Report 26.333

Confirmed Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on Thursday 20 August 2026

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 10am

Members Present

Councillor Duthie (Chair)
Councillor Tupou (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Elder
Councillor Free
Councillor Gaylor (until 11.48am)
Councillor James
Councillor Johnstone
Councillor Makarini
Councillor Ponter (until 2.16pm)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Barbie Barton

Councillor Saw and Councillor Gaylor participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Chair invited Councillor Tupou to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Peter Gilberd and Bruce Patterson spoke about the proposed Petone to Grenada road and the environmental and recreation impacts this would cause and tabled a presentation.

Teacher Matt Titcombe and students, Audrey Thorburn, Taylor Crump, and Lola Doyle from Wellington East Girls College provided an update on student-led biodiversity restoration projects at Worser Bay, including the Pāua Nursery and the Anemone Garden.

Noted: Councillors requested an opportunity to see the project in person.

Dean Stanley and Ingrid Harder, from Boat and Beach Wise Trust, spoke about preparations for community consultation on Te Kahu Moana ki Kākāriki, the community-initiated marine management area at Worser Bay, and tabled a presentation.

Janice Hill and Rob McIntyre from the Kapiti Coast Trails Trust spoke about the Paekākāriki to Pāuatahanui Trail and their proposed further projects, and tabled a presentation.

Noted: The Chair requested that members advise him following the meeting if any objection to staff providing Kapiti Coast Trails a letter of support in principle for the Paekākāriki to Pāuatahanui project.

Ken Jackson spoke towards his view on the need to reassess the flood modelling and consents on Coast Road, Wainuiomata, and tabled a presentation.

Sandra Stevenson from Preserve Belmont Farm Park, spoke about preserving Belmont Farm at Belmont Park and her views against retiring more of the Park land, and tabled a presentation

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on Thursday 18 June 2026 - Report 26.274

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Connelly

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment and Climate Committee meeting on Thursday 18 June 2026 - Report 26.274.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan – Report 26.338

Jake Roos, Manager Climate Change, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Rhodes

That the Committee recommends to Council that the Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan is adopted.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Elder requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

6 **Organisational Climate Adaptation Plan – Report 26.352** [For Information]

Melanie Barthe, Senior Advisor Climate Change, spoke to the report.

7 **Te Rōpū Taiao | Environment Group activity update – Report 26.298** [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Group Manager Environment (acting), spoke to the report.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 11.43am during questions on the above item.

Councillor Tupou left the meeting at 11.45am during questions on the above item.

Councillor Gaylor left the meeting at 11.48am during questions on the above item and did not return.

The Committee Chair accorded priority to Agenda Item 13, Te Awarua O Porirua Catchment/Action Plan 2026 – Report 26.304 in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

8 **Te Awarua O Porirua Catchment/Action Plan 2026 – Report 26.304** [For Information]

Jimmy Young, Catchment Manager – Te Awarua-O-Porirua,Robert McClean, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, and Ashleigh Sagar, resource advisor Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, spoke to the report. A presentation and a pamphlet were tabled.

Councillor Ponter returned to the meeting at 12.01pm during questions on the above item.

Councillor Tupou returned to the meeting at 12.02pm during questions on the above item.

9 **Farming Reference Group Chair's Report – July 2026 – Report 26.354** [For Information]

Barbie Barton, Chair of the Farming Reference Group, spoke to the report.

The Committee Chair accorded priority to Agenda Item 12, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regional Response Update – Report 26.355 in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.2.

10 **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regional Response Update – Report 26.355** [For Information]

Andy Brown, Knowledge Risk Management and Resilience Lead, and David Boone, Manager Ecoystems and Community, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Chair requested that engagement is held with other Councils dealing with the same challenges in relation to this report, through a letter from the Committee Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm at the conclusion of the above item and resumed at 1.14pm.

11 Ruamāhanga Annual River Schemes & Floodplain Management Plans Implementation Report 2026 – Report 26.327

Hamish Fenwick, Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery, and Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Free

That the Committee notes that the Environment and Climate Committee has had assurance that the current and proposed actions are on track to deliver the objectives and agreed levels of service contained within the relevant flood plans (Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan and the Waiōhine River Plan) and Asset Management Plan (Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme).

The motion was **carried.**

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 2.16pm during questions on the above item and did not return.

12 Ruamāhanga River Schemes - Annual Flood Asset Assessment Report 2026 – Report 26.339

Rolayo Ackely, Senior Engineer, Assets and Performance, Hamish Fenwick, Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery, and Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Elder / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

1 Notes that the Committee has had assurance that the Ruamāhanga River Schemes flood protection and erosion control asset portfolio continues to perform well, with the majority of assets remaining in Very Good to Moderate condition and overall flood risk remaining stable.

2 Notes that the return to a full asset inspection programme in 2026 has provided a more comprehensive understanding of asset condition and greater confidence in the assessment of network performance.

3 Notes that the Committee has had assurance that flood protection and erosion control assets within the Ruamāhanga River Schemes have been managed to the agreed Levels of Service during 2025/26.

4 Notes that the Committee has had assurance that identified priority issues are being addressed through operational maintenance programmes, capital improvement works and longer-term asset management and infrastructure planning.

The motion was **carried.**

13 Review of Flood Protection in South Wairarapa (Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme and Wairarapa Coast Catchment Schemes) – Report 26.303

Hamish Fenwick, Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery, and Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Tupou

That the Committee:

1 Notes the flood recovery actions Greater Wellington has undertaken in South Wairarapa including urgent reprioritisation of work programmes, meetings with landowners, mana whenua and territorial authority staff, consideration of drawdown from reserves, and other actions to support works in response to extreme rainfall events have been appropriate, robust and effective.

2 Notes Greater Wellington will work with South Wairarapa District Council and local communities to conduct a review of the Awhea–Ōpouawe Catchment Scheme in order to recommend changes to Council during 2027; this will be part of the wider review of all Wairarapa Coast Catchment schemes.

3 Notes Greater Wellington will work with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board to establish options for oversight and governance of the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, alongside ongoing discussions with mana whenua and the wider community.

The motion was **carried.**

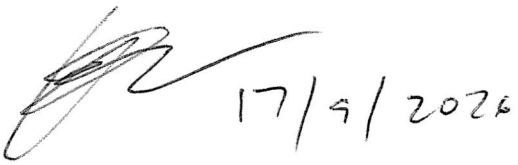
Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Tupou to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 2.53pm

Councillor Q Duthie

Chair

Date:  17/9/2024