

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

25 OCTOBER 2017

AGENDA ITEM E1

REPORT FROM HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Purpose of Report

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

Recommendations

Her Worship the Mayor recommends that Council:

1. *Receives the information.*
2. *Appoints Cr Brian Jephson and Cr Colin Olds (as voting alternate) as the SWDC representatives appointed to the GWRC Regional Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group.*
3. *Appoints Cr Pam Colenso as Chair of the Community Safety and Resilience Working Party.*
4. *Appoints Cr Dayle Harwood as the SWDC representative on the Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group.*
5. *Appoints Clive Paton as the SWDC representative to the Pukaha to Palliser (P2P) Working Group.*

1. Most Beautiful Town Awards

On 13 October the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards were announced in Havelock North. Greytown was a finalist in the Most Beautiful Small Town Award along with Raglan and Whirinaki. This award is for a population of 5000 and under.

Greytown was announced the winner of this category. It was very nerve racking waiting for the award to be announced. Leigh Hay and I accepted the award.

Credit for this award goes to the Greytown Community Board, especially Chair Leigh Hay who spent days working on the application, other Community Board members for their input and help, members of the Greytown business community, especially Greytown Village Haven who allowed Leigh to use their video and helped amend it to meet the criteria and to all the Greytown community groups who have undertaken and completed projects that have enhanced Greytown.

I was thrilled at the result.

2. GWRC Regional Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group

This group was formed by GWRC following the release of the NIWA Wellington Region Climate Change Report.

Membership is from all councils in the Wellington Region, both representatives will be able to speak at the meetings but each council has one vote.

The Terms of Reference for the Group will be brought back to Council before the group proceeds.

See Appendix 1 for details of the Working Group.

3. Community, Safety and Resilience Working Party

Councillor Olds is still very much tied up with the Whaitua Committee so I recommend that Cr Colenso is confirmed as the Chair of the Community, Safety and Resilience Working Party.

4. Pukaha to Palliser (P2P) Working Group for Eradication of Rodents

A report on the Pukaha to Palliser (P2P) Working Group has been received and is included in Appendix 3. I had appointed Cr Jephson to this group but due to time constraints he is unavailable, so I suggest Councils representative is Clive Paton. Clive has been working extensively on conservation projects in the area that include pest eradication. I believe he would be the perfect representative for SWDC.

5. Wairarapa Joint Cycling Group

I recommend that Cr Dayle Harwood is confirmed as Councils representative on the Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group. The Terms of Reference for this group is in Appendix 2.

6. Long Term Plan Working Party

The Long Term Plan Working Party has continued to meet fortnightly. The last meeting was a workshop from Phillip Jones LGNZ Equip facilitator regarding the Revenue and Financing Policy which will be reviewed during the LTP process.

Sector Meetings were held over the last two weeks. The sectors covered were Rural and Coastal, Services, Business and Tourism, Youth, Sports and Recreation and Experienced Campaigners.

Individuals were asked to think of their 3 top desires for the future for South Wairarapa for now and in 10 years.

The ideas raised in these workshops will be discussed further during the LTP process.

7. Combined Council

Meeting – Date & Venue	29 September 2017
Speakers	Refugees -,Dennis Bartlett and Jorge Sandeval Climate Change- Chris Laidlaw GWRC and Dr Iain Dawe NIWA Ruamahanga Whaitua – Aliastair Smaill GWRC WIZ Wireless, RB1 2 Roll out – Bridget Canning
Key issues from meeting	Refugees – a suggestion was made that refugees could live in the Wairarapa if support networks were put in place. Jorge Saneval described his life as a refugee and his life in New Zealand since arriving here as a refugee. Climate Change - Dr Dawe gave a presentation around the NIWA report on Climate Change for the Wellington Region. Discussion and questions followed. Ruamahanga Whaitua - an update of the process was given. General discussion on the implications of the climate change information and how that will feed into the Whaitua. Water Wairarapa - update on progress and discussion regarding the NIWA report and its relevance to the Water project. WIZ Wireless - an update of the RB1 2 programme with an indication of coverage and timelines. Mobile phone Black sports were also discussed.
Specific item/s for Council consideration	Appoint 2 members to the GWRC Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group.
General	A very good session for discussion and questions regarding Climate Change, Whaitua and Water Wairarapa.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Inwards

DATE	INWARDS	SUBJECT
1 September 17	Ministry of Culture & Heritage	Advising of the process to seek funding to commemorate Waitangi day.
10 September 17	A concerned resident	Excessive dog registration fees and the registration process.
26 September 17	Deputy Principal, Kuranui College	Invitation to various end of year prizegivings.
9 October 17	Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust	Seeking further dialogue Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tamaki nui-ā-rua: Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlement

8.2 Outwards

DATE	OUTWARDS	SUBJECT
5 September 17	All property owners with trees listed on protected tree register.	Advising that all listed trees to be re-assessed and visits to properties made.
26 September 17	A concerned resident	The process required for registering a dog and the penalty charges explained.
3 October 17	Deputy Principal, Kuranui College	Confirming attendance at prize giving and advice on Council's preference for Council's contribution to the prizes.
12 October 17	Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust	Confirming and agreeing to the request for council representatives and Trust to meet early in New Year.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - GWRC Regional Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group Report

Appendix 2 – Draft Terms of Reference Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group

Appendix 3 – Pukaha to Palliser (P2P) Working Group Report

Prepared By: Her Worship the Mayor, Viv Napier

**Appendix 1 – GWRC
Regional Climate Change
and Natural Hazards
Working Group**

Template Report for Councils

PROPOSAL FOR WELLINGTON REGION CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARDS WORKING GROUP

1. Purpose

For the Council to consider the proposal to establish a Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group; and

to appoint two representatives (a representative and an alternate) to act as Climate Change Action Leader/s and represent this Council on the Working Group.

2. Background

On Monday 7 August 2017, a report was presented by NIWA to a meeting of the Chair of the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Mayors of City and District Councils in the Greater Wellington Region, and subsequently released to the public and media.

The report is titled ‘Climate change and variability - Wellington Region’. It describes the climatic changes which may occur across the region over the rest of this century, with snapshots at 2040 and 2090. The resolution at which the information is presented (i.e. climate change mapping) sets this report apart from any others that have preceded it. There has never been a report with such detailed information available for the Wellington region and the results further emphasise the urgency with which climate change should be addressed.

Impacts for the Wellington Region include:

- Autumn is likely to warm the most out of all seasons.
- Annual temperature increases of up to 1°C by 2040 and up to 3°C by 2090.
- Reduction in spring rainfall of up to 15% for eastern areas by 2090.
- Increased risk of drought in Wairarapa.
- Some areas may experience 70 more hot days (>25°C) per year by 2090.

Implications of those impacts include:

- Warmer temperatures may allow different crops to be grown.
- More droughts may limit pasture production and crop growth.
- Sea level rise may impact coastal communities and infrastructure.
- Changes to river flow and rainfall may have an impact on native biodiversity.
- Current water supplies may be under pressure if there is no additional storage.

The full report, a summary document and explanatory video are all available at www.gw.govt.nz/climatechange

At the same meeting on Monday 7 August 2017, a proposal was made by GWRC to establish a Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group with members from all councils in the region, to enable a regional response to climate change issues, including the implications outlined in the NIWA report. There was unanimous support for this.

3. Reasons for proposal of Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group

The reasons for proposing a Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group are as follows:

- Most local authorities in the region have their own strategies, including mitigation strategies (focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation plans (focused on adapting to impacts such as sea level rise) . Those strategies reflect councils' responses to their local needs.
- There are benefits to sharing ideas, policies and strategies among councils in the region, and identifying where councils can collaborate for more effective action, where appropriate. The regional approach could provide support for individual councils addressing issues such as sea level rise and coastal hazards.
- It would allow advocacy to central government from a strong regional base, and provide a single forum for central government to connect with.
- It would allow the full range of skills and capabilities in local authorities in the region on climate change issues and natural hazards to be aligned to best effect, in a way that could reduce demands on individual councils.
- Work progressed under the Natural Hazards Management Strategy can be reported to the regional working group
- It could assist individual councils in preparing for their 2018/28 Long Term Plans, enabling consistent information to be applied when considering infrastructure investment (e.g. roading, water, wastewater and stormwater).
- There could be benefits in looking at how various regional strategy documents contribute to mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change, for example:
 - Regional Land Transport Strategy
 - Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
 - Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy.
- There could be opportunities for engagement with key regional stakeholder groups which have interests and expertise in climate change mitigation and/or adaptation

4. Proposed membership and arrangements

It is proposed that the core membership of the Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group include:

- 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

The Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group may choose to have meetings with wider government, business and NGO representatives on specific themes, for example:

- Transport
- Forestry
- Water
- Coastal effects
- Insurance
- Adaptive policy pathways planning

The Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group would be supported by

- a new officer level ‘low carbon transition steering group’ focused on mitigation
- and the existing officers level Natural Hazards Management Strategy Steering Group

a diagram on the next page illustrates this structure.

The Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group could take a regional leadership role in regard to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, and considering the regional implications of significant reports and their recommendations.

Examples of such reports include:

- LGNZ Climate Change Declaration 2017
- GLOBE-NZ Net Zero New Zealand, Scenarios to achieve domestic emissions neutrality by the second half of the century
- PCE Preparing New Zealand for Rising Sea Levels”, November 2015.

It is envisaged that the arrangements for the Working Group would be as follows:

- It would be a collaborative Working Group of the councils of the region, not a formal Joint Committee. Recommendations of the Working Group would be considered by each council.
- It would support and build on existing mechanisms, not duplicate them, with any changes to planning documents being done as part of their natural review cycles.
- The workload would be shared across the councils of the region, subject to agreement with the Chair/Mayors and CEs.
- It would seek to reduce net workload on councils, e.g. by collaboration across councils to prepare joint submissions on central government policy proposals, rather than each council having to produce its own submission.

NEW
 This political level group is currently being established. GWRC is coordinating its establishment

Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group

WCC – PCC – KCDC – HCC – UHCC – SWDC – MDC – CDC – GWRC

- A collaborative working group (not a formal Joint Committee) comprised of **political representatives** from each council in the region
 - Focused on reducing the region’s greenhouse gas emissions
 - and addressing natural hazards (this includes climate driven hazards such as coastal erosion, increased rainfall and drought – and also encompasses seismic hazards)
- Meets quarterly, with a different council hosting each meeting. Recommendations of the Working Group would be considered by each council. Workload will be shared across the councils (subject to agreement regarding that workload with relevant Chair/Mayors and CEs).



Low carbon transition steering group Officer level “Owners”

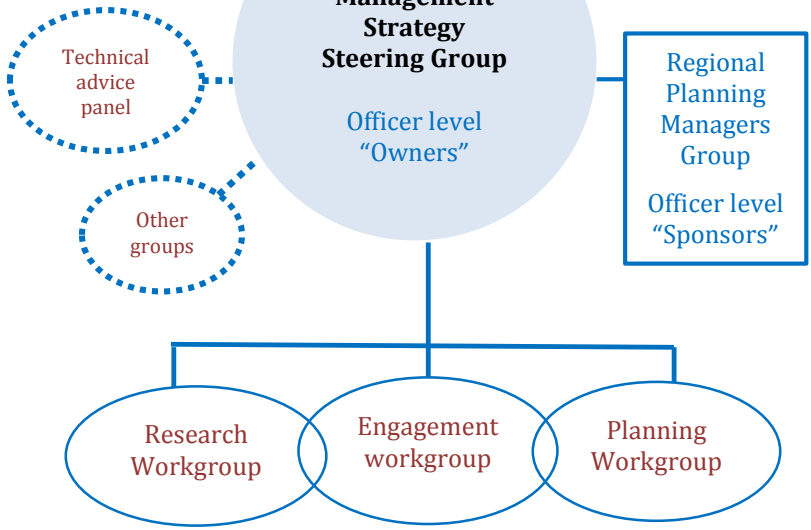
A working group comprised of **officers** from Councils across the Wellington region focused on reducing the region’s greenhouse gas emissions and influencing the transition to a low carbon economy

NEW
 This officer group is currently being established. GWRC is coordinating its establishment



EXISTING
 The officer level structure for the Natural Hazards Strategy is largely in place.

Natural Hazards Management Strategy Steering Group Officer level “Owners”



Climate change mitigation

Climate change adaptation (and seismic hazards)

5. Scope and principles for proposed terms of reference

The Terms of Reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group could be based on the following:

Scope

The working group will address issues relating to climate change mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (adapting to impacts such as sea level rise) and will encompass the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy, including its guidelines for action in key areas like coastal hazard management.

Principles

Empowering by supporting individual council's needs, for example:

- providing a platform for local authorities to share knowledge and build capacity
- enabling initiation of joint projects/initiatives/campaigns that impact on, or require the active involvement of more than one local authority
- Input to central government policymaking on climate change mitigation and adaptation including consideration of a possible National Policy Statement (NPS) on natural hazards and/or sea level rise, and the implications this has for planning, both local and regional.

Collaborating by providing coordination of initiatives that are effective at the regional level where that will add value, for example:

- research across local authorities on climate change impacts and implications
- ensuring consistent, integrated and coherent messaging for climate change-related outreach and awareness-raising activities
- advocacy to central government.

Action focused by providing practical recommendations for implementation within a timeframe that meets councils' needs, for example:

- identifying a coherent regional pathway for reducing greenhouse gas emissions e.g. by articulating these via a Regional 2050 calculator¹.

Providing leadership on regional challenges and opportunities for climate change mitigation and natural hazards management. This approach would be consistent with that set out in the LGNZ Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration 2017.

¹ A 2050 calculator is essentially a website that enables users to explore how energy and transport choices will shape a population's emissions footprint. Users vary 'levers' that affect how energy is used and produced – e.g. improving public transport, increasing the amount of electric vehicles on the road or the amount of renewable energy being produced. The calculator will help users understand what changes can be made between the present time and 2050 to enable the region to transition to a low carbon economy. A calculator of this type was recently developed by the National Energy Research Institute (NERI) and Enspiral for the Wellington City Council and is online at <http://climatecalculator.org.nz/>. GWRC have done preliminary modelling work to develop a 2050 Pathways calculator for the Wellington region and the next step is to work with other councils and stakeholders to test the assumptions and develop the optimal configuration of the calculator.

6. Next Steps

It is proposed that the next steps would be:

1. Councils each nominate two representatives (a representative and an alternate) to act as Climate Change Action Leader/s and represent this Council on the Working Group.
2. GWRC will convene the Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group to prepare recommended Terms of Reference.
3. The Climate Change Action Leaders will seek the agreement of their councils to the recommended Terms of Reference.
4. GWRC will convene a meeting with relevant officers from each Council to establish the new officer level 'low carbon transition steering group' (focused on climate change mitigation / emissions reduction).
5. Once all councils have agreed the Terms of Reference, GWRC will formally convene the Working Group to commence its task by agreeing priorities and a work plan.
6. The Working Group will meet every three months.
7. A schedule for the quarterly meetings will be determined with a different council hosting each meeting.
8. The Climate Change Action Leader/s will keep their councils informed of progress.
9. The Working Group will report to councils after one year.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report
2. **Notes** that the Proposed Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group is proposed to address mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise) issues, and is the group to which work progressed via the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy is reported. The proposal to establish the working group is a response to the NIWA report: "Climate change and variability - Wellington", August 2017.
3. **Agrees** to appoint and (as alternate) as Climate Change Action Leader members of the Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group.
4. **Notes** that recommended Terms of Reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change and Natural Hazards Working Group will be brought back to the Council for agreement prior to the Working Group proceeding.

Report prepared by:

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Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group

Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group

The intention of the group is:

- Strengthen relationships and communication between territorial authorities and stakeholders in Wairarapa with regards the development and connection of recreational trails (where trails are defined as multi purpose, including walking, cycling, and horse riding) in the region.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss developments at strategic and operational levels
- Provide an opportunity to discuss significant community projects in the Wairarapa, enabling group members to be proactive and collaborate for the betterment of the entire Wairarapa region.
- Provide a region-wide platform for community cycle groups to feed into

Objectives of the group:

- Establish a forum for community cycle groups that will help identify key regional issues and trends, and report these back to this advisory group for further action where appropriate.
 - Develop an inventory of existing trails throughout the region by location and condition, and ensure these are well publicised, e.g. Council websites, Google Maps.
 - Identify regional connections and potential connections throughout the three territorial authorities
 - Identify supporting infrastructure and services
 - Analysing markets and users, and stakeholders
 - Identify trail network gaps and development priorities
 - Develop a framework for future collaboration on:
 1. Marketing and promotion
 2. Implementation
- In line with the Wellington Regional Trail Framework
- Keep communication clear and regular to Elected Members
 - Declare any conflicts of interest.

The group will meet quarterly (once the group is established) and if a members organisations' usual representative is unavailable for a meeting, it is expected an alternative person will attend in their place.

DR

Appendix 3 – Pukaha to Palliser (P2P) Working Group Report

PUKAHA to PALLISER (P2P)

This brief report is to give Councillors a heads-up on a promising development under investigation here in the Wairarapa - primarily environmental but with economic, social and cultural implications.

With a working title 'Pukaha to Palliser' (P2P) it is a consideration of a Large Landscape approach to halt or reverse the ongoing loss of indigenous biodiversity on both public and private land and to build ecological resilience in the face of climate change.

A key aspect will be to explore the possibilities around the Government's Predator Free 2050 (PF50) strategy.

Also important will be the integration of any riparian planting or land-use change falling out of both the Ruamahanga and Eastern Hill Country Whaitua processes.

To have success the project will require a clear vision with wide community support both rural and urban, an efficient and effective governance group involving LG, Iwi, DOC, Federated Farmers (and possibly others) with strong links to a larger group of NGOs and on-the-ground community groups. The importance of good community buy-in cannot be overemphasized.

Successfully up-and-running models exist elsewhere in the country such as Reconnecting Northland, Wild for Taranaki, Manawatu Source to Sea, H-B's Cape to City and the Nelson-focussed Top of the South - among others.

A fuller report will be forthcoming as and (hopefully not!) if the project develops.