

Lower Ruamāhanga Advisory Group (An advisory body to the Environment and Climate Committee)

1 Purposes

- 1.1 Apply Council’s Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles when conducting the business of the Lower Ruamāhanga Advisory Group (the Advisory Group):
 - a **Pātuitanga | Relationships and Partnerships** – ensure decisions are based on shared knowledge, expertise and values maintained and sustained through active relationships and meaningful partnerships with mana whenua. These relationships and partnerships will contribute to Greater Wellington’s core business services, functions, and systems to develop and deliver our shared aspirations across our Greater Wellington rohe;
 - b **Kōwhiringa | Options** – actively partner with mana whenua to enable effective governance decision making that is informed by kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori analytical frameworks and knowledge systems in identifying feasible and meaningful options and solutions;
 - c **Tino rangatiratanga | Self Determination** – position Greater Wellington to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold the interests of mana whenua in exercising their tino rangatiratanga in planning and promoting quality services that enable self-determination for whānau and community;
 - d **Whakamaru | Active protection** – assess how decisions work towards protecting mana Motuhake (rights and interests of mana whenua) through relevant mutually beneficial strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives; and
 - e **Oritetanga | Equity** - uphold the principle of fairness in the design and distribution of Greater Wellington’s resources and services through the Long Term Plan to meet the needs and aspirations of whānau within our Greater Wellington rohe.
- 1.2 Ensure that the advice of the Advisory Group:
 - a Considers climate change-related risks (mitigation and adaptation); and
 - b Is consistent with Council’s plans and initiatives to give effect to Council’s declaration of a climate emergency on 21 August 2019, including agreed emissions reduction targets.
- 1.3 Advise the Environment and Climate Committee and the Environment Group (as required) on the effectiveness of flood and erosion protection in the Lower Ruamāhanga Scheme Area, in particular:

- a River and erosion management proposals and reports, including:
 - i Capital and maintenance work,
 - ii Annual work programmes and budgets,
 - iii Floodplain management strategies, and
 - iv Integrated and collaborative management opportunities; and
- b Community engagement approaches that support wider awareness of river and erosion management proposals, projects, and changes in the Lower Ruamāhanga Scheme Area.

2 Members

2.1 Two Councillors, being the Councillor elected by the Wairarapa General Constituency and one other Councillor.

2.2 Nine members, appointed by Council, as follows:

- a One elected member of South Wairarapa District Council, nominated by that council; and
- b Eight members, who either:
 - i Care about their local river in the Lower Ruamāhanga area,
 - ii Are a resident or ratepayer in the Lower Ruamāhanga area, or
 - iii Are a sustainability advocate.

3 Chair

Council appoints the Chair on nomination of the Advisory Group.

4 Quorum

At least 50 percent of the appointed members, including one Councillor member.

5 Voting entitlement

5.1 All members have equal speaking and voting rights.

5.2 The Chair does not have a casting vote.

6 Reporting and servicing

The Advisory Group reports to the Environment and Climate Committee and is serviced by the Environment Group.

7 Remuneration and expenses

- 7.1 Elected members' remuneration and expenses are met by the council they represent.
- 7.2 Non-elected members may claim Greater Wellington's standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances and/or public transport expenses.
- 7.3 Provided the Chair is not an elected member of a council, the Chair shall also be eligible to receive an annual taxable honorarium of \$5,000 (in addition to Greater Wellington's standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances and/or public transport expenses).

8 Status of the Advisory Group

- 8.1 The Advisory Group is an advisory body established by Council.
- 8.2 The Advisory Group is not a subordinate decision making body of Council and is not a committee under the Local Government Act 2002.

9 Meeting frequency and life of the Advisory Group

- 9.1 The Advisory Group meets as required.
- 9.2 The Advisory Group may recommend its dissolution to the Environment and Climate Committee.
- 9.3 In the absence of a prior decision made by Council to continue the Advisory Group in the next triennium, the Advisory Group will dissolve at the end of the 2025—28 triennium.