

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 1 June 2021
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber and Audio-Visual Link
Venue: Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Richard Briggs
Chief Executive

Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN AGENDA

Membership

Deputy Chairperson Cr S Thomson
Heamana Tuarua

Members Cr M Bunting
Cr A O'Leary
Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
Cr D Macpherson
Mayor P Southgate (Ex Officio)
Maangai Maaori – N Hill
Vacancy

Quorum: A majority of members (including vacancies)

Meeting Frequency: Six weekly

Becca Brooke
Governance Manager
Menetia Mana Whakahaere

24 May 2021

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Purpose

The Environment Committee is responsible for:

1. Governance of strategies, policies and plans relating to the wellbeing, protection, enhancement and sustainability of Hamilton's natural environment.

In addition to the common delegations, the Environment Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:

Terms of Reference:

1. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans concerning Hamilton's contribution and response to climate change, and to monitor their implementation.
2. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for the sustainable use of Hamilton's natural resources, and to monitor their implementation.
3. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for efficient and sustainable waste management and recycling, and to monitor their implementation.
4. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for Council's corporate environmental sustainability and to monitor their implementation.
5. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for Council's biodiversity, and to monitor their implementation.
6. To develop policy, approve and monitor implementation of strategies in relation to the Climate Action Plan.

Special Notes:

- The Committee may request expert external advice through the Chief Executive as necessary.

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.

The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:

- The Committee may make recommendations to Council.

The Committee may make recommendations to other Committees.

ITEM	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
1	Apologies – <i>Tono aroha</i>	4
2	Confirmation of Agenda – <i>Whakatau raarangi take</i>	4
3	Declarations of Interest – <i>Tauaakii whaipaaanga</i>	4
4	Public Forum – <i>Aatea koorero</i>	4
5	Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 2 March 2021	5
6	Natural Areas Funding Update	10
7	Update on delivery of the 2020/2021 Climate Change Action Plan	14
8	Opportunities for influencing national and regional climate change response	31

1 Apologies – *Tono aroha*

2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

The Committee to confirm the agenda.

3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

4 Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

As per Hamilton City Council's Standing Orders, a period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for a public forum. Each speaker during the public forum section of this meeting may speak for five minutes or longer at the discretion of the Chair.

Please note that the public forum is to be confined to those items falling within the terms of the reference of this meeting.

Speakers will be put on a Public Forum speaking list on a first come first served basis in the Council Chamber prior to the start of the Meeting. A member of the Council Governance Team will be available to co-ordinate this. As many speakers as possible will be heard within the allocated time.

If you have any questions regarding Public Forum please contact Governance by telephoning 07 838 6727.

Council Report

Item 5

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 01 June 2021
Author: Carmen Fortin **Authoriser:** Becca Brooke
Position: Governance Advisor **Position:** Governance Manager
Report Name: Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 2 March 2021

Report Status	Open
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Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 2 March 2021 as a true and correct record.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Environment Committee Open Unconfirmed Minutes - 2 March 2021

Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held via audio-visual link on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr M Forsyth
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr S Thomson
Heamana Tuarua

Members: Cr M Bunting
Cr A O’Leary
Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
Cr D Macpherson
Mayor P Southgate (Ex Officio)
Maangai N Hill

In Attendance: Cr Martin Gallagher
Cr Maxine van Oosten
Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication
Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Environment Advisor
Robyn Denton – Operations Team Leader
Kelvin Powell – City Safe Unit Manager
Julie Clausen – Unit Manager Strategy and Communications
Sandra Murray – Consultant Business Support
Manaaki Nepia – Waikato-Tainui
Jennifer Nickel – Waikato Regional Council
Blair Dickie – Waikato Regional Council

Governance Staff: Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader
Carmen Fortin – Governance Advisor

The meeting began with karakia from Maangai Hill.

1. **Apologies – Tono aroha**
Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)
That the apologies for partial attendance from Mayor Southgate and Cr Bunting are accepted.
2. **Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**
Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)
That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaa*

No members declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

No members of the public wished to speak.

5. Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 1 December 2020

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 1 December 2020 as a true and correct record.

6. Waikato-Tainui Climate Change Update

Manaaki Nepia (Waikato-Tainui) introduced the report, noting the key climate change principles, including whenua, wai, and whanau and explained how these principles were developed to inform the action plan. She also noted the impact of Covid-19 on the plan's progress. She responded to questions from members regarding water and river quality, development barriers within the district plan, community benefits, and education strategy for behaviour shift.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee receives the verbal report.

Cr Bunting joined the meeting (10.09am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the item was voted on.

7. Waikato Regional Council Climate Action Roadmap

Blair Dickie and Cr Jennifer Nickel (Waikato Regional Council) provided an update on the WRC Climate Action Roadmap, noting that the roadmap is not a regulatory or financially binding document. They spoke to specific pathways of the roadmap in which the Councils could work together, including biodiversity, transport, and energy considerations. They responded to questions from Members regarding transport investment, ability for the Waikato Regional Council Climate Committee to submit to their own transport plan, restoration work planned by Waikato Regional Council within Hamilton, consideration of Maatauranga Maaori within the roadmap, and the communication strategy.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

8. Submission to the Climate Change Commission on draft advice to Government

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced the report, noting a change to the submission due date.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) delegates the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee, Chair of Infrastructure Operations and Chair of Strategic Growth (and deputy Chairs as alternates) to work with staff to develop the submission;

- b) delegates final approval of the submission to the CE;
- c) notes the approved submission will be sent to the Climate Change Commission by 28 March 2021; and
- d) notes that the approved submission will be uploaded to the Hamilton City Council website.

The meeting was adjourned from 10:54am to 11:10am.

9. Hamilton Open Air Burning Bylaw Review (*Recommendation to the Council*)

The Consultant Business Support introduced the report, noting the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019 included burning of rubbish, so was not included in the Open Air Burning Bylaw Review. She responded to questions from members regarding safety concerns, Central Government regulation, nuisance behaviour, definition of firepit or outdoor cooking device, area requirements to operate fire, and inclusion of fire services.

Resolved: (Cr O’Leary/Cr Forsyth)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) recommends that the Council:
 - i. determines a bylaw **is not** the most appropriate means of controlling the issue of open air burning in Hamilton; and
 - ii. approves consultation on the revocation of the Hamilton Open Air Burning Bylaw 2015 (**Option 3** of the staff report) and the Statement of Proposal (**Attachment 2** of the staff report).

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (11.12am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the item was voted on.

10. Environment Principles

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor took the report as read responded to questions from Members regarding the intention behind word choice (semantics) within the Environment Principles.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) approves the six high level Environment Principles:
 - (i) Restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of our waterways;
 - (ii) Protecting and enhancing our natural taonga, whenua and biodiversity;
 - (iii) Embracing the sustainable use of resources;
 - (iv) Promoting a circular economy;
 - (v) Transitioning to a low carbon future;
 - (vi) Build our resilience to climate change;
- b) notes that an Environment Policy will be developed to further support the implementation of the principles; and
- c) notes that these Environment Principles will replace the Sustainability Principles.

11. General Manager's Report

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced report, noting the reduction of Carbon emissions in Hamilton, and that an additional report will come to the June 2021 Environment Committee regarding the Climate Action Plan. She responded to questions from Members regarding measurable actions taken to reduce carbon, reporting of costings and data, environmental impact of reported projects, level of significance and media communication, tree planting data, advocacy plan for environmental concerns to be budgeted within other programmes, and inclusion of climate mitigation data.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Macpherson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

The meeting closed with karakia from Maangai Hill.

The meeting was declared closed at 12:13pm.

Council Report

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 01 June 2021

Author: Zeke Fiske

Authoriser: Lance Vervoort

Position: Team Leader Urban Landscapes

Position: General Manager Community

Report Name: Natural Areas Funding Update

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Environment Committee on how funding allocated through the 2020/21 Annual Plan for restoration groups has been spent, outcomes achieved, and what is left to do this financial year.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Within the 2020/21 Annual Plan, the Council approved an allocation of \$100,000 to support the 9 established groups who are currently undertaking restoration work in the city's gullies.
4. The \$100,000 fund has been fully allocated to the established groups.
5. Staff and groups are working through a second round of projects to spend the remaining \$30,000 of unspent funding prior to the end of the financial year.
6. Projects undertaken so far by gully restoration groups using the fund have included:
 - i. the establishment of a Restoration Coordinator role;
 - ii. Equipment purchases to support the work of the groups;
 - iii. Whyte Street entrance clean-up at AJ Seelly Gully;
 - iv. Recontouring entrance, bank clearance and rubbish removal at Mangaonua Esplanade;
 - v. Willow tree removal, pest trap purchase and plant purchase within Mangaiti Gully;
 - vi. Bat habitat creation and tree privet control at Hammond Park.
7. Staff consider the matter in this report low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

8. In 2011 there was reduction in resource in relation to gully restoration work which has led to volunteer groups having a key role in restoring the gully areas they work in.
9. Through the 2020/21 Annual Plan process Gully Restoration groups requested funding from the Council to further works they were undertaking in the gully areas.

10. A fund of \$100,000 was approved through the 2020/21 Annual Plan to assist the 9 established groups who are currently undertaking restoration work in the city's gullies.
11. The fund was intended to be administered by the Council's Parks and Recreation Unit in consultation with GoEco and was limited to the 20/21 financial year.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

12. Council's Parks and Recreation staff met with the Kirikiriroa Restoration Forum in late August to discuss the fund and understand which projects they were wanting funding for.
13. \$30,000 was allocated to GoEco's proposal to help fund the establishment of a Restoration Coordinator role (formerly weedbuster). This proposal was supported by the 9 established gully restoration groups.
14. The Restoration Coordinator role works alongside, and in collaboration with, the community restoration groups and Mana Whenua restoration organisations to increase participation of community, whānau and rangatahi in the mahi of restoration. This has resulted in a new volunteer group actively working in the Waitawhiriwhiri gully.
15. The work of the GoEco Coordinator includes supporting volunteer days with organisations, groups and schools, and the development of new initiatives that will enable participation. There is a particular focus on developing participation in the maintenance of plantings and weeding.
16. Each of the gully restorations groups was asked to provide a list of projects that they would like considered to be paid for by the fund.
17. Parks and Recreation staff visited each of the gully restorations group to assess the potential projects, scope the works and allocated funding of \$40,000 to the works.
18. Projects funded to date included:
 - i. Equipment purchases to support the work of the groups;
 - ii. Whyte Street entrance clean-up at AJ Seelly Gully;
 - iii. Recontouring entrance, bank clearance and rubbish removal at Mangaonua Esplanade;
 - iv. Willow tree removal, pest trap purchase and plant purchase within Mangaiti Gully;
 - v. Bat habitat creation and tree privet control at Hammond Park.
19. The balance of works totalling \$30,000 to be completed in the next month will include:
 - i. Preparation for planting projects;
 - ii. Plant purchase to support planting projects.
20. By providing this fund for the established groups, Council has shown commitment to aiding and supporting the groups volunteer efforts.
21. This has resulted in much more transparent and effective communication between the groups and Parks staff. Better alignment of Hamilton City Council's scheduled work and the work done by volunteers has been achieved.
22. It is expected the work will continue to grow along with the increase in work Council undertakes in the gully networks as part of the Nature in the City Strategy implementation.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

23. The fund of \$100,000 was approved through the 2020/21 Annual Plan to assist the 9 established groups who are currently undertaking restoration work in the city's gullies.

24. Part of the fund has been allocated to supporting GoEco to create and manage the Restoration Coordinator role.
25. Specific projects the groups had wanted to do, requiring expert experience, have been undertaken.
26. Plant preparation, plant purchase and planting will be undertaken to further enhance the group's restoration efforts.
27. The \$100,000 fund has been fully allocated to the established groups, with staff and groups are working through a second round of projects to spend the remaining \$30,000 of unspent funding prior to the end of the financial year.

Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

28. Staff confirm that this matter complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

29. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
30. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
31. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

32. Social wellbeing is defined as the capacity of individuals, their families, whaanau, iwi, hapuu and a range of communities to set goals and achieve them.
33. By providing a restored natural environment we care for people's physical and mental wellbeing. Places will be provided for physical activities, such as walking and cycling, along with areas for quiet reflection.

Economic

34. Economic wellbeing is defined as the capacity of the economy to generate employment and wealth necessary for present and future financial security.
35. Thriving biodiversity provide a range of ecosystem services, such as water purification, climate regulation, habitat creation and spiritual and cultural wellbeing, which are an integral part of economic activity within the city.

Environmental

36. Environmental wellbeing is defined as the capacity of the natural environment to support, in a sustainable way, the activities that constitute community life.
37. By investing in the restoration of natural areas and gully networks, we create more opportunities to connect with nature. When people connect with nature, they are more likely to take action to protect nature, which in turn results in more people undertaking ecological restoration.

Cultural

38. Cultural wellbeing is defined as the capacity of communities to retain, interpret, and express their shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and identities.
39. The Restoration Coordinator role has been working to increase participation of the community, whānau, and rangatahi in the mahi of restoration.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

40. There are no known risks associated with this matter.

Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui***Significance**

41. Having considered the Significance and Engagement Policy, staff have assessed that the matters Low significance.

Engagement

42. Community views and preferences are already known to Council through the engagement we have had with groups through the Annual Plan process and Nature in the City.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

There are no attachments for this report.

Council Report

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 01 June 2021
Author: Charlotte Catmur **Authoriser:** Sean Hickey
Position: Sustainability and Environment Advisor **Position:** General Manager Strategy and Communications
Report Name: Update on delivery of the 2020/2021 Climate Change Action Plan

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Environment Committee on the delivery of the 2020/2021 Climate Change Action Plan.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Environment Committee:
 - a) receives the report; and
 - b) notes that the update on delivery of the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan will be available on the Council website.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. The 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan was adopted in September 2020 and included actions that were funded through the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan and the 2020/21 Annual Plan.
4. Over the past year, updates have been provided to the appropriate Committees on the implementation of the actions.
5. An overview of the actions delivered over the past year is provided in **Attachment 1**.
6. Staff consider the matters in this report have low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

7. At the [10 September 2020](#) Environment Committee meeting, the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan was approved. In the action plan we outlined both new and existing activities that respond to climate change.
8. The Action Plan was developed in response to various community protests and petitions, and was well received by the community in September 2020.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

Delivery of the Action Plan

9. Responding to climate change requires changes across many areas of Council's services and operations, this was reflected in the Action Plan and the wide range of units responsible for delivery of the actions.
10. Many of the actions outlined in the Plan have been reported to Council and other Committees over the past year. **Attachment 1** is a summary of the actions completed and underway that collectively support our climate change response.

Next steps

11. The Council website on climate change will be updated to reflect the actions taken over the last year, including a link to **Attachment 1**.
12. Following the approval of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan staff will update the Climate Change Action Plan for 2021/22. The updated plan will be brought to the 26 August 2021 Environment Committee meeting for approval.
13. As noted in **Attachment 1**, staff have commenced the development of the Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy will outline the long term vision, principles and outcomes for Hamilton's climate change response. It is proposed that a workshop is held for all Elected Members in late August to get an early direction on the vision and principles. The Strategy will then be developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

14. This is a regular operating activity funded through the Long-Term Plan.

Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

15. Staff confirm that this matter complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

16. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
17. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
18. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

19. Climate change has the potential to reduce our communities social wellbeing, especially our more vulnerable community members. There are also many community members concerned about climate change and the impacts. By communicating the actions we are taking the community can see that the Council is playing its part in responding to climate change.

Economic

20. The delivery of the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan is the start of supporting the transition to a low carbon economy in Hamilton. As we gain a better understanding of the potential economic risks and opportunities facing the city we can collaborate with others to address them.

Environmental

21. By delivering the actions in the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan we have started to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build our resilience. Some actions will see direct emissions reductions, whereas others will enable others to reduce emissions in the long run through actions like improved cycleways and public transport.

Cultural

22. The long term effects of climate change will have impacts on the cultural wellbeing of our community, as outlined in the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ report [Our Atmosphere and Climate 2020](#).
23. As the Climate Change Strategy is developed it will need to have a strong focus on the cultural wellbeing of our community, including how maatauranga Maaori is incorporated.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

24. There are no known risks associated with the decisions required for this matter.

Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui* Significance

25. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the recommendation(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.

Engagement

26. Community views and preferences are already known to the Council through previous consultation on the vision and targeted stakeholder engagement for the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan.
27. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Delivery of the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan

2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan

- What we have achieved

JUNE 2021



Contents

TAKING ACTION	3
FOCUS 1 – BUILD OUR UNDERSTANDING	3
Emissions profiles	3
Climate models and scenarios	6
Climate risks	6
FOCUS 2 – DELIVER CHANGE	7
Develop a long term Climate Change Strategy	7
Addressing our Council emissions - Leading by example	7
Creating a low carbon, resilient city	9
FOCUS 3 – OUR CLIMATE ACCORD	14
FOCUS 4 – COLLABORATING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	14
Collaborating	14
Capacity building	14

TAKING ACTION

In the Hamilton City Council 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan we identified four key areas to focus on:



Building our understanding



Delivering change



Climate Accord



Collaborating and capacity building

We also set two emissions reduction targets for 2030 for our Council operations:

- 50% reduction of gross greenhouse gas emissions (excluding biogenic methane); and
- 25% reduction of emissions of biogenic methane

Over the last year whilst developing our long-term climate change response we have also been delivering projects across Hamilton that deliver emissions reductions.



FOCUS 1 – BUILD OUR UNDERSTANDING

To guide our long-term climate change strategy development, we are continuing to build our understanding of where our emissions are coming from and what the future might look like in Hamilton.

Emissions profiles

Hamilton City's – Community carbon footprint

In 2020, in collaboration with Waikato Regional Council, we commissioned a greenhouse gas emissions profile for 2018/2019 for the City. It was calculated to be 1,000,243 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e) net emissions. The 2018/19 emissions profile provided us with a general understanding of where our emissions come from.

As transport made up 64% of emissions we separated this down further. The quality of the data meant we could show that:

- 27% is from on road petrol
- 27% is from on road diesel
- 0.1% is from on road LPG
- 1.6% is from railways
- 1.3% is from air transport
- 6% is from off road transport

The next step is to combine this data with travel behaviour data to build a transport model to support decision making on future transport initiatives.

3

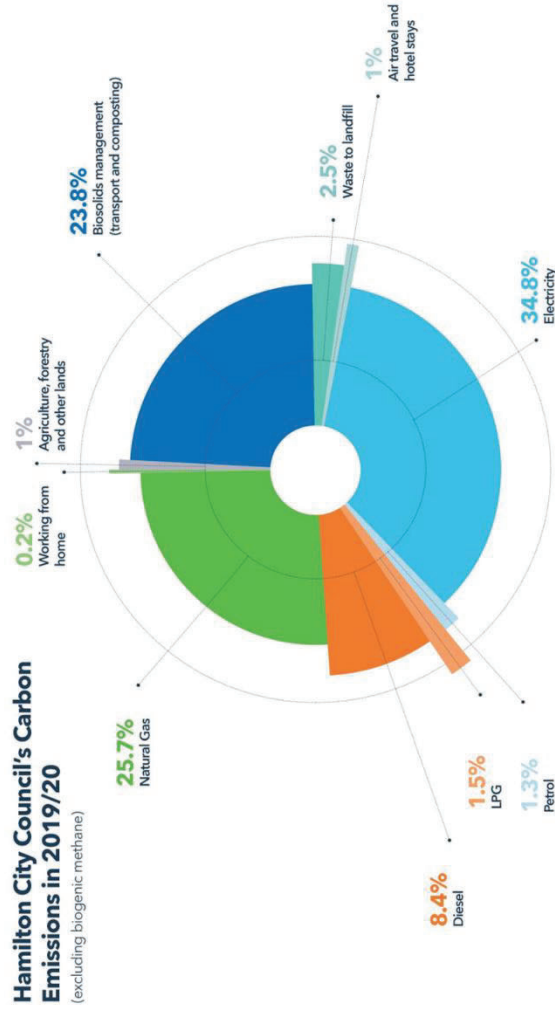


Hamilton City Council – Carbon footprint

Our Council's carbon footprint includes emissions from all our council activities and operations, buildings and facilities and our fleet.

Our emissions went from 10,932 tonnes to 10,438 tonnes, a reduction of 4.5%. Much of the reduction occurred as result of the COVID-19 lockdown and changes in the way we work.

We commissioned a 2019/20 greenhouse gas emissions inventory¹ for Hamilton City Council.



¹ Excluding biogenic methane emissions.

Reduction in our emissions

The key changes in our emissions in 2019/20 were:

- Decrease in electricity use by 4.5% because of the streetlight LED upgrades and reduced electricity use during COVID-19 lockdown.
- Biosolids production reduced by 4% predominantly due to business and industry closures over the COVID-19 lockdown period.
- Fleet fuels reduced by 12% in part due to lockdown and changes to the way we work.
- Decrease in LPG use by 18% due to a new electric hot water heat pump replacing a boiler at the zoo and private crematoriums opening in Hamilton.
- Air travel and hotel stays reduced by 38%, this is reflective of COVID-19 impacting the final quarter of 2019/20 (April – June).

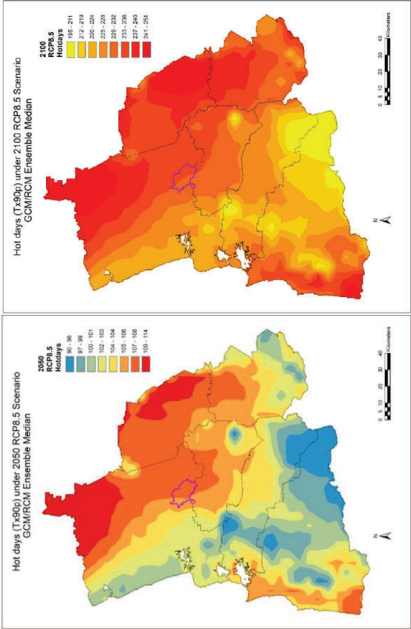
As a result of COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent changes in the way we work a new emissions category has been included, working from home, our calculation suggests that 20 tonnes of indirect greenhouse gas emission arose due to staff working from home.



Climate models and scenarios

In 2020/21 we commissioned ClimSystems to deliver the first stage of our climate impacts modelling. This was a technical report that staff have used to inform the draft Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051 and climate considerations in other projects across Council.

We have now commissioned a second report that translates the technical information into a more accessible format. It will outline what the modelling predicts the climate will be like in 2050 and 2100 in Hamilton and will form part of the context for the engagement with the community and stakeholders in the development of the Climate Change Strategy.



Climate risks

In 2020 we commissioned a Climate Change Readiness Assessment. It included five key areas for action:

- 1. Governance
- 2. Strategy
- 3. Risk
- 4. Metrics and Targets
- 5. Disclosure

The assessment evaluated the climate-related management structures, processes and practices against internationally recommended frameworks, standards, and technical guidance to identify and prioritise opportunities to strengthen our climate response.

One of the key recommendations from the report was for climate change to be elevated from an emerging risk for Council to a strategic risk. In December 2020 Council added climate change as the 9th strategic risk.

In response to the assessment, we have also established an internal programme structure including a steering group and working group.

Over the next 3 years we will continue to embed the actions from the assessment into our climate change response.

FOCUS 2 – DELIVER CHANGE

In 2020/21 we took action to reduce our Council emissions and deliver emission reduction and adaptation actions across key areas of our business.

Develop a long term Climate Change Strategy

To respond to both the physical climate impacts and the transition to a low carbon future the Council needs to establish a vision and strategy for responding to climate change.

The development of the strategy has commenced internally but to ensure the strategy meets the needs of today and future generations we will collaborate with the community, businesses and organisations to deliver a final strategy by June 2022.

Addressing our Council emissions - Leading by example

In the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan we set two emissions reduction targets:

- 50% reduction of gross emissions (excluding biogenic methane) by 2030, and
 - 25% reduction of emissions of biogenic methane by 2030²
- And we outlined how we propose to achieve the 50% reduction target by 2030 in our roadmap.

Over 2020/21 we have implemented actions to reduce our emissions across our operations.

² From the 2018/19 baseline



At the municipal building we:

- Commenced heating and ventilation system upgrades, which has led to a 7% reduction in energy use.
- Replaced lighting with LEDs with both occupancy and daylight control.
- Purchased two additional electric bikes for the fleet for use by staff to attend meetings.

At our H3 sites we have:

- Replanted our bee meadow with native trees and annual flowering plants that will provide a food source for the bees in our 8 beehives
- Planted new native trees on one end of Willoughby Park and Claudelands Oval
- Upgraded the sports lights at FMG Stadium to LEDs
- Implemented upgrades to our Building Management System at Claudelands to measure energy use more accurately and ensure energy efficiency
- Increased education/messaging around sustainability initiatives at our venues – e.g. digital signage “did you know” facts, new rubbish and recycling bin signage, updated venue proposals and fact sheets for event organisers

At the wastewater treatment plant we installed two new energy efficient aeration blowers, which has led to a reduction in power demand.

7

Undertake workplace travel planning for Council staff

We are currently developing a Workplace Travel Plan to support Hamilton City Council staff travel to, from and during work with a focus on promoting alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel, to encourage the reduction of traffic congestion and work towards decreasing emissions.

Stage 1 of the project was to understand how staff are travelling to work and for work. Stage 2 is now under development, and will be rolled out in October/November 2021. It will include information for staff around travel options for different situations and will make it easier to reduce single occupancy vehicle travel.

Once implemented, Hamilton City Council workplace travel plan will be shared with other organisations who wish to develop their own travel plans.



Next steps

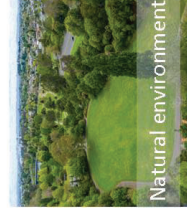
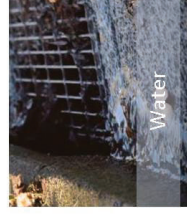
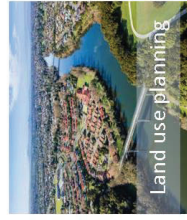
Council has also been developing the 2021-2031 Long term plan, future emissions reduction actions have been included in the draft plan. Once the Long Term Plan is approved at the end of June 2021, the Council Emissions Reduction Roadmap will be updated to reflect the approved budget.





Creating a low carbon, resilient city

In the 2020/21 Action Plan we outlined the priority areas for action, these were:



Transport

Our emissions profile shows that transport is the primary source of emissions in Hamilton. We are influencing transport emissions in our City through improving our public transport and biking, micro-mobility and walking infrastructure.

Micro-mobility and biking

Over 2020/21 we have continued to implement actions in the Biking Plan. This includes:

- City wide biking safety measures
- Green cycle lane markings across the city
- Cycle 'Sharrow' road marking on Victoria Street in April 2021
- Bike parklets to be trialed at three new locations
- 100 new bike racks to be installed across the City before end of June 2021
- Construction of new shared walking/biking infrastructure along River Road
- A new cycle path running parallel to Gordonton Road will be completed by end of June

Updates on the biking and micro-mobility programme are regularly provided to the Infrastructure Operations Committee.

Development of a Biking and Micro-Mobility Business Case

On 27 April 2021 the Infrastructure Operations Committee approved the final draft of the Biking and Micro-Mobility Programme Business Case. It will now be submitted to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to seek business case approval. The Partners and key stakeholders identified and agreed the following key investment objectives:

1. To improve safety of micro-mobility users by reducing deaths and serious injuries, and improving the perception of safety;
2. To increase micro-mobility use by improving network quality and access; and
3. To improve health and environmental outcomes by improving physical health and reducing CO2 emissions.

Development of the Eastern Pathways business cases

The Eastern Pathways/Te Ara o te Rawhiti is a programme of works that aims to enhance safety and deliver transportation modal shift, enable healthier communities through increased active mode journeys and reduce dependency on private vehicle use. It includes the School Link, the City Centre to University Link and a supporting network of key biking connections.

The final draft School Link business case was approved in April 2021 and the City Centre to University Link will be presented to the Infrastructure Operations Committee for approval on 8 June 2021. These business cases will then be submitted to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to seek approval and funding.

Public transport

The Rotokauri Hub became operational to Buses in February 2021, and on 6 April 2021, the first Te Huia train departed for Auckland. The trains have four carriages which carry up to 150 passengers with the capability of carrying over 500 passengers per day.

The Infrastructure Operations Committee approved the Hamilton Transport Centre Rejuvenation Project final draft business case. The draft business case will now be submitted to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to seek funding approval. The preferred option will deliver improved accessibility, improved customer facilities and an attractive outdoor environment.



Staff are involved in a joint venture with Waikato District Health Board, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Waikato Regional Council to develop a workplace travel plan for staff, visitors and volunteers at the main Waikato Hospital and Waiora CBD to promote alternatives to single occupancy car travel. The planning component of the project is due to be completed in June 2021 with roll-out of mini projects from August 2021 onwards.

Implementation of transport optimisation projects for traffic flow efficiency

Hamilton City Council has partnered with Waka Kotahi and the Waikato Regional Council to provide a collaborative approach to transport network management in Hamilton. The focuses are to provide proactive management of the transport network, coordinate planned and unplanned events and incidents, provide better information to travellers, and optimise the network for sustainable multi-modal use.

The transportation network is proactively monitored and managed in order to minimise disruptions and optimise the network for multi-modal use. Such activities will reduce congestion and vehicle emissions, promote sustainable transport options such as walking and cycling, and promote low carbon transport modes such as electric vehicles.

Within the last 6 months, staff have optimised traffic flow on the Mill Street and Te Rapa Road corridors in the direction of the Comet bus route, which resulted in a 35% reduction in travel time, reducing vehicle emissions and improving PT reliability.

10

Land use planning

In 2020 the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan was approved by the Future Proof Implementation Committee.

The Metro Spatial Plan sets out six transformational moves for change, these include:

1. **Waikato River:** celebrating the Waikato River as the defining ecological feature connecting the metro area to the heart of a blue-green network supporting environmental and recreational use and creating a sense of place.
2. **A radical transport shift:** a multimodal transport network, connecting the metro area and facilitating a radical shift to using public transport through the establishment of a rapid and frequent public transport network shaped around where and how our communities will grow.
3. **A vibrant metro core and lively metropolitan centres:** growing Hamilton central city as our civic, administrative, cultural and commercial metro core, alongside lively metropolitan centres, well connected by public transport and safe walking and cycling networks, where people can afford to live, work and play.

The Plan is available on the [Future Proof website](#).

Built environment

Over the last year we have been progressing the application for a Green Star Communities rating from the New Zealand Green Building Council for the Peacockes development. This includes considerations of low carbon and climate resilient living.



Waste

On 31 August 2020 the new rubbish and recycling wheelee bin service commenced. Waste to landfill volumes from the kerbside has reduced by half, which is largely due to success of the food scrap service. The diversion rates of waste from landfill for the new service continue to be a success, with consistent results and an average diversion rate of just under 58%, compared to the 25% diversion rate in the two months prior to the start of the new service. This new service also includes the use of electric trucks to further reduce emissions associated with the collection of rubbish and recycling.



Waste Minimisation Fund

In October 2020, the waste minimisation fund opened for applications. We received 10 applications and awarded funding to six applicants including for

- SeatSmart Child Car Seat Recycling
- Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival – Arts Festival Zero Waste
- Kindy of Queenwood – Waste minimisation and waste conscious education
- Para Kore Marae
- TechLeap Ltd – Repair Detectives
- Waikato Community Hospice Trust – RECREATE Fashion Awards

Several of the projects funded were for trials or pilot schemes with the potential for expansion in the future.

Implement the requirement for site waste management plans

The Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019 includes the requirement for site waste plans, at both design stage and ease of access for storage of. The information to support developers to meet these requirements will be released in June. We are also holding two events in this space, in conjunction with Waikato Regional Council and Waipa District Council.

Water

The climate change projections for the Waikato include issues of both more and less water, we need to build our resilience for drought conditions and increased storm intensities.



Flooding

In December 2020, HCC introduced a new online tool, 'Floodview', to host existing and updated data and make it more accessible to the public. All 'best available' flood data that has been made available to the public can be found on our [website](#). This data is also now included in LIMs. As part of the December release, HCC updated new flood data in Hamilton South (Melville/Deanwell/Glenview areas), which required over 1,500 letters to landowners, and has to date resulted in around 35 enquiries.

Drinking water

In Hamilton our drinking water supply comes from the Waikato river, this means we are dependent on the flow of the river. The treatment and supply of water is also reliant on pumping and electricity. Therefore, reducing demand for drinking water is important for both resilience and reducing emissions.

We have continued to establish Water Demand Management Areas (DMAs) within the city. As these DMA's are created around the reservoirs throughout the city, we can then meter the water used within the DMA and determine if it is greater than predicted. Once indicated, we will then employ advanced leak detection techniques to find the source of the leakage. DMA's are now established in the central business district, Dinsdale and Rototuna.

Each year Council uses a water alert system, supported by a wider water communication and education programme, to provide guidance to the community on the sustainable use of water during summer months when water use peaks. A review of the alert system has commenced with a target completion date of December 2021.

12

Natural environment

On 1 December 2020 the Environment Committee adopted our [Nature in the City Strategy](#). The Strategy sets the goal of 10% native vegetation cover in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton by 2050. This is supported by 4 outcome areas:

1. We invest in the continued growth of nature in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton
2. We are courageous in staying the course
3. We uplift the power of kaitiakitanga
4. Thriving nature is all around us

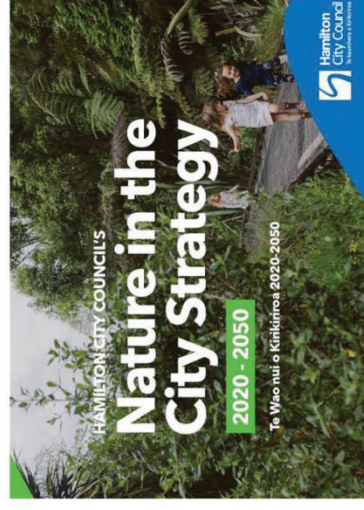
Whilst the funding to implement much of the Strategy will be confirmed through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan staff have already been embedding the ethos of Nature in the City in our current work programme. In 2020 over 1000 trees were planted.



Whilst there is a focus on enhancing streets with native trees and converting areas from exotic back to native, we recognise the importance of the exotics for existing canopy cover, biodiversity and amenity value and carbon sequestration.

In known bat areas we leave trunks standing but remove the canopy of dying or dead trees for habitat, removing the risk to humans but still maintaining precious habitat for the natural world.

Where we can safely do so, we also leave trunks on the ground for lizards, other organisms, animals and to complete the natural cycle.



FOCUS 3 – OUR CLIMATE ACCORD

To create a low carbon, resilient city we need to work in partnership with organisations and businesses that have the ability to influence the emissions of our City. The Hamilton Climate Accord will be a formal group that provides guidance and leadership on climate change.

The terms of reference for the Climate Accord have been established and invites are being sent out to businesses. The first meeting will be held in July 2021.

FOCUS 4 – COLLABORATING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Underpinning our climate action is collaboration. Climate change requires us all to act, the Council alone cannot make all these changes. Over the last year we have advocated for action at the national and regional level through submissions, these include to the Climate Change Commission, on the building for climate change programme and both national and regional transport plans.

Collaborating

Climate change has the potential to impact on many sectors of our community. We all have a responsibility to respond to climate change and we will be most effective if we work together. Over the last year we have collaborated with other Councils in our region and throughout New Zealand, sharing information and approaches to embedding climate change in our operations.



We are part of both the Waikato Plan climate change workstream and the Waikato Wellbeing Project. We will continue to engage in these forums to deliver broader climate change action.

Capacity building

Through our contestable grants programmes we support a number of environmental projects or organisations.

Council funds Go Eco \$50,000 per annum, and a key part of their organisations mandate is building community knowledge to address climate issues. Council also funds Enviroschool education within the city, we currently have 17,696 students from 33 schools participating.

Through the Water Reform Stimulus Project we have started to develop resources for the community and schools to enhance knowledge of water, wastewater and stormwater and the environmental impacts associated with three waters services.

As we develop the Climate Change Strategy we will continue to focus on building internal capacity as well as supporting community and stakeholder capacity building.

14

Council Report

Item 8

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 01 June 2021
Author: Charlotte Catmur **Authoriser:** Sean Hickey
Position: Sustainability and Environment Advisor **Position:** General Manager Strategy and Communications
Report Name: Opportunities for influencing national and regional climate change response

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Environment Committee on upcoming opportunities for influencing national and regional climate change action.
2. To seek approval from the Environment Committee to work with key staff and Members to develop a Council submission to the Ministry of Transport Discussion Document 'Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050'.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

3. That the Environment Committee:
 - a) receives the report;
 - b) delegates the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee and Chairs of Infrastructure Operations and Strategic Growth Committees to work with key staff to develop a Council submission to the Ministry of Transport Discussion Document 'Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050' by the 25 June 2021 submission closing date; and
 - c) notes that the draft submission will be circulated to all Elected Members and Maanagi Maaori for feedback prior to 25 June 2021.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

4. At previous Environment Committee meetings there have been conversations and questions to staff around the opportunity for Council to influence climate change mitigation and adaptation responses nationally and regionally.
5. There are two significant processes currently underway that address climate change and environmental concerns at the national level, these are the Resource Management Reform programme and the implementation of the changes made to the Climate Change Response Act 2002.
6. The Resource Management Reform and the implementation of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 will result in significant changes to the climate change response and the regulation of the natural environment.

7. There are multiple opportunities for the Council and for Members to engage in the upcoming changes and policy development. These legislative and policy changes will have a significant impact on our role in responding to climate change and in the way we consider the natural environment.
8. In addition to the above opportunities, the Ministry of Transport released its discussion document 'Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050' on 14 May 2021. The discussion document sets out potential pathways and policies to phase out emissions across the transport system.
9. Submissions to 'Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050' close on 25 June 2021. Staff are therefore seeking approval to work with a delegated group of Members to develop a Council submission to the Ministry of Transport.
10. Staff consider the matters in this report have low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

11. At previous Environment Committee meetings there have been conversations and questions to staff around the opportunity for Council to influence climate change mitigation and adaptation responses nationally and regionally.
12. The review of the resource management system and the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 signalled significant reforms to the way that the natural environment and climate change are considered in New Zealand.
13. The Resource Management Review started in 2019 and the final report was delivered to Government by the Independent Panel in July 2020.
14. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 was a commitment by the Labour Government and was embedded in the Climate Change Response Act 2002.
15. The implementation of the Resource Management Review and the amended Climate Change Response Act 2002 are now underway and there are many opportunities for engagement and input.
16. The Ministry of Transport released the discussion document on 14 May 2021 refer [here](#). The discussion document sets out potential pathways and policies to phase out emissions across the transport system.

Resource Management Reform

17. Following the comprehensive review of the resource management system that was completed in 2020, the Government has announced three new pieces of legislation:
 - i. Natural and Built Environments Act
 - ii. Strategic Planning Act
 - iii. Climate Change Adaptation Act
18. A detailed overview of the reform was provided in the [General Manager's Report](#) to the Strategic Growth Committee on 30 March 2021. Including reference to an upcoming briefing for Members on the proposed reforms.
19. Informal and formal opportunities to engage on the Resource Management reform will exist over the next year. As specific opportunities for engagement are identified, Councillors will be informed through the appropriate Committee and/or Forum. These may include with Ministers, formal and informal submissions from Hamilton City Council and collaborating on submissions for example with LGNZ and Taituarā (formerly SOLGM).

Climate change legislation implementation

20. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 introduced a timeframe for the Government to establish emissions reduction budgets, emissions reduction plans and adaptation plans.
21. The key legislated dates for 2021 are:
 - i. 31 May 2021 – final package of advice from the Climate Change Commission due to the Government
 - ii. 28 June 2021 – deadline for the Commission to release the final advice publicly.
 - iii. 31 December 2021 – Government must have set the first three emissions budgets out to 2035 and released its first emissions reduction plan.
22. The Ministry for the Environment have indicated that they will publicly consult on the Emissions Reduction Plan in October/November 2021. Staff propose that Hamilton City Council formally submits on the draft Emissions Reduction Plan.
23. Following the release of the final advice from the Climate Change Commission and the draft Emissions Reduction Plan there is the potential for informal engagement with the Ministry for the Environment and other relevant agencies on any key topics of interest for elected members.
24. As well as the Emissions Reduction Plan there are a number of plans and strategies under development that have strong climate change links.

Ministry of Transport Discussion Document ' Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050'

25. The Ministry of Transport released the discussion document on 14 May 2021 refer [here](#). The discussion document sets out potential pathways and policies to phase out emissions across the transport system. Eliminating emissions across the transport sector supports the response to climate change. The transport sector currently produces 47 per cent of CO2 emissions, and between 1990 and 2018, domestic transport emissions increased by 90 per cent. The Ministry of Transport have specifically identified local government as being a sector they would like to hear from in response to this discussion document.
26. Feedback from the consultation process will be used to develop the transport section of the Governments Emissions Reduction Plan, which will be consulted on later in 2021.
27. Given that submissions close on 25 June 2021, it is proposed that key staff work with a delegated group of Members to develop a submission to the Ministry of Transport.

Other related consultations

28. The Infrastructure Strategy is currently open for consultation and includes a strong focus on the need for climate change impacts and low carbon to be integrated into infrastructure decisions. The Strategic Growth Committee resolved on 20 May 2021 to delegate the development of the submission to a group of Elected Members. The submission will then be shared with all Members for comment prior to submission on 24 June 2021.
29. A National Waste Strategy is under development and the Ministry for the Environment has indicated that consultation will occur in the second half of 2021. The Ministry is also reviewing the waste legislation and will also consult on this in the second half of 2021. Staff are actively engaged in both the development of the strategy and the review of the waste legislation through existing forums. Staff propose that the Council formally submits on the upcoming waste policy and legislative consultations.

Regional engagement

30. At the regional level there are multiple processes and mechanisms for influencing and collaborating on climate change action.
31. The Waikato Plan has included a climate change workstream as part of the implementation and is in the process of identifying the priority areas for the region, these include transport, communication and knowledge sharing. Staff are actively involved in the climate change workstream and Councillor Gallagher is the Hamilton City Council representative on the Waikato Plan Leadership Committee.
32. The Waikato Wellbeing Project (WWP) established a regional target of reducing greenhouse gas emission across the region by a minimum of 25% by 2030. Under the leadership of Harvey Brooks the WWP is now establishing its operating model and the next phase of implementation.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

33. This is a regular operating activity funded through the Long-Term Plan.

Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

34. Staff confirm that this matter complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

35. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
36. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
37. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

38. The upcoming changes in legislation and policy have the potential to support the social wellbeing of our community if they are well designed and developed. Through the opportunities outlined in the report the Council can advocate for outcomes that will create a just transition and enhanced social wellbeing.

Economic

39. There are economic changes required as part of the transition to a low carbon future and these upcoming policy changes will impact some sectors of the economy more than others. There will be new opportunities for employment and economic benefit for Hamilton as a result of the transition and some of these upcoming policies and plans are a way for Council to advocate for Hamilton.

Environmental

40. The Resource Management Reform is proposed to be the most significant, broad-ranging and inclusive review of the resource management system since the Resource Management Act was introduced in 1991. It presents an important opportunity for Council to advocate for the environment and for integrating climate change considerations effectively.

Cultural

41. As part of our engagement with climate change issues we can advocate for cultural wellbeing for our community, ensuring that it is considered appropriately as the policies and legislation are developed.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

42. There are no known risks associated with this matter.

Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui***Significance**

43. Having considered the Significance and Engagement Policy, staff have assessed that the matters in this report have low significance.

Engagement

44. Community views and preferences are already known to the Council through previous consultation on the vision and targeted stakeholder engagement for the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

There are no attachments for this report.