consultation.

An Organics Diversion fund, and Climate and Sustainable fund have been recently released.

Upcoming are the business case review for Resource Recovery and Investment Planning, and the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

4. District Plan, *Presented by Lynn Cadenhead.*

The Draft District Plan post-consultation forums will occur on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022. Small groups will present to 3-4 Councillors. Lynn has requested a 10-minute speaking slot to all Council. Michelle suggested ERG presents in the same session as other advisory groups, to be organised through Democracy Services, for effective discussion.

The next round of the District Plan is the proposed plan in June 2022. Chris and Lynn's terms on ERG end in July. David Batchelor has also signalled his intention to step down at that time. A session should be organised for the council officers responsible for the projects to talk the ERG

through the technology of making a submission. Democracy Services liaison officers can take questions regarding submission dates via email.

Via chat, Michelle asked whether WCC had done any analysis of the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill regarding what it means for the District Plan. Cr Foon had not heard anything from officers yet but expects this information in the first workshop.

#### 5. Leadership Election, *Presented by Damian Storey.*

Damian advised members that, in alignment with the Terms of Reference, a leadership election must be held during the second meeting of the calendar year, being the following ERG meeting. During this meeting, members will elect a chair and deputy chair, or two co-chairs by secret ballot. Damian has sent an email to group members with information on the leadership election, and anyone wishing to put their name forward can do so by email to Democracy Services liaison officers before the next ERG meeting, as well as in the meeting itself.

Lynn shared their experience and advice as a chair, as follows:

- Co-chair structure allows work to be spread and provides more flexibility.
- Criteria for role: must attend most meetings, must have available time for tasks such as interviewing, writing the annual report and annual work programme, must read and check for basic professionalism of submissions and present on various topics, must chair meetings, must determine agenda and who will be speaking to the group for each meeting.

Resolution: Members voted to intend to adopt a “co-chairs” structure for the formal election to take place during the next meeting. **Carried unanimously.**

#### 6. Members’ Updates

##### **Transport** – *Arran & Michelle*

Michelle participated in the Panke Pōneke Bike Network Plan Forum on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 as an individual. ERG was additionally meant to submit orally as a group during the forum but were missed off the submission run sheet. Arran enquired about the status of the group’s submission to Let’s Get Wellington Moving. Democracy Services liaison officers are following up on both matters.

Michelle reported to the group the Bike Network Plan will be discussed and voted on by Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.

##### **Waste** – *Steven*

Steven commented on recent action in the area of waste, as follows:

- More things are starting to happen more often, but it does still strike as grassroots.
- Don’t see big companies doing big changes, so need to keep the pressure on.

## **Water – Lynn**

Lynn discussed recent weather events in Wellington and how these have highlighted our storm system that discards water into streams. Council officer Zac Jordan has been excellent at providing good information and upskilling Lynn in the complicated aspects of Three Waters. Lynn will look at the Annual Plan and what is happening with Three Waters, and how this compares to the Long-Term Plan.

## **Biodiversity – George**

George will aim to meet with the urban ecology manager and subgroup team in March, which will provide a clearer idea of what they wish to achieve.

## **Climate Change/Resilience – Sally**

Wellington slips and flooding will need more interrogation. Lynn discussed the heritage chapters of the Draft District Plan which talks about preserving life and property and assesses land categories to determine what buildings can be built there. This raised a question regarding insurance prices and their relation to climate events.

The meeting concluded at 6:28pm.

## **Information**

**Next meeting date:** 14/03/2022

### **Actions from this meeting:**

#### **Democracy Services liaison officers to:**

1. Distribute information on 10 Year Māori Strategy before next meeting.
2. Investigate and report back key submission dates relevant to ERG (waste consultations, economic wellbeing, open spaces etc.).
3. Follow up on missed submissions for forums and the submission process.
4. Investigate a presentation to ERG on the use of technology for submissions.

**Portfolio / Working Groups:**

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush	Arran Whiteford	Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Isla Day, Steven Almond	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Lynn Cadenhead		Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Sally Faisandier		Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua and treaty relations			Renaee Clarke, Senior Advisor Iwi Partnerships
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manage