

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 14 November 2022

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 (Co-chair), Shannon Wallace (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Spencer Clubb
Liaison Councillors:	N/A
WCC Staff:	Kym Fell (Tātai Heke Hapori Chief Customer & Community Officer), Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CPO), Leteicha Lowry (Kaitohutohu Manapori Democracy Advisor), Melissa Davey (Manager Economic Strategy & Commercial), Kerry Merriman (Team Leader Strategy), Chris Matthews (Manager Waste, Water, & Resilience)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Clare Stringer – for lateness;
- Arran Whiteford – for absence.

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

SS/MR – Minutes carried

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. ELT Update

Kym Fell introduced himself to the group as the newly assigned ELT liaison for the ERG.

4. Zero Waste Strategy, *Presented by Chris Matthews.*

Chris provided an update on the Zero Waste Strategy, having presented to the group on the strategy in September 2022.

ERG members' feedback included:

- Had concerns regarding the lack of awareness of where waste goes for small businesses, and issues in collection causing improper disposal of waste.
- Thought current design of landfill was impractical and likely led to improper waste disposal. Suggested people assisting in waste disposal and/or redesign, incentivizing proper disposal, and consideration of transferring waste to other locations if unable to be processed in Te Whanganui-ā-Tara.
- Were unhappy with commercial composting.

5. Economic Wellbeing Strategy, *presented by Melissa Davey and Kerry Merriman.*

Melissa and Kerry provided an update on the Economic Wellbeing Strategy. This was last presented to the group prior to adoption by the Council, and is now in implementation.

ERG members' feedback included:

- Supported the focus on economic wellbeing and donut economics, and the alignment of this between the vision and strategy.
- Were concerned by tensions between a climate focus and tourism eg. impacts of cruise ships.
- Discussed what we want tourists to take away from their experience. Asked whether there is an opportunity to showcase Wellington and teach people through providing a sustainable experience.

6. Member/Liaison Updates

Leteicha shared the following updates:

- Councillors appointed to the ERG will be determined through a resolution of Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council on 16 November 2022. The proposed delegations are currently available in the agenda for that meeting.
- LGWM join advisory group hui has been rescheduled for 1 December 2022. An updated calendar invitation has been sent to members.
- The Councillor Orientation session on advisory groups is now scheduled for 22 November 2022. Members are invited to attend to introduce their advisory group to Councillors.
- The Ngaio and Aro Valley consultation closes at 5pm on 21 November 2022, with hearings taking place on the 1 December 2022.

Members shared the following portfolio updates with the group:

- Transport:
 - Portfolio holders will share draft submission on Ngaio and Aro Valley Connection with the group.
 - Johnsonville consultation is also open.
- Climate Change:
 - Portfolio holders yet to meet with Council officer – Democracy Advisor to connect.
- Waste & Circular Economy
 - Have met with Council officer regarding resilience. Council officer has wanted to delay one-on-one conversations about waste until after today's presentation.
 - Portfolio holders will consider where the group can best engage in the work programme.
- Biodiversity:
 - Portfolio holders have met with Daniela re: Our Natural Capital.
- Cultural Heritage:
 - Officers will be presenting to ERG at the meeting on 12 December 2022.
- Resilience:
 - Members felt discussions were a lot about water and waste, and there was maybe a gap in community resilience.
- Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth:
 - Portfolio holders have met with officers to get an understanding of the projects and team.

- Water:
 - The Select Committee on Three Waters reported back this week with tweaks.

The meeting concluded at 7:08pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 1/12/2022 (Joint advisory group session on LGWM)
12/12/2022 (Next ordinary meeting of ERG)

Actions from previous meetings:

- ERG members to review and update portfolio statements (ahead of planning meeting in February 2023).
- Democracy advisor to organise presentation to ERG on Wellington Water and the reform process.
- Democracy advisor to follow up with Siobhan re: pre-copy of Zero Waste Strategy to ERG.

Actions from this meeting:

- Democracy Advisor to send feedback survey to presenters.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Arran Whiteford	Shannon Wallace	Joe Hewitt, City Insights Manager
Climate Change	Sally Faisandier, Arran Whiteford	Steven Almond, Sam Satterthwaite	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste & Circular Economy	Spencer Clubb	Clare Stringer, Steven Almond	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Water	Michelle Rush	Shannon Wallace	Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier	Spencer Clubb	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Ben Zwartz	Sam Satterthwaite	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design; Phil Becker, Manager City Development
Mana whenua and treaty relations		Spencer Clubb	
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Cultural Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Cultural Heritage Manager Pouarahi Tu Taonga