

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**OF**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

Time: 9.15am  
Date: Thursday, 4 June 2015  
Venue: Committee Room 1  
Ground Floor, Council Offices  
101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington

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**PRESENT**

Mayor Wade-Brown  
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Free  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Pannett (Chair)  
Councillor Ritchie  
Councillor Sparrow



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## 1 Meeting Conduct

### 1.1 Apologies

No apologies were received.

### 1.2 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

### 1.3 Confirmation of Minutes

#### **Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Free**

#### **Resolved**

That the Environment Committee:

Approve the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 23 April 2015, having been circulated, that they be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**Carried**

(Mayor Wade-Brown entered the meeting at 09:19 am.)

(Councillor Ritchie left the meeting at 09:19 am.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer entered the meeting at 09:21 am.)

(Councillor Ritchie returned to the meeting at 09:25 am.)

(Councillor Foster entered the meeting at 09:25 am.)

### 1.4 Public Participation

#### **1.4.1 Jacqueline Haydn**

Jacqueline Haydn addressed the Environment Committee on Roundup spraying.

### 1.5 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

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## 2. Strategy

### 2.1 Our Natural Capital: Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

#### **Moved Councillor Ritchie, seconded Councillor Pannett**

#### **Officer's Amended Recommendations**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.

2. **Agree to recommend to Council** that the strategy and action plan included as **amended** Attachment One be adopted as Council strategy **with changes as follows:**

- amend the Past section (7.1) to read:

- **People** were unaware of the extent of their impact on our indigenous biodiversity, and their priorities were about establishing a life in this new city country.
  - amend Present section (7.2) to read:
    - Today we have 5% of our original lowland broadleaf-podocarp forest and 1% of our original coastal forest remaining. We are dealing with these fragmented sites supporting our remaining biodiversity, many of these within the heart of our city. Most of our wetlands have been lost and our streams piped and filled. **However, there have been significant achievements in recent times. Extensive land protection has occurred since the early 1990s. The establishment of Zealandia (NZ's first fully-fenced urban sanctuary) in 1995 and ongoing predator control by the city and regional councils now means a number of iconic (and formerly rare or locally extinct) bird species are now commonly experienced by Wellingtonians. Taputeranga Marine Reserve, established in 2008, is the first marine reserve in the heart of a city.** ~~However since~~ **As a result of the 2007 Biodiversity Action Plan** we have gained a good picture of where Wellington's ecologically significant sites are within Wellington and these have been mapped. We have 517 identified ecologically significant sites across the city (see Appendix 4), most of which are protected on public land. These sites can be seen in more detail on the Wellington City Council website.
  - amendment Future section (7.3) to read:
    - Miramar Peninsula has been designated as New Zealand's first pest free urban area and the difference to our biodiversity is noticeable. **This is another step towards eradicating significant pests from Wellington.**
3. Agree to delegate to the Environment Portfolio Leader the authority to make any changes to the Our Natural Capital: Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan required as a result of decisions of the Environment Committee, as well as minor editorial amendments.

**Moved Councillor Ritchie, seconded Councillor Lee**, the following amendment:  
That the Environment Committee:

- 2(b) That the financial implementation plan, attachment 3 (tabled at the meeting), be adopted and recommended to Council for inclusion in Council's 2015-25 Long Term Plan.**

Carried

**Moved Mayor Wade-Brown, seconded Councillor Free**, the following amendment:  
That the Environment Committee:

2. Agree to recommend to Council that the strategy and action plan included as amended Attachment One be adopted as Council strategy with changes as follows:
- **Amend last paragraph of 7.1 to read:**
    - **Much biodiversity was destroyed when Wellington was cleared for human settlement and the trend of losing biodiversity as the city grew continued until very recently.**

Carried

**Moved Councillor Foster, seconded Councillor Ahipene-Mercer**, the following amendment:

That the Environment Committee:

2. Agree to recommend to Council that the strategy and action plan included as amended Attachment One be adopted as Council strategy with changes as follows:
  - **Add to page 47/8, goal 2.2 Aquatic ecosystems:**
    - **Support Zealandia to explore if possible achieving eradication of pest fish within the lakes and streams of the valley**
  - **Add to page 3.3.1**
    - **Work with communities in high biodiversity risk areas on how best to minimise or avoid impacts of cats and dogs on indigenous biodiversity**
  - **Change priority of 3.3.1 a-d to priority 1.**

Carried

### Resolved

1. Receive the information.
- 2(a) Agree to recommend to Council that the strategy and action plan included as amended Attachment One be adopted as Council strategy with changes as follows:
  - amend the Past section (7.1) to read:
    - People were unaware of the extent of their impact on our indigenous biodiversity, and their priorities were about establishing a life in this new country.
  - amend Present section (7.2) to read:
    - Today we have 5% of our original lowland broadleaf-podocarp forest and 1% of our original coastal forest remaining. We are dealing with these fragmented sites supporting our remaining biodiversity, many of these within the heart of our city. Most of our wetlands have been lost and our streams piped and filled. However, there have been significant achievements in recent times. Extensive land protection has occurred since the early 1990s. The establishment of Zealandia (NZ's first fully-fenced urban sanctuary) in 1995 and ongoing predator control by the city and regional councils now means a number of iconic (and formerly rare or locally extinct) bird species are now commonly experienced by Wellingtonians. Taputeranga Marine Reserve, established in 2008, is the first marine reserve in the heart of a city. As a result of the 2007 Biodiversity Action Plan we have gained a good picture of where Wellington's ecologically significant sites are within Wellington and these have been mapped. We have 517 identified ecologically significant sites across the city (see Appendix 4), most of which are protected on public land. These sites can be seen in more detail on the Wellington City Council website.
  - amendment Future section (7.3) to read:
    - Miramar Peninsula has been designated as New Zealand's first pest free urban area and the difference to our biodiversity is noticeable. This is another step towards eradicating significant pests from Wellington.
  - Add to page 47/8, goal 2.2 Aquatic ecosystems:
    - Support Zealandia to explore if possible achieving eradication of pest fish within the lakes and streams of the valley
  - Add to page 3.3.1
    - Work with communities in high biodiversity risk areas on how best to minimise

or avoid impacts of cats and dogs on indigenous biodiversity

- Change priority of 3.3.1 a-d to priority 1.
  - Amend last paragraph of 7.1 to read:
    - Much biodiversity was destroyed when Wellington was cleared for human settlement and the trend of losing biodiversity as the city grew continued until very recently.
- (b) That the financial implementation plan, attachment 3 (tabled at the meeting), be adopted and recommended to Council for inclusion in Council's 2015-25 Long Term Plan.
3. Agree to delegate to the Environment Portfolio Leader the authority to make any changes to the Our Natural Capital: Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan required as a result of decisions of the Environment Committee, as well as minor editorial amendments.

Carried

### **Attachments**

- 1 Tabled financial implementation plan

## **3. Policy**

### **3.1 Submission on New Zealand's Climate Change Target**

**Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Lee**

#### **Officer's Amended Recommendations**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to the Council's submission (attached as **amended** Attachment 1) to the Government on New Zealand's climate change target **with changes as follows:**
  - a. **Agree to strengthen the submission to note the urgency of reducing global emissions especially over the next 15 years**
  - b. **Agree to note Council's commitment to reducing Wellington City's GHG emissions including targets and key measures**
  - c. **Agree that the Council supports reductions in the country's GHG emissions in line with other international commitments to significantly reduce emissions from 1990 baseline levels and that the targets should be well below 2 C of pre-industrial levels given that even at 2 C, there will be significant negative impacts.**
  - d. **Agree to strengthen the section on the need for a plan to transition towards a low carbon economy taking into the identified uncertainties in the consultation document**
  - e. **Agree to strengthen the section on the costs of meeting our climate change obligations by including more analysis on the benefits of transitioning towards a low carbon economy; estimates from the New Zealand Treasury**



- on the costs of inaction on climate change, the costs of future projected adverse weather events to the country with even a two degree increase in warming and the costs of mitigation and adaptation in the event that the global community is unable to meet its targets.
- f. **Note that the Council endorses the submission from the Greater Wellington Regional Council**
  - g. **Agree to note the concern of the Council about the limited time frame for consultation on this matter**
  - h. **Change clause 12 to state that the Council is willing to engage further with the Government on New Zealand's climate change targets and policies to achieve these targets [note that there is no provision for oral submissions but that the Ministry may seek further comment from parties]**
3. Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, **Chair of the Environment Committee and Portfolio Leader, Climate Change** to make minor editorial and wording changes to the draft submission.

**Moved Mayor Wade-Brown, seconded Councillor Free**, the following amendment:  
That the Environment Committee:

- 2 i. **Agree there are many opportunities for co-benefits in mitigating and adapting to climate change.**

Carried

**Resolved**

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to the Council's submission (attached as amended Attachment 1) to the Government on New Zealand's climate change target with changes as follows:
  - a. Agree to strengthen the submission to note the urgency of reducing global emissions especially over the next 15 years
  - b. Agree to note Council's commitment to reducing Wellington City's GHG emissions including targets and key measures
  - c. Agree that the Council supports reductions in the country's GHG emissions in line with other international commitments to significantly reduce emissions from 1990 baseline levels and that the targets should be well below 2 C of pre-industrial levels given that even at 2 C, there will be significant negative impacts.
  - d. Agree to strengthen the section on the need for a plan to transition towards a low carbon economy taking into the identified uncertainties in the consultation document
  - e. Agree to strengthen the section on the costs of meeting our climate change obligations by including more analysis on the benefits of transitioning towards a low carbon economy; estimates from the New Zealand Treasury on the costs of inaction on climate change, the costs of future projected adverse weather events to the country with even a two degree increase in warming and the costs of mitigation and adaptation in the event that the global community is unable to meet its targets.
  - f. Note that the Council endorses the submission from the Greater Wellington Regional Council

- g. Agree to note the concern of the Council about the limited time frame for consultation on this matter
  - h. Change clause 12 to state that the Council is willing to engage further with the Government on New Zealand's climate change targets and policies to achieve these targets [note that there is no provision for oral submissions but that the Ministry may seek further comment from parties]
  - i. Agree there are many opportunities for co-benefits in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
3. Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, Chair of the Environment Committee and Portfolio Leader, Climate Change to make minor editorial and wording changes to the draft submission.

## **4. Monitoring**

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### **4.3 2014/15 Third Quarter Report**

**Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Ritchie**

**Resolved**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Note the information.

**Carried**

## **5. Operational**

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### **5.1 Victoria Street Transformation - Park Naming**

**Moved Councillor Ritchie, seconded Councillor Free**

**Resolved**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree that the area identified in attachment 1 of this report be named 'Te Niho Park'.
3. Note that signage will be developed and installed as part of the Victoria Street transformation project.

**Carried**

#### 4.1 Reports from Council Controlled Organisations for the Quarter Ending 31 March 2015

**Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Ritchie**

**Resolved**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note any issues for the Chair to raise with the entities covered by this report.

**Carried**

#### 4.2 Final 2015/16 Statements of Intent for Council Controlled Organisations

**Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Foster**

**Amended Officer's Recommendations**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note that following the Committee meeting on 23 April 2015 the officers wrote to the Council Controlled Organisations requesting changes to be made in their Statements of Intent and that these changes have been included in the final Statements of Intent.
3. Note that the Council's 10-year plan will be considered at the meeting of the Governance, Finance and Policy committee meeting on 25 May 2015. Because of the timing of this meeting, any potential changes made to funding for Council Controlled Organisations and related projects are not addressed in this report or the individual Statements of Intent.
4. **Agree that the updated forecast financial statements for the Karori Sanctuary Trust tabled at this meeting will replace the forecast financial statements in the Trust's 2015/16 Statement of Intent that were published with the meeting agenda.**
5. Agree to recommend that the Council approve the 2015/16 Statements of Intent for the Wellington Zoo Trust and the Karori Sanctuary Trust **as updated by the forecast financial statements tabled at this meeting, and** subject to officers addressing the impact of any changes to the funding for Council Controlled Organisations that results from the Council's 10-year plan at the meeting of the Governance, Finance and Policy committee meeting on 25 May 2015:
6. Note any issues for the Chair to raise with the entities covered by this report.

**Carried**

**Attachments**

- 1 Updated forecast financial statements

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5.2 Forward Programme 2015

**Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Councillor Free**

**Resolved**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.

**Carried**

(Councillor Lee left the meeting at 12:27 pm.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer left the meeting at 12:32 pm.)

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair