

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

21 MARCH 2018

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## AGENDA ITEM B4

### REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

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#### **Purpose of Report**

For Council to consider and adopt the draft terms of reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group.

#### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Regional Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference Report.*
2. *Adopts the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference.*

## **1. Background**

On the 25 October 2017, Councillors considered Greater Wellington Regional Council's proposal to establish a Wellington Regional climate Change Working Group and for two council representatives (a representative and an alternate) be appointed to act as Climate Change Action Leaders/s and represent this Council on the Working Group. Councillors Jepshon and Olds were recommended by Mayor Napier and confirmed by Council. The Working Group has met on 4 December 2017 and 16 March 2018.

The establishment of the Working Group is a response to the NIWA report: "Climate Change and Variability - Wellington", August 2017. Further background on the rationale for the Working Group can be found in Appendix One of the Mayor's Report dated 25 October 2017.

The Working Group is operating under a draft terms of reference that its members collaboratively developed and agreed. Each Council is now considering formal adoption of the terms of reference (Appendix One).

## **2. Discussion**

The objectives of the Working Group encompass climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). The Working Group primarily serves an information-sharing and co-ordination

role. While it can recommend actions to its member councils, there is no delegation of decision-making authority to the Working Group and such recommendations would be considered and adopted by each council individually if they chose, within a timeframe that met individual councils' needs.

Three nominees for representatives are being sought from Ara Tahi in accordance with the Working Group's draft terms of reference.

### **3. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference

Contact Officer: Suzanne Clark, Committee Secretary

Reviewed By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive

# **Appendix 1 – Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference**

# Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Purpose

To provide a forum via which councils and mana whenua from across the Wellington Region can network, discuss issues, share information and where appropriate, achieve a consistent approach across all jurisdictions on climate change **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise, drought and enhanced natural hazards effects).

### 2. Background

Councils in the Wellington Region are addressing a broad range of climate change related issues with individual councils implementing initiatives designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

At a meeting in August 2017 representatives from councils across the region agreed that each council would benefit from participating in a regional working group that would provide coordination, facilitate joined up action and enable consistent leadership, advocacy and communications in relation to climate change.

### 3. Membership:

The Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (the Working Group) will include one main and one alternate elected member from each council in the Wellington region<sup>1</sup> and three mana whenua representatives from Ara Tahī.<sup>2</sup>

### 4. Arrangements

The Working Group is a collaborative work group made up of representatives from each of the councils of the Wellington Region and mana whenua; it is not a joint committee, and any recommendations of the Working Group would be for consideration by each council<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Greater Wellington Regional Council; Wellington City Council; Hutt City Council; Upper Hutt City Council; Porirua City Council; Kapiti Coast District Council; Masterton District Council; Carterton District Council; South Wairarapa District Council

<sup>2</sup> Ara Tahī is a leadership forum of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and its six mana whenua partners who meet to discuss strategic issues of mutual interest (Ara Tahī membership comprises two representatives from each mana whenua authority, two GWRC Councillors and GWRC's Chief Executive). GWRC will appoint up to three representatives from Ara Tahī, one each representing: East Coast: Wairarapa; West Coast: Otaki to Porirua; Central: Wellington and Hutt Valley. Ara Tahī representatives are entitled to receive GWRC's standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances for each meeting they attend.

<sup>3</sup> Including any consultation process that is appropriate to that council

The workload will be shared across the councils of the region – arranging and hosting meetings on a roster basis.

The Working Group will meet four times a year, on a quarterly basis.

The Working Group will agree at the beginning of each year where and when meetings are to be held. At any time during the year a member of the Working Group or a council officer can make a recommendation that the meeting date or location should change. The request will need to receive support from the majority to change.

## **5. Participation**

Main and/or alternate council representatives will attend meetings and participate in activities relevant to their council. They will report to their respective councils about Working Group activities and will champion recommendations as appropriate their council.

Ara Tahi representatives will attend meetings and participate in activities relevant to their allocated area (East Coast: Wairarapa; West Coast: Otaki to Porirua; Central: Wellington and Hutt Valley). They will report to Ara Tahi and will champion recommendations as appropriate to their allocated area.

When relevant, additional Councillors from each council and/or representatives of the six mana whenua partners represented by Ara Tahi are welcome to attend meetings.

Relevant stakeholder groups can be invited to attend meetings.

## **6. Chair**

A Chair and Deputy Chair will be elected by the main representatives (an alternate may vote on behalf of an absent main representative). A new Chair and Deputy Chair will be elected at least once every triennium following local government elections.

## **7. Administrative support:**

Each council will ensure that the representatives participating in the Working Group are sufficiently supported by officers from their council. Greater Wellington Regional Council will support the Ara Tahi representatives in this regard.

Each council will provide reports and advice to the Working Group as required.

Secretariat support (i.e. developing the agenda and associated content) for meetings will be provided by Greater Wellington Regional Council. The host council will provide administrative support (i.e. venue, catering and logistical support).

## 8. Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group encompass climate change **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). The objectives are:

- a. Provide a forum for the region's councils and mana whenua to network, discuss issues, share information and build capability
- b. Provide a regional forum for dialogue with stakeholders
- c. Provide oversight of strategies, plans, research and initiatives being implemented or developed by councils within the region<sup>4</sup> and where appropriate, align these activities to achieve greater consistency and efficiency
- d. Utilise the full range of skills and capabilities available in the region's local authorities and amongst other organisations to address the economic, social, environmental and cultural opportunities and consequences related to climate change
- e. Initiate joint projects/initiatives/campaigns that impact on, or require the active involvement of more than one local authority (by for example sharing capacity, budgets or joint steering committee)
- f. Enable the development of regionally consistent recommendations that could be considered and adopted by each council individually (within a timeframe that meets individual councils' needs)
- g. Act as a reference group to ensure consistent, integrated and coherent messaging for climate change related outreach and awareness-raising activities
- h. Provide a platform for joint advocacy and leadership – enabling the region's councils to speak with one voice when appropriate<sup>5</sup> (for example by advocating to central government through the preparation of joint submissions on policy proposals)
- i. Enable the development and dissemination of joint communications to the public

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<sup>4</sup> Including the climate change related work progressed via the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy

<sup>5</sup> This approach would be consistent with that set out in the LGNZ Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration 2017