

Farming Reference Group – Advisory Member Position Description

1. Purpose of the Farming Reference Group

The Farming Reference Group (FRG) provides Greater Wellington’s Environment and Climate Committee with expert, grounded advice on matters affecting the wellbeing of the Wellington Region’s farming communities.

The role of the FRG is to ensure Council decisions are informed by on-the-ground realities, diverse farming perspectives, Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles, and climate-resilient land management.

2. Role of an FRG Advisory Member

As a member of the FRG, you will contribute your knowledge, experience, and networks to help shape Greater Wellington’s approach to environmental and climate-related issues that affect farming and rural communities. This includes:

Members will:

- Provide advice on issues relating to environmental and economic sustainability, including soil conservation, flood protection, pest management, biodiversity, riparian management, nutrient issues, and climate change adaptation/mitigation.
- Provide insight into how Greater Wellington’s plans, policies and regulations, and programmes affect farming communities.
- Act as a conduit between Council and farming communities with bringing wider perspectives to the table and support the delivery of council messaging, where required and appropriate
- Support robust, enduring partnerships between Greater Wellington and rural stakeholders.

3. Te Tiriti o Waitangi Responsibilities

Members are expected to uphold and apply Council’s Te Tiriti principles in all advice and discussions, including:

- **Pātuitanga** – building meaningful relationships with mana whenua.
- **Kōwhiringa** – supporting governance decision-making informed by kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori.
- **Tino Rangatiratanga** – recognising mana whenua rights and interests.
- **Whakamaru** – contributing to strategies that protect mana motuhake.

- **Oritetanga** – ensuring fairness and equity in the design of services and policy impacts.

4. Key Responsibilities

FRG members will:

- Attend up to six meetings per year (with occasional extra meetings as required)
- Read background materials and prepare informed contributions
- Participate constructively in discussions, valuing diverse views
- Offer insights on community sentiment, technical issues, and lived experience
- Provide advice aligned with Council’s climate emergency declaration (2019), including mitigation and adaptation considerations
- Support Greater Wellington staff with insights on community engagement opportunities, risks, or messaging relevant to rural audiences
- Maintain respectful collaboration with mana whenua, councillors, and technical staff

5. Member Skills, Knowledge, and Experience

To be appointed, candidates must meet at least one essential criterion, and ideally several of the desirable criteria.

Applicants must demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Experience working in the farming sector
- Knowledge of climate change and environmental management issues affecting the farming sector
- Strong connection to the sector through advocacy, networks, or industry roles

Additional skills and knowledge:

- Understanding of central and local government roles, regulations, and their impacts on farming communities
- Ability to participate effectively in a professional advisory or committee environment, including facilitation or leadership where appropriate
- Understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the role of Māori as mana whenua
- Ability to contribute diverse perspectives across geography, land use, and farm systems, supported by strong regional networks
- Experience advising on or supporting community engagement and communication around proposals, plans, or change processes
- Knowledge of Greater Wellington’s environmental roles—soil conservation, flood protection, pest control, biodiversity, freshwater management, or farm planning

6. Personal Attributes

Members will ideally demonstrate:

- Commitment to collaborative problem-solving and consensus-building
- Openness to differing perspectives and respectful engagement
- Ability to consider issues through both environmental and economic lenses
- Strong communication skills, including representing or conveying community views
- Integrity, reliability, and the capacity to commit time to the role

7. Membership Structure and Expectations

- **Membership:** Up to 11 people (2 councillors + up to 9 appointed members)
- **Quorum:** 6 members.
- **Chair:** Appointed by Council from the non-Councillor membership
- **Term:** Until the end of the 2025–28 triennium unless the FRG is continued on Council decision
- **Remuneration:** Eligible members may claim the standard Greater Wellington meeting fee and travel expenses according to policy

8. Time Commitment

- Up to **six meetings per year** (typically up to 3 hours each).
- Occasional additional sessions as required.
- Pre-reading of papers and background resources is expected.

9. Eligibility

Applicants do **not** need to provide a CV or cover letter. Expressions of interest should outline:

- Why the applicant wishes to join the FRG
- How their skills, experience, or networks align with the TOR and role description

No conflict-of-interest form or formal interview is required.

10. Apply now

Please send your expression of interest to Fathima.lftikar@gw.govt.nz or hand in your hard copy to a Greater Wellington office by 5pm, Friday February 27th 2026.

- For more information feel free to contact Fathima Iftikar, Director – Strategy, Policy and Regulation at Fathima.lftikar@gw.govt.nz

