

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Cr Rachel Clarke (Chair), Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rupert Watson and Deputy Mayor Rob Taylor.

APOLOGIES: Mayor Fran Wilde and Cr Andrea Rutene.

IN ATTENDANCE: Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Mandy De Ritter (Waste Coordinator), Melissa Stockley (Manager, Community Operations) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Cr Quentin Duthie, Pete Huggins and Tash Styles (Greater Wellington Regional Council – GWRC).

Sophie Wolland (Waste MINZ).

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS: This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 10:00am to 11:35am.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES - 23 JULY 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ESC2026/01

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved to accept apologies from Mayor Wilde and Cr Rutene.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

ITEM MOVED:

9 CHAIRPERSON REPORTS

9.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN FEATHERSTON

Cr Clarke spoke to the report, outlining environmental concerns relating to air quality, water quality, soil contamination, traffic impacts, waste issues and Lake Domain management.

Members discussed the need to view many issues as district-wide rather than Featherston-specific; clarification of environmental reporting pathways and agency responsibilities; air quality impacts from domestic wood burners and rural burn-offs; and historic landfill and contaminated land management.

Cr Clarke foreshadowed an amendment to recommendation b to seek further information rather than advocate to GWRC at this stage.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ESC2026/02

Moved: Cr Watson

Seconded: Cr Isaacs

The Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved to the following, including the foreshadowed amendment (to recommendation b) which became part of the substantive resolution:

- a) Receive the report Environmental Issues in Featherston.
- b) Seek to improve an understanding of reporting pathways and responses relating to air and water pollution incidents; through engagement with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC);
- c) Request reporting from GWRC to the Environmental Sustainability Committee on unresolved environmental incidents;
- d) Support a joint public information campaign on:
 - 1. Permitted burning practices;

2. Waste disposal and recycling options;

e) Strengthen collaboration with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, DOC, iwi, and GWRC;

f) Request the Chief Executive to review local operational issues, including:

1. Lake Domain maintenance and clean-up;

2. Public facility maintenance;

3. Investigate road safety and signage improvements where pedestrians and cyclists share high-speed roads.

[Items a-f read together]

CARRIED

8 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

8.1 VERBAL UPDATE FROM GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cr Duthie, supported by Mr Huggins and Ms Styles provided an overview of Greater Wellington's environmental responsibilities, strategic priorities, funding allocation and current programme of work. The presentation is available to view on our [website](#). Discussion included:

Regional Environmental Management

Representatives from Greater Wellington Regional Council outlined the broad scope of regional environmental management, noting that regional governance requires balancing environmental, social and economic outcomes across a diverse region. Responsibilities span a wide range of activities, including biodiversity protection, river and flood management, air quality monitoring, pest control and climate resilience. The presentation emphasised that successful environmental outcomes rely on strong partnerships between regional and local government, mana whenua, community organisations and other stakeholders.

Climate Resilience

The Committee heard that climate adaptation and resilience planning is becoming an increasingly important focus for Greater Wellington. Officers highlighted the close relationship between flood protection, infrastructure resilience and future land-use planning, particularly as communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. Discussion also touched on the uncertainty surrounding proposed Resource Management Act reforms and the challenges this creates for long-term planning while councils continue to operate under the current legislative framework.

Pest Management and Biodiversity

Greater Wellington reported a significant increase in investment in pest management following Long Term Plan decisions, with expanded activity occurring in areas including Wairarapa Moana and Pūkaha/Mount Bruce. The Committee heard that pest control programmes are being delivered alongside biodiversity restoration initiatives to maximise environmental outcomes. Greater Wellington reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing predator control, habitat restoration and other biodiversity projects throughout the region.

Bird Flu Response

Members discussed the emergence of avian influenza and responsibilities for managing dead birds found along the coastline. It was noted that MPI leads the national response and public

messaging; landowners are responsible for dealing with dead birds on their land; GWRC, territorial authorities and DOC are coordinating responses and public education; and reports of three or more dead birds should be referred through MPI reporting channels.

Environmental Compliance and Reporting

GWRC outlined its compliance and enforcement approach, based on: education, engagement, enablement and enforcement. Pollution hotline should be used for reporting these issues: 0800 496 734. Members requested improved visibility of environmental incident reporting trends and expressed interest in receiving summary information about compliance activities occurring within South Wairarapa.

Wairarapa Moana Collaboration

Discussion focused on greater collaboration between agencies involved in management of Wairarapa Moana; continued GWRC commitment to investing in reserve management and restoration; opportunities to strengthen relationships with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board and its new General Manager; and the need to balance immediate operational issues with long-term strategic planning.

Public Comment

A member of the public reported additional plastic ducting material being found along the Lake Domain shoreline, potentially linked to railway infrastructure. The information was noted for follow-up.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ESC2026/03

Moved: Cr Isaacs

Seconded: Cr Watson

The Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved to receive the Verbal Update from Greater Wellington Regional Council report

CARRIED

8.2 WASTE MINIMISATION REPORT

Ms De Ritter spoke to the report and provided the Committee with an update on waste minimisation activities and progress toward the regional target of diverting 30% of waste from landfill by 2030.

Members noted that reporting does not capture waste collected through private operators, creating challenges in fully measuring diversion rates. Discussion also covered future capacity requirements at the Martinborough Transfer Station, with Tonkin + Taylor currently assessing infrastructure and investment needs. While recycling rates are improving, officers advised that overall waste volumes continue to increase. Preliminary results from a recent waste audit showed that organic waste remains the largest component of landfill waste (approximately 47%), followed by timber, highlighting the importance of locally focused organic waste reduction initiatives.

Members also discussed broader waste management issues, including landfill capacity and future planning. Officers advised that Bonny Glen Landfill has an estimated 30 years of remaining capacity, while Southern Landfill is expected to close around 2030, prompting regional work on

future disposal options. Updates were provided on government-led product stewardship schemes, including tyres, agricultural plastics and refrigerants.

The Committee also received an update on emergency waste planning, including work to identify temporary debris storage sites and update debris management plans.

In addition, members raised concerns about the growing risks associated with lithium batteries and discussed opportunities to expand community battery recycling facilities, promote safer disposal practices and investigate the costs of additional battery collection units.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ESC2026/04

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Watson

The Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved to receive the Waste Minimisation report.

CARRIED

8.3 PRESENTATION - LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE

Ms Wolland presented on the national Love Food Hate Waste programme and opportunities for council participation. The presentation is available to view on our [website](#).

Members noted the positive behaviour change results achieved nationally; alignment with waste minimisation and community resilience objectives; annual licence cost of \$771 and potential regional collaboration opportunities; and potential use of waste levy funding.

Members expressed support for exploring participation, subject to staff capacity.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ESC2026/05

Moved: Cr Isaacs

Seconded: Cr Watson

The Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved to receive the Presentation – Love Food Hate Waste.

CARRIED

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:35am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)