



Climate Change and Environment Committee Forum Minutes from 23 May 23

Present:	Councillor Rebecca Gray (Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly, Councillors Pip Maynard (until 10:40am) and Colin Olds (until 11:20am).
Apologies:	Councillors Kaye McAulay and Martin Bosley
In Attendance:	Paul Gardner (Interim Chief Executive Officer), Amanda Bradley (General Manager Policy and Governance), Russell O’Leary (Group Manager Planning and Environment), Sky Halford (Climate Change Advisor), Leanne Karauna (Principal Advisor Māori) and Amy Andersen (Committee Advisor).
Presenter:	Robyn Ramsden.
Conduct of Business:	This forum was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This forum was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The forum was held in public under the above provisions from 10:05am to 12:05pm

1. Welcome

Cr Gray welcomed attendees to the forum.

2. Karakia Timatanga

Cr Maynard opened the meeting.

3. Severity of Climate Change in Wairarapa

Presentation by Ms Ramsden, resident of Featherston

Ms Ramsden gave a presentation and spoke to the forum attendees about what SWDC can do to support efforts to reduce the impact of climate change in the Wairarapa, including cost savings from EV cars and solar panel use, education, leading by example (using public transport, recycling etc).

Ms Ramsden spoke about the Aotearoa Climate Strike on Friday.

Attendees queried the statistical data presented (relate to whole of New Zealand, limited for South Wairarapa), vertical land movement (earthquakes and areas prone to liquefaction), forecasted temperatures for the next three months, over and recycling (use of chickens and issues that may be presented by increased numbers in urban areas).

4. Reducing emissions – clean car standards and electric car charging

Presentation by Ms Halford

Ms Halford provided information on vehicle use in NZ and CO2 emissions, clean car discount and what SWDC were doing to support the reduction of emissions.

Attendees queried: the number of car chargers available around the South Wairarapa and what had been done previously to obtain them, Waka Kotahi strategy to increase the amount of chargers, and the uptake of EV cars nationally.

It was noted that Council Officers are currently working on extra charging sites in Featherston.

5. Future visioning discussion

The following ideas/topics were discussed and facilitated by Ms Bradley and Mr O’Leary:

- Join with other three Councils for Wairarapa wide for influencing of climate change related issues.
- Coordination of work in the community – connection and education
- How do we ensure that solutions are integrated and coordinated? E.g. roading strategy; emergency management.
- Focus on public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling.
- [Spatial Plan \(30 years\)/ Long Term Plan \(10 years\) / Annual Plans / Ruamāhanga Strategy](#) – visibility of work being undertaken or planned.
- Regional policies and plans (including Wairarapa Combined District Plan Review) setting direct – core component of how and what we do in this space.
- Behaviour – incentives to shift the way individuals do things in response to climate change.
- Impact of RMA reforms on climate change and the work we undertake as a region/district, and taking the lead.
- Opportunities to demonstrate ways to reduce impact of decisions and thinking about future needs.
- Noted the review of the Ruamahanga Strategy and action plan due May 2024.
- Understanding the changes to systems e.g. farms/businesses undertaking more environmental projects as a pre-requisite to insurance/funding.
- Integration of plans and policies – e.g. Māori Tuhuno Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals.
- What can we do that is no cost, low cost, quick wins and do those things now?
- Procurement – noted a social procurement model is used with all contractors and organisations using innovative approaches / focus on climate change.
- Use of white roofing and solar power on social housing.
- Density of housing in urban areas.

- What do we know that is happening in the community? E.g. Ecoreef. List of initiatives, groups and organisations working on climate change in the district.
- Programme of work moving forward, which brings together all key strategy / plans together relating to climate change.
- Mitigations vs off-setting of CO2 emissions, e.g. tree planting.
- Māori representation – iwi are developing their own plans and driving initiatives around e.g. nurseries / planting – how do we support / work together?

6. Karakia Whakamutunga

Cr Gray closed the forum.