



greater WELLINGTON

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Pane Matua Taiao

Report 20.23

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 13 February 2020

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (until 11.34am)
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier

Public Business

1 Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Cr Connelly to open the meeting at 9.30am with a karakia timatangi – Ngau mai e ngā hua.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4 Public participation

Eugene Doyle, Owhiro Bay Residents' Association, spoke to item 5 – Recreational water quality in the Wellington Region, specifically on pollution in Owhiro Bay.

Strategy, policy or major Issues

The Committee accorded priority to agenda item 5 – Recreational water quality in the Wellington Region.

5 Recreational water quality in the Wellington Region – oral item

Shaun Andrewartha, Manager, Environmental Regulation, and Alastair Smaill, Programme Lead, Urban Water, gave a presentation to the Committee.

Mr Andrewartha discussed Greater Wellington's role as a regulatory authority. Greater Wellington authorises the discharge of contaminants into the environment through the consenting process. It is also in charge of compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the rules and policies.

Mr Andrewartha also outlined the role of territorial authorities. Territorial authorities are ultimately responsible for the drinking water, stormwater and wastewater network (the three waters) by ensuring consents are obtained and complied with. Territorial authorities also provide for and maintain the infrastructure.

Wellington Water Limited manages the three waters network on behalf of some of the territorial authorities in the Wellington Region (Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council). Wellington Water Limited is responsible for the management of the network, applying for and complying with conditions of consent.

The proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) introduced a two stage consenting regime for the discharging of stormwater from territorial authority stormwater networks. This regime is consistent with the PNRP intent, which recognises that resources are interconnected and reliant upon one another. Monitoring during phase one of the consenting regime informs the development of a prioritised programme for improvements in the Stormwater Management Strategy required in stage two.

Consents do not set a contaminant limit, however, the acute human health effects are managed and ongoing monitoring allows for a better understanding of the effects of the discharge. Wellington Water Limited must investigate causes and action any improvements to ensure any human health issues are identified and remedied, and communicate the public of any actual and potential risks associated with stormwater discharges.

Mark Kinvig, General Manager, Network Strategy and Planning, Ben Fountain, Chief Advisor, Stormwater, and Steve Hutchison, Chief Advisor, Wastewater, from Wellington Water Limited, updated the Committee on recent network issues.

Mr Hutchison spoke to the Committee on the Dixon Street adit collapse on 20 December 2019. This sent six and a half million litres of waste water a day into Wellington Harbour. A bypass was created to send the wastewater around the blockage. A disused 1890s pipe was recommissioned. Taranaki Whānui placed a rāhui on Wellington Harbour.

The Mt Albert tunnel sludge pipelines were installed in the 1990s. It was built as dual pipeline system that was meant to account for failures and maintenance. Both failed. The terrain of the pipe makes it difficult to repair. Trucks have been transporting the sludge from the Moa Point Treatment Plant to the Southern Landfill.

Mr Fountain spoke to the Committee on contamination in Wellington waterways. Wellington Water Limited have placed permanent warning signs at the mouth of the stream, but the same warnings could apply to most of the city's waterways. Stormwater, which runs into the Owhiro Stream, comes from a number of different sources. This makes it difficult to identify the source of contamination.

Mr Fountain advised that Wellington Water's protocols were followed when re-opening the beach. He advised that contamination levels had returned to normal levels before the beach was re-opened. He acknowledged that Wellington Water's communication could have been better.

Moved: Cr Lee / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee requests officers report to the next Environment Committee meeting on:

- a Options for a water quality monitoring regime at Owhiro Stream/Bay, with the report to identify the likely sources of contamination
- b The feasibility on effective 'real-time' public notification system for recreational users of Owhiro Bay and other recreational coastal areas in the Wellington Region,

noting that this is an opportunity for all stakeholders to work together to achieve a desired environmental outcome.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: The Committee requested that the framework for stormwater consents be made available on Greater Wellington's website.

Noted: The Committee requested a report on what we monitor and why, including any timelines for monitoring actions required through phase 1 stormwater consenting.

6 Strategic priorities for the Environment Committee – Report 20.20

Tracy Plane, Manager, Strategic and Corporate Planning, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Staples

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes the existing informal 'strategic framework' outlined in the Committee's terms of reference; existing strategies and plans; and emerging direction from a range of developing strategic documents and feedback from the Whaitua committees.
- 2 Considers the proposed strategic priorities for the 2019-22 triennium (paragraph 32) at a March 2020 workshop.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Regional Biodiversity Framework – report 20.25 [for information]

Ali Caddy, Team Lead, Biodiversity Strategy and Advice spoke to the report.

The Co-chairs of the Biodiversity Collaborative Working Group (the Group), Sharlene Maoate-Davis and Quentin Duthie, introduced themselves. They spoke on the Group's journey. They discussed their diverse relationships, representing the views of communities and different interest groups and how important it was for them to take some time to get to know each other and make connections. The Mātauranga Māori approach is an integral part of the Group and informs and enriches their decisions.

Noted: Councillors requested that the schedule of meetings for the Biodiversity Collaborative Working Group be circulated.

Noted: Cr Ponter left the meeting at 11.34am during questions on the above item and did not return to the meeting.

8 Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair requested Cr Connelly close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga – Kia hora te marino.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.40am.

Councillor P Gaylor
(Chair)



Date: 25 June 2020 .