

# Environmental Reference Group

## Minutes

**Date:** Monday, 14 March 2022  
**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

### 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
<b>Members:</b>	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Isla Day, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Michelle Rush, Clare Stringer, Arran Whiteford
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Cr Laurie Foon
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CPO), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor), Damian Storey (Democracy Advisor), Anna Nicholls (Senior Advisor Māori Strategy), Johnnie Freeland (Manager Māori Strategy), Paratene WiRepa-Kingi (Senior Advisor Māori Partnerships), Kerryn Merriman (Strategy Team Leader), Silas Phillips (Advisor Māori Strategy)

## Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- David Batchelor, Siobhan Procter, Cr Tamatha Paul – for absence.

The minutes of the previous Environmental Reference Group were approved with correction, as marked in red.

Climate Change/Resilience – Sally

Wellington slips and flooding will need more interrogation. Lynn discussed the **heritage hazard** 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.

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 **the technology for the Proposed District Plan submissions in June/July. (Note we don't need it for any other submissions.)**

**LC/MR minutes carried**

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Items

3. Councillor Foon shared the following updates with the group:

- Last week the Bike Network Plan was passed at the Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee meeting.
- Councillor Foon commended George on their submission on behalf of Forest and Bird Youth to the Pūroro Maherehere | Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan Committee.

This led to a discussion on public participation at meetings. George advised the group during this meeting of the Pūroro Maherehere | Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan Committee, the Committee agreed to additional funding of \$445,000 opex per year over 10 years to be included in the draft annual plan for an expanded operational team to support Council's current restorative planting programme.

Lynn raised the question whether the Environmental Reference Group should participate more in public participation, noting it is useful to push things over the line but is time consuming and requires preparation.

Councillor Foon said an email from the Environmental Reference Group on relevant topics would be well received.

4. Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy, *Presented by Kerry Merriman.*

Kerry presented to the group on the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy, which opened for consultation on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The strategy is broken into two parts: a (strategic context) and b (draft strategy) and has six key strategic outcomes: sustainable business and career pathways, transitions to a circular economy, a business-friendly city, centre of creativity and digital innovation, celebrate our capital city status, a dynamic city heart, and thriving suburban centres.

Group members asked questions on the inclusion of the environment within policy. Members felt the strategy did not address a state of climate emergency. Members noted Wellington is placed to be a leader in innovation and asked whether such policies could be more future-generation-focused.

Members felt the presentation had a fantastic focus on a low-carbon circular economy. Members commended the use of language of economic wellbeing, rather than economic success, noting we can't expect to keep making more and more money.

5. Draft Māori 10 Year Strategy, *Presented by Johnnie Freeland and Ana Nicholls.*

Johnnie Freeland and Ana Nicholls presented on the Draft Māori 10 Year Strategy to the group, sharing information on Mataaho Aronui (Strategic Māori Outcomes Unit), and Tūpiki Ora (Māori Wellbeing Strategy). Key points from the presentation are as follows:

- Tūpiki Ora has four key priorities: Tiakina te taiao | caring for our environment, he whānau toiora | thriving and vibrant communities, te whakapakari pūmanawa | building capability, and te whakatairanga i te ao Māori | enhancing and promoting te ao Māori.
- A draft of Tūpiki Ora will go to Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.
- In the next election, a Māori ward councillor will be elected for the first time for Wellington City.

Key questions/discussions regarding the presentation were:

- How can the Environmental Reference Group support Mataaho Aronui, and how can Mataaho Aronui support the Environmental Reference Group?
- Can collaboration occur on Environmental Reference Group recruitment to create more bicultural interest, and diversification of the Environmental Reference Group?
- Can we establish a contact within Mataaho Aronui to liaise with the Environmental Reference Group?
- Members suggested to relate the Mataaho Aronui work programme to District Plan, as this is the overarching document.
- Members expressed interest in Mataaho Aronui reporting back to the group on a regular basis to remain updated on their work programme.

6. Environmental Reference Group Leadership Election, *Presented by Leteicha and Damian.*

Leteicha explained the leadership election process.

Damian was selected to assist in counting and verifying the votes.

**Determination of leadership model**

- By leave of meeting, a co-chair leadership model was adopted by the group.
- Leteicha announced the new leadership model is co-chairs.

**Election of co-chairs**

- Michelle and Lynn nominated themselves as co-chairs. Lynn declared her third and final term on Environmental Reference Group will end in June of 2022, leaving the second co-chair position vacant.
- No other Environmental Reference Group members nominated themselves. Therefore, Michelle and Lynn were declared the uncontested winners of the election.
- Leteicha announced Michelle and Lynn as the new co-chairs of Environmental Reference Group.

7. Member updates.

Lynn shared the following updates with the group:

- Lynn attended the hearing on the Draft District Plan as an individual.

Leteicha shared the following updates with the group:

Upcoming consultation dates are as follows:

- Economic Wellbeing Strategy – closes 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Open Spaces and Recreation engagement survey – closes 8<sup>th</sup> April

The group determined that the Sally would investigate a submission on the Economic Wellbeing Strategy, and George would investigate a submission on the Open Spaces and Recreation engagement survey.

Members shared the following updates with the group:

- Stephen – a government-proposed beverage return scheme is out for consultation with intentions to be rolled out in 2025.

Moana shared the following updates with the group:

- Suggested to invite LGWM to the next Environmental Reference Group meeting to provide an update.

The meeting concluded at 7pm.

## Information

**Next meeting date:** 11/04/2022

### **Actions:**

Democracy Services liaison officers to:

- Investigate a presentation to ERG on the use of the technology for the Proposed District Plan submissions in June/July.
- Provide update on upcoming Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan consultation dates, and any other relevant consultation dates.
- Follow up re: LGWM update at future meeting.

### **Portfolio / Working Groups:**

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG support	Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush	Arran Whiteford	Joe Hewitt, Team Leader 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		
Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth	Sally Faisandier		Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua and treaty relations			
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager