

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Tuesday 22 February 2022
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Council Chamber and Audio visual link
Venue: Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Lance Vervoort
Chief Executive

Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN AGENDA

Membership

Chairperson Cr Gallagher
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr S Thomson
Heamana Tuarua

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

Quorum: A majority of members (including vacancies)

Meeting Frequency: Six weekly

Amy Viggers
Mana Whakahaere
Governance

14 February 2022

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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.

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1 Apologies – *Tono aroha*

2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

The Committee to confirm the agenda.

3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga*

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: 22 February 2022

Author: Carmen Fortin

Authoriser: Michelle Hawthorne

Position: Governance Advisor

Position: Governance and Assurance
Manager

Report Name: Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 30
November 2021

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 30 November 2021 as a true and correct record.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Environment Committee Unconfirmed Open Minutes - 30 November 2021

Environment Committee *Komiti Taiao* OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton and Audio Visual Link on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 1.04pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Gallagher
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr S Thomson
Heamana Tuarua

Members Cr A O’Leary (exclusively via audio visual)
Cr D Macpherson
Cr M Donovan
Maangai Maaori N Hill (exclusively via audio visual)

In Attendance Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication
Maria Barrie – Unit Director Parks and Recreation
Luke Archbold – Parks Operational Planning and Capital Projects Manager
Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Environment Advisor

Governance Staff Becca Brooke – Governance Manager
Carmen Fortin and Tyler Gaukrodger – Governance Advisors

1. **Apologies – *Tono aroha***
Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Thomson)
That the apologies from Mayor Southgate and Cr Naidoo-Rauf and partial apologies from Cr Macpherson be accepted.
2. **Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***
Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Thomson)
That the agenda is confirmed noting that there will be a late verbal update taken as part of item 6 (Chair’s Report) concerning COP26 conference update.
3. **Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***
No members of the Council 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 - 26 August 2021

Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 26 August 2021 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report (*Recommendation to the Council*)

The Chair introduced the report and provided a verbal updates concerning COP26, and Free Fares Campaign which aims to allow for free fares and increase the use of public transport to young people the free fares campaign. A summary of the update on COP26 is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 1**. He then outlined his updated recommendation, thanked the Sustainability and Environment Advisor for all of her work on the Climate Change response and welcomed the new Sustainability and Climate Senior Advisor.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Macpherson)

That the Environment Committee recommends the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves to support the 'Free Fares Campaign' to central government which is seeking free bus fares for community service card holders, tertiary students and under 25's; and
- c) delegates authority to the Mayor to sign the petition on the Councils behalf; and
- d) recommends that the Council delegates its Regional Connections Committee Members to discuss the petition at the Regional Connections Committee.

Cr Macpherson joined the meeting (1.13pm) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

7. Nature in the City – Update

The Parks Operational Planning and Capital Projects Manager introduced the report, noting the benefits map attached to the report was focused on the first 10 years of the programme. He also outlined the focus on the outputs of community engagement, participation, and voluntary restoration. He responded to questions from Members regarding areas of focus reasoning, recognition of cultural context and input within communication, opportunities outside of the gullies such as in transport corridors, engagement with schools, opportunities with Waikato DHB for greenspaces, the review of greenspace, and land banking opportunities.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Mapherson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

8. Update on 2021/2022 Climate Change Action Plan

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced the report, noting the updated format to the monitoring report, and the actions across the organisation within monitoring report. Staff responded to questions from Members regarding opportunities to reduce emissions through renewable energy supply, non-biogenic methane emissions monitoring, bio-solid methane emissions through waste and landfill, emissions projections, Long-Term Plan considerations for faster action on emission reduction,

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to include non-biogenic methane emissions in the next Climate Change Action Plan monitoring report to the Committee.*

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Donovan)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) request staff report back to the 22 February 2022 Environment Committee meeting on options to reduce emissions from Council's energy use, including opportunities for reducing energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency and onsite renewable energy generation; and
- c) approves the changes to the 2021/2022 Climate Change Action Plan as indicated in **Attachment 1** of the staff report.

9. General Manager's Report

The General Manager Strategy and Communication took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Members regarding future opportunities to discuss the emission targets of Waikato Regional Council, membership of the Waikato Regional Council and Hamilton City Council Climate Collaboration Forum, and the Climate Change Strategy approval process.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to provide an update to members regarding target actions from the Working Group lead by Councillor Strange, the Regional Transport Committee Councillors Working Group and the subsequent staff Working Group.*

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) notes that a report will be presented to the Environment Committee regarding options and improvement to litter management in parks and reserves prior to end of 2022; and
- c) notes that additional Waste Minimisation funding will be considered at the appropriate time within the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.17pm.

Appendix 1

Thinking globally Acting Locally

TOTI/CHEC University of Waikato COP26 local panels November 1- 12, 2021

1. Continuing concern that we are not facing up to the seriousness & urgency...

Blah blah blah as Greta Thunberg said....

Unfortunate that our PM Jacinda did not go to Glasgow....

Don't leave it up to the children...

Even if we win on climate change, we'll still need to work on social and economic practices that also endanger the world, and humanity....Sustainable Development.....

2. People are asking what they can do....

MOBILISE....

Put public pressure on our leaders, national and local

Insist on action on the Big Picture elements

Share the local stories – the people are on the move...

3. Join the dots – INTEGRATED ACTIONSKAITIAKITANGA

KOTAHITANGA....leaders and academics and flaxroots

WANANGA - talking together

4. SYSTEMIC REFORM – innovative new era focussing on prevention & cure, resilience and adaptation... are we confident that current restructuring promises (LG, 3Waters, Housing) will deliver? Too much 'status quo' ...INNOVATE....SHARE KNOWLEDGE

5. Three examples of priorities

Forest restoration (rather than monocultural pine trees)....land restoration.... Urban forests for recreation, human health, ecosystem health and CO2 uptake.

Stomp on SUV & ute urban fashion. Don't pin our hopes on electric cars. Reduce car usage In Britain, noticeable drop in public transport because of Covid fear.....mask wearing? Tell kids to get on yer bike...or scooter....

Build 'neighbourhoods', not just housing... Reform building regulations to require safer, more liveable homes through eco-housing minimising energy use for heating & cooling; city gardens, good for health, people's income, and climate change; 20 minute city (basic facilities within 20 minute walk, less need for energy consuming transport.

6. Increase support/prioritise funding for local initiatives (as well as international assistance)

Item 5

Attachment 1

COP 26 FOLLOW_UP

Sources of programmes and links to access recordings of events

The resources listed below should be viewed as a living document. Deeper analyses and more divergent interpretations will appear in publications of key actors in the non-governmental and private sector spaces as well as in the academic literature. The primary aims, here, were to give some impression to those not in attendance of the diversity of pavilions (or, 'stands') in which to engage with debates at the COP; and, in the final section, to present some of the initial overviews by seasoned and expert commentators. There is, admittedly, little on the opposition from Saudi Arabia and Russia, but for a better idea of the full range of pavilions, see the images circulated previously on the CHEC daily information feed from Glasgow.

I hope colleagues will send links to me at nsjwatts@gmail.com so that we can get a better picture of the emerging discourse post-COP26, particularly across the Commonwealth and especially from our friends in New Zealand. This will enable us to keep the list updated, at least until it gets too long and unwieldy.

THE PAVILIONS

LIST OF 35 PAVILIONS AT COP26

<https://cop23.unfccc.int/cop26/pavilions>

THE COMMONWEALTH AT COP26

Commonwealth Secretariat

<https://climate.thecommonwealth.org>

includes access to event recordings for weeks 1 and 2 of COP26.

THE EU AT COP26

https://www.vo-europe.eu/assets/docs/COP26_EU_SIDE_EVENTS_PROGRAMME.pdf

THE FRANCOPHONIE AT COP26

<https://www.ifdd.francophonie.org>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

<https://www.iipfccpavilion.org/cop26-pavilion-programme> (no longer directly accessible)

ENERGY

Global

Wind

Energy

Council

<https://windareyouin.com/index.php/news/gwec-announces-cop26-pavilion-schedulegwec-announces-cop26-pavilion-schedule/>

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

WWF

https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/climate_and_energy_practice/cop26/

https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_cop26_pavilion_event_schedule.pdf

WWF Manifesto for COP26

https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ambition_red_lines_a_wwf_climate_policy_manifesto_for_cop26.pdf

Nature+Zone

<https://www.naturepositive.org>

http://4fqbik2blqkb1nrebde8yxqj-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NatureZone-Event-Schedule-4_11-1-copy.pdf

RURAL DEVELOPMENT/AGRICULTURE

IFAD The International Fund for Agricultural Development

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/events/cop26>

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

<https://www.clgf.org.uk/whats-new/news/clgf-at-cop26-local-government-for-climate-change/>

ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability/ International Council of Local Environment Initiatives/Marrakech Partnership

<https://circulars.iclei.org/update/cities-regions-and-built-environment-action-event/>

<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/marrakech-partnership-at-cops/high-level-champions-and-marrakech-partnership-at-cop26>

The Multilevel Action Pavilion

<https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/multilevel-action-pavilion-agenda-cop26.pdf>

OCEAN AND CLIMATE

One Ocean Hub

<https://oneoceanhub.org>

<https://oneoceanhub.org/one-ocean-hubs-cop26-side-events-registration-now-open/>

FINANCE

Adaptation Fund

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/cop26/>

IDFC (international Development Finance Club)

<https://www.idfc.org/idfc-is-at-cop-26-in-glasgow-uk/>

Gfanz: Impact Finance Bulletin

https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20211112/impact-finance-bulletin-gfanz-growth-sees-40-of-world-s-financial-assets?utm_source=PPnewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=332

HEALTH

WHO

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/cop26-health-programme/health-events-at-cop26>

SCIENCE

Met Office

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/learn-about/climate/cop/science_pavilion_programme-finalv2.pdf

SDGs**SDGs Pavilion – UNDESA**

<https://www.un.org/en/COP26/SDGPavilion>

WATER

<https://water4climate.us2.pathable.com>

[https://water4climate.us2.pathable.com/agenda#/?limit=20&scroll=item,3Ttcn88wWzC427E3N,3Ttcn88wWzC427E3N,498,1,0&sortByFields\[0\]=startsAt&sortByOrders\[0\]=1&uid=g8R6QQkFR4MwX4CeB](https://water4climate.us2.pathable.com/agenda#/?limit=20&scroll=item,3Ttcn88wWzC427E3N,3Ttcn88wWzC427E3N,498,1,0&sortByFields[0]=startsAt&sortByOrders[0]=1&uid=g8R6QQkFR4MwX4CeB)

OUTCOMES**Glasgow Climate Pact**

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf

GRIST _ COP26 GAPS

<https://grist.org/cop26/the-progress-and-failures-of-cop26-in-3-charts/>

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/15/cop26-pacific-delegates-condemn-monumental-failure-that-leaves-islands-in-peril>

IISD/ENB Final Report

https://enb.iisd.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/enb12793e_1.pdf

Carbon Brief

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop26-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-glasgow>

Nicholas Watts 22 November 2021

Council Report

Item 6

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 22 February 2022

Author: Carmen Fortin

Authoriser: Michelle Hawthorne

Position: Governance Advisor

Position: Governance and Assurance
Manager

Report Name: Chair's Report

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Recommendation

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Chair's Report



Chair's Report

On 8 August 2019, the council resolved that it would treat climate change with urgency and develop a climate action plan.

Since then we have approved two action plans. However, these action plans have been largely retrospective; providing visibility of what we are already doing as a council to respond to climate change.

The challenge before us now is to set our intentions for the future. What should our city look like in 2030, 2035 or 2040? This is where the Climate Change Strategy comes in.

Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It will impact on almost every aspect of what the council does. We need to set out a pathway for how we will contribute to the global effort to keep warming below 1.5 degrees, and to ensure that our city is well-placed to adapt to the changes that are already locked in.

We encourage elected members to take part in the workshop on 22 February where we'll be discussing and shaping an initial draft of the strategy.

We also look forward to Annual Plan discussions and note that two key priorities for this Committee will be resourcing for the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy across the organisation and the development of an Urban Tree Strategy in preparation for the 2024-34 long-term plan.

Recommendation

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Councillors Martin Gallagher and Sarah Thomson

Chair and Deputy Chair, Environment Committee

Council Report

Item 7

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 22 February 2022
Author: Poppy Barran **Authoriser:** Sean Hickey
Position: Sustainability and Climate Change Advisor **Position:** General Manager Strategy and Communications
Report Name: Update on 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan

Report Status	Open
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Environment Committee on the delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan to date.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Staff present a yearly Climate Change Action Plan to the Environment Committee and provide a quarterly update on the delivery of this plan via a Monitoring Report.
4. The 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan was approved at the 26 August 2021 Environment Committee meeting, with a subsequent amendment at the 30 November 2021 Environment Committee meeting. The first Monitoring Report for the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan was provided at the 30 November 2021 Environment Committee meeting.
5. The second Monitoring Report for the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan can be seen in **Attachment 1** and shows that most actions are on track, with four out of 45 actions requiring additional monitoring or have had timing adjustments as a result of COVID-19 restrictions or resourcing issues.
6. This report highlights the work undertaken and effects of COVID-19 on reducing emissions from Council's energy use. This includes a 4.4% reduction in electricity and a 58% reduction in natural gas for the period of July-November 2021 (compared to July-November 2020).
7. Staff consider the matters in this report have low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

8. On 10 September 2020, the Environment Committee approved the first Climate Change Action Plan which was for the 2020/21 period. In the 2020/21 Action Plan, Council set two emissions reduction targets for our operational emissions and outlined actions to support emissions reduction and adaptation across the city.

9. On 1 June 2021 staff presented a final report to the Environment Committee of the actions delivered in the 2020/21 Action Plan.
10. Staff presented an updated Action Plan for this financial year (2021/22) to the Environment Committee on 26 August 2021. The report was approved subject to an additional section being included in the Action Plan regarding the targets, actions, and timing for emissions reduction. At the same Committee meeting a forward work programme was approved for the Environment Committee, which included a quarterly monitoring report on the delivery of the 2021/22 Action Plan.
11. The additional section to the Action Plan was added to the 2021/22 Action Plan and presented at the 30 November 2021 Environment Committee meeting, along with the first Monitoring Report for the 2021/22 Action Plan.
12. At the 30 November 2021 Environment Committee meeting, staff were asked to include information on biogenic emissions in the next Monitoring Report of the 2021/22 Action Plan, and to report back on options to reduce emissions from Council's energy use, including opportunities for reducing energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency, and onsite renewable energy generation.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

Monitoring of the delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan

13. The second quarterly update on the delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan is provided in **Attachment 1**.
14. This Monitoring Report includes additional information on biogenic emissions for 2020/21. There has been a slight reduction in our biogenic emissions from the 2018/19 baseline amount. The key project that will reduce the biogenic emissions is funded in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan in years 2024/25 and 2025/26.
15. The Monitoring Report also includes the addition of "Ongoing behaviour change projects" to reduce fleet, waste, and energy emissions. These actions have been included to ensure that Hamilton City Council staff are part of the climate change response journey and are modelling sustainable behaviours.
16. Whilst progress is being made on many of the actions in the plan, the recent changes to COVID-19 'traffic light' system and restrictions have had some impacts on the progression of some actions. There are also some resourcing constraints, and delays due to central government changes, which have impacted work programmes. These are all noted in the attachment.

Options to reduce emissions from Council's energy use

17. There are a number of projects already in place to reduce energy (electricity and natural gas) use across the organisation.
18. For the five months July 2021 to November 2021, compared to the same period the year before (July – November 2020), electricity use reduced by 4.4%, saving 66 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). For this same period, natural gas use reduced by 58%, saving 557tCO₂e.
19. The largest electricity savings were:
 - a) Wastewater Treatment Plant – due to new efficient air blowers;
 - b) Claudelands Event Centre – due to the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions;
 - c) Streetlights – due to LED upgrades;
 - d) Waterworld – due to the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions; and

- e) Municipal Building – due to a new efficient air conditioning system and the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions.
- 20. The largest natural gas reductions were:
 - a) Wastewater Treatment Plant – due to the gas engine no longer being used for peak load management;
 - b) Waterworld – due to the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions; and
 - c) Nursery – due to an alternative process for heating.
- 21. Included in the Monitoring Report (**Attachment 1**) is an action for “Ongoing behaviour change projects – Energy” to keep track of the changes made across Council to continue to reduce emissions.
- 22. Work has commenced on strategic master planning for the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants and includes consideration of onsite solar power generation. This work is in the early stages and will be developed over the next 12 to 18 months.
- 23. Staff have implemented weekly Building Management System checks by a contractor for our automated buildings. This is proactively identifying issues and avoiding unnecessary energy use across the large building portfolio.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

- 24. This is a regular operating activity that was approved as part of our work programme and has been delivered through funding that was allocated in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan.

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

- 25. Staff confirm that the recommendation complies with the Council’s legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

- 26. 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’).
- 27. 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.
- 28. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

- 29. Climate change has the potential to reduce our community’s social wellbeing, especially our more vulnerable community members. The 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan includes actions that will support Council to identify these potential risks and to take action to minimise the risks and enhance social wellbeing.

Economic

- 30. The delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan outlines how we are 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

31. The delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build our resilience. This includes reducing Council's operating emissions and enabling others to reduce emissions through actions like improved cycleways and public transport.

Cultural

32. The long-term impacts of climate change may affect the cultural wellbeing of our community, for example if values and customs are unable to be undertaken or if native biodiversity (that play an important part in culture) is lost.
33. Delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan will require collaboration across the organisation and with the community, to understand these risks and build consideration of them into long-term decisions.
34. In line with He Pou Manawa Ora, the delivery of this Action Plan will contribute towards He Pou Manawa Koorero (Pillar of History). This pillar reminds us of the value of our unique history of language, people, and place. By responding to climate change and protecting the values, customs, and other cultural aspects of our community, we will protect and restore the unique history of Kirikiriroa Hamilton.
35. Delivery of this Action Plan also contributes to He Pou Manawa Taurika (Pillar of Prosperity) as responding to climate change will provide safety, security and opportunities for our community and culture to prosper in a changing environment.
36. Projects in the Action Plan also speak to the Pillar of Restoration, He Pou Manawa Taiao, as restoring and enhancing our natural environment is a key part of our climate change response.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

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

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

Significance

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

Engagement

39. Community views and preferences on the items in the Climate Change Action Plan are already known to the Council through previous engagements, including consultation on the Long-Term Plan. Additional engagement on the implementation of specific projects will occur on a case-by-case basis.
40. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan Monitoring Report - February 2022

2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan – Monitoring Report

February 2022

Item 7

Attachment 1

Our climate change response			
Action	Description	Update February 2022	Status
Climate Change and Environment Policy	We are developing a Climate Change and Environment Policy, which will ensure that climate change is embedded in our decision-making process across Council.	A first draft of the policy has been reviewed and will be presented to the Environment Committee at a workshop on 22 February 2022. Their feedback will be incorporated into a final draft which will be presented to Council in May 2022. Subject to approval from Council, the policy will be implemented from May 2022.	On track
Climate Change Strategy	We are developing our Climate Change Strategy, which will outline our vision for Kirikiriroa Hamilton in 2050 and how we will transition to a low carbon, resilient city.	We continue to work with consultants to set emissions reduction targets for the Climate Change Strategy. A first draft of the Strategy and supporting documents will be presented to the Environment Committee at a workshop on 22 February 2022. Their feedback will be incorporated into a final draft which will be presented to Council in May 2022.	On track
Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan	This plan will be developed following adoption of the Climate Change Strategy.	<i>No change</i> – Relevant ideas from the strategy development have been noted to assist with developing the Implementation Plan at a later date.	On track
Capacity building	We will continue to build capacity on climate change across the organisation.	<p>We continue to work with the Corporate Sustainability Working Group, who champion climate change and sustainability initiatives across the business. We are also planning to host a staff Climate Connect event as part of Climathon Waikato 2022.</p> <p>We have not been able to progress further with climate change learning and development model for staff due to resourcing issues. However, we still expect to deliver this in 2021/22.</p>	On track

Attachment 1

Action	Description	Update	Status
Collaboration and communication	We will continue to collaborate with our community and stakeholders.	We are planning to speak with THaWK to receive feedback on the draft Climate Change Strategy and understand how best to involve iwi in the development of our Action Plan (following strategy approval). We are sponsoring and plan to be involved in the Climathon Waikato 2022 with lead-up events from February onwards (dependent on COVID-19 restrictions). We continue to represent Hamilton City Council in climate-focussed groups in the region, such as the Waikato Plan (climate change workstream) and WLASS (Energy and Carbon Management Group). Further information on climate-focussed communications can be found in the Climate Change and Environment Communication and Engagement Summary Report presented at the 22 February 2022 Environment Committee meeting.	On track
Hamilton Climate Accord	We will invite leading organisations across the city to be a part of the Accord and to partner with us in taking action on climate change.	Following a pause on this project last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we plan to re-engage a consultant to assist with developing the Hamilton Climate Accord and are currently in the planning phase of this piece of work. We plan for the Climate Accord to be established in line with development of the Action Plan (following strategy approval in May 2022).	Timelines delayed due to COVID-19 impacts

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Reducing our operational emissions				
Action	Description	Update	Emissions profile source	Status
Measure 2020/21 emissions profile	<p>Each year we will measure the non-biogenic emissions from council activities and operations, building, facilities, and our fleet. Non-biogenic emissions are produced non-biological sources, and most notably from fossil fuels.</p> <p>We have a target to achieve 50% reduction of gross emissions (excluding biogenic methane) by 2030.</p>	<i>No change</i> - Our emissions profile for 2020/21 has been calculated, and we generated 10,802tCO ₂ e of non-biogenic emissions.	N/A	Completed
Monitor biogenic emissions	<p>Biogenic emissions are those produced from biological (plant and animal) sources. In 2018/19 the Council generated 11,159tCO₂e of biogenic emissions from the treatment of Hamilton's wastewater.</p> <p>We have a target to achieve a 25% reduction of emissions of biogenic methane by 2030.</p>	<p>We have calculated our biogenic emissions for 2020/21 to be approximately 10,892tCO₂e, which is a slight (2%) reduction from baseline.</p> <p>The key project planned to reduce our biogenic emissions is to utilise the biogas that is currently flared at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Instead of the biogas being flared (and creating biogenic emissions), we could use this resource to produce electricity, hydrogen, and/or heat. This would reduce our biogenic emissions from methane and achieve the biogenic emissions reduction target. This could also help to reduce our non-biogenic emissions by reducing the amount of power/electricity imported to the plant. Funding for this project has been secured across 2024/25 - 2025/26. <i>For an update on this project, see 'Change to an alternative energy source at Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant' on page 5.</i></p>	N/A	Completed

Action	Description	Update	Emissions profile source	Status
Fleet improvements	As vehicles are renewed, they will benefit from continuous fuel efficiency improvements. We will replace petrol and diesel fleet vehicles with lower-emissions alternatives and implement behaviour change projects that encourage more sustainable travel.	In November 2021, staff presented at an Environment Committee workshop to inform elected members of a pathway to a fleet emissions reduction target that was achievable by 2030. Staff are currently undertaking a stocktake of assets and have engaged a consultant to assist with outlining a high-level roadmap for the future of fleet at Hamilton City Council. We are also working on journey-mapping for corporate passenger vehicles (cars and SUVs) which will help with further investigating carshare/e-taxi options.	Fuel	On track
Ongoing behaviour projects – Fleet	We are investigating options to reduce emissions from Council's fleet use, including the Workplace Travel Plan, e-bike schemes, and other behaviour-change projects.	Work is progressing on the staff Workplace Travel Plan (<i>see page 10 for further information</i>), and staff are also having discussions with Waikato Regional Council and Waikato DHB regarding travel planning and collective partnership options for alternative transport modes. We have completed the fourth tranche of the staff e-bike scheme and events such as the Aotearoa Bike Challenge and World Car Free Day are planned to be promoted internally.	Fuel	On track
Energy efficiency and sustainability upgrades at community libraries	Emissions reductions plans are being scoped out as part of libraries renewals programmes over the next 10 years.	<i>No change</i> – Staff are working on the designs for a new heating and ventilation system at Garden Place library. The main carbon reductions will occur once the new system is installed and natural gas will no longer be required, which is expected to be in 2022/23.	Electricity Natural gas	On track

Action	Description	Update	Emissions profile source	Status
Upgrade lighting in Council Municipal Building	Lighting in the Municipal Building will be upgraded to LED lights which adjust based on the amount of natural light and motion.	New lighting has been installed on Level 6 and on Level 2 (Caro Wing). Occupancy and daylight controls are to be commissioned. The remaining upgrades are going ahead as planned.	Electricity	On track
Renew heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in Municipal Building	The centralised air conditioning system will be replaced with a decentralised one. The two gas boilers and cooling towers will become redundant.	This project is temporarily on hold as all labour/resources are currently reallocated to another heating, ventilation, and air conditioning project in the organisation. It is estimated that this will cause a 3-month delay, with restart date expected to be in mid-February 2022.	Natural gas	Timelines delayed due to resourcing
Change to a low-carbon heat source at Waterworld	The current heating source used at Waterworld will change to a low-carbon heating source in 2021/22, with an objective to reduce carbon emissions from water heating by at least 80%.	Staff are considering how the decision to enclose the Outdoor Pool at Waterworld (from 2023/24) will impact this project, as year-round use of the outdoor pool will require heating. A heating consultant is expected to be appointed for this work by February 2022.	Natural gas	On track
Changes to heating and planting at the nursery	Changes in planting will reduce the need for heating, and we are investigating options for the heating that is required.	Nursery boilers were not needed during 2021, and staff will continue to monitor the Nursery needs for 2022. The heat beds that were implemented in 2021 (to reduce gas usage) are working well.	Natural gas	On track
Change to an alternative energy source at Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant	We are investigating options to utilise biogas (that is currently being flared) as an energy source.	Staff are currently exploring opportunities to bring forward the short-listing options analysis for this project. It should be noted that due to critical operations at the plant, there will always be a need for back up generation provided by either diesel or natural gas.	Electricity Natural gas	On track

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Action	Description	Update	Emissions profile source	Status
Ongoing behaviour projects – Energy	We are investigating options to reduce emissions from Council's energy use through behaviour change projects.	Staff will work with the Corporate Sustainability Working Group to identify behaviour change projects to reduce energy usage across the business.	Electricity Natural gas	On track
Ongoing behaviour projects – Waste	We are investigating options to reduce emissions from Council's waste through behaviour-change projects.	Staff will work with the Corporate Sustainability Working Group and the waste team to identify behaviour change projects for minimising waste across Council.	Waste	On track

Creating a low carbon city					
Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Transport	Access Hamilton refresh	We are updating our transport strategy, Access Hamilton. This will guide how we plan our transport infrastructure and services; how we will reduce transport emissions; and the role of walking, cycling, public transport and alternative fuels in reducing emissions. We expect this to be completed in 2022.	In December 2021, the scoping report outlining the purpose and process of the refresh was approved by the Infrastructure Operations Committee (see Infrastructure Operations Committee Agenda and Minutes , 7 December 2021). Staff have worked with Elected Members to develop draft principles and key themes (with further refinement of wording expected), that will be used throughout the strategy refresh process to ensure that the final document reflects the needs of Hamiltonians and Elected Members. Key workshops to discuss setting the outcomes and actions are planned with Elected Members for February and March 2022, and staff are on track to present the refreshed strategy to the Infrastructure Operations Committee in May 2022.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Eastern Pathways – Schools Link Programme Business Case	Eastern Pathways – Schools Link is a programme of active transport and public transport infrastructure along Hukanui Road and Peachgrove Road.	At the Waka Kotahi Board meeting in December 2021, the Board formally approved funding for the Eastern Pathways – Schools Link Programme. The Board endorsed the business case and approved \$2.8m of pre-implementation funding for two major sections of the project. Staff are currently focussing on pre-implementation work for these sections. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Open Agenda, 24 February 2022.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

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Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Transport (cont.)	Biking & micro-mobility Programme Business Case	This programme focuses on extending Hamilton's multi-modal transport network, to encourage biking and micro-mobility as a safe and attractive transport options.	We continue to work with Waka Kotahi to finalise the business case for this city-wide programme. The business case will be presented to the Waka Kotahi board in May 2022. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Agenda, 24 February 2022.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Biking & micro-mobility connectivity projects	We are making it easier for people to walk, ride, and scoot around our city, and to reduce our transport emissions and dependency on private vehicles.	We continue to upgrade and provide biking infrastructure across the city, including cycle wands, intersection improvements, cyclist footrest rails, bike parking facilities, and more. Key actions for improving pedestrian and cyclist connectivity and safety have been completed, and further projects are being investigated and designed, including the Claudelands East intersections of Claudelands Road/Heaphy Terrace/Grey Street/Brooklyn Road/O'Neil Street and the Lake Domain Road/Killarney Road intersection linking to the Western Rail Trail. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Open Agenda, 24 February 2022. In December 2021, the Infrastructure Operations Committee approved the partial delivery of the planned Biking and Micro-mobility Programme utilising \$1.5m of budgeted Hamilton City Council funding, without Waka Kotahi co-investment, from the current financial year. Priority sites for delivery are currently being assessed. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Agenda and Minutes , 7 December 2021.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Transport (cont.)	Education and training	Provide education and training, including a cycle skills programme for both schools and the community to build rider skills and confidence.	Staff are collaborating with local bike advocates to participate in planned events around the city throughout February, which is 'Bike Month', subject to COVID-19 'traffic light' restrictions. Dependent on these restrictions, staff are hoping to start the 'Kids on Bikes' programme when schools return. Staff are also planning to offer adult bike courses to the community (with limited numbers and safe COVID-19 protocols in place), which will be publicised via the Hamilton City Council website when finalised.	Infrastructure Operations	At risk – COVID-19 impact
	Improving our bus network	We are working with Waikato Regional Council and Waka Kotahi to make our key public transport routes more reliable and to make it easier for people to batch buses.	Studies to identify specific network issues and infrastructure opportunities that will help improve service reliability, attract more patrons, and inform long-term planning for public transport, have been completed or are nearing completion for the Comet, Meteor, Rototuna, and hospital area services. In December 2021, the Infrastructure Operations Committee approved bringing forward and reassigning local share transport funding to public transport improvements in 2021/22. Staff are currently assessing priority areas for delivery along the Comet and new Meteor routes. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Agenda and Minutes , 7 December 2021, and in the Infrastructure Operations Committee Agenda, 24 February 2022.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

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Attachment 1

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Transport (cont.)	Transport Centre Rejuvenation Project	This project focuses on improving accessibility, safety, and operational efficiency of the Transport Centre.	A Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is currently out with the open market and will close in late January 2022. A report will be presented to the Infrastructure Operations Committee in February 2022 for scope change. The outcome will feed into the scope of the Request for Proposal that will be issued to shortlisted parties from the REOI process.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Hamilton City Council Workplace Travel Plan	Work is underway to provide more sustainable modes of traveling to, from, and during work for Hamilton City Council staff.	The draft Workplace Travel Plan has been updated to reflect feedback from Hamilton City Council's Executive Leadership Team. Staff plan to hold a workshop with Elected Members in February 2022 to seek guidance on the plan's development and feedback on the idea of a governance travel plan. We are on track to announce and launch the activities of the staff Workplace Travel Plan in early 2022, subject to approval and funding.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Electric vehicle charging stations	We are looking into partnership opportunities for EV charging stations throughout the city, to align with WRC Regional Charging Plan.	Conversations are continuing with electric vehicle charging station providers as more companies approach Hamilton City Council to discuss their products. Staff are preparing a proposal that will be presented to the Infrastructure Operations Committee in early 2022, regarding progressing opportunities for EV charging stations throughout the city.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Urban form	Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy review	Climate change will be considered throughout the review process of the Hamilton Urban Growth strategy, which is our spatial vision for the city.	The timeframes for reviewing Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy have been shifted to align with the District Plan Change. This will ensure that the evidence basis for Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy can be relied upon by the District Plan Change team (and vice versa). A key part of this strategy review is to embed climate change considerations into the way the city prioritises how we accommodate growth.	Strategic Growth	On track
	District Plan review	We are currently reviewing the District Plan to respond to the National Policy Statement for Urban Development and the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Act. Through this work, we need to give effect to the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, which will give rise to improved climate change outcomes.	Staff continue to work through the implications of the new act with the aim to notify variations to the plan by August 2022.	District Plan	On track
	Greenway corridor for Rotokauri	The greenway corridor will act primarily as a stormwater device for Rotokauri, but will also create an opportunity for cycleways, walkways, planting and habitats.	Climate change continues to be considered throughout the development of the greenway corridor, for example by ensuring developers are investing in flood modelling and stormwater concept designs which take into account climate change.	Strategic Growth	On track

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Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Urban form (cont.)	Walking, cycling and public transport for Rotokauri	We are integrating walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure and services in our future plans for Rotokauri.	Stage 2 of the Zoo Waiwhakareke Entry Precinct project is underway, which includes road urbanisation to reduce speed, improve crossing safety for all, and a shared path linking the newly built Baverstock Road path through to the entry precinct.	Strategic Growth	On track
	Peacocke Green Star Community rating	We are using the Green Star Communities Framework to guide and support the development of a sustainable community for Peacocke.	Staff continue to work with consultants to undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment and prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan for the Peacocke area, as part of the Green Star Communities application. A workshop with key stakeholders from both within and outside Council was held in late January 2022, to explore the risks and opportunities in this space.	Strategic Growth	On track
	Environmental wellbeing activities for Peacocke	We will protect and enhance the natural taonga, green spaces, and biodiversity as we develop Peacocke.	Work continues in accordance with the Ecological Monitoring and Management Plan and annual bat monitoring will begin soon.	Strategic Growth	On track
	Peacocke Plan Change 5	As we design for Peacocke, we are incorporating high ecological and transport outcomes, increasing density to support public transport, and protecting the natural environment.	A summary of Plan Change 5 submissions to date and a request for further submissions will be notified in February 2022.	Strategic Growth	On track

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Waste	Tronpost	Council has been sharing the compost made from Hamilton's food waste, dubbed 'Tronpost', with community groups.	Tronpost is now available for sale to the public at the Hamilton Organic Centre. Signage is being developed to highlight the Tronpost, and courtesy trailers are now available for use free of charge.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Waste plans for new developments	We require all new properties and developments to have a waste plan that includes storage space for rubbish and recycling bins, and access for collection vehicles.	Staff are working to develop an IS solution for the receipt and processing of waste plans. The launch of this project is proposed for late March 2022 to coincide with a Green Building Council event being held in Hamilton. There continue to be staff resourcing constraints, however the administration of the waste plans has been prioritised in workload planning.	Infrastructure Operations	Timelines delayed due to resourcing
	Collaboration with the construction industry	We will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders to address the growing construction and demolition waste issue.	<i>No change</i> - Staff continue to work collaboratively with Waikato Regional Council and local businesses who are already practicing waste minimisation behaviours. We plan to use these as case studies for other businesses, and to trial ways we can help them to divert more waste from site.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Waste minimisation education	We will continue to educate the community about waste minimisation via our Fight the Landfill website, and in the new Education Room for schools and community groups.	A number of opportunities have been identified to work with schools in the coming months (dependent on COVID-19 restrictions), including participation in a workshop run by Sustainability Trust where staff hope to find schools to partner with on waste minimisation initiatives and to promote sessions at the Education Room. Staff are also currently investigating the idea of a Waste Minimisation Trophy awarded to a 'champion' school, as well as an art competition open to school-age groups with a waste minimisation message.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

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Attachment 1

Building a resilient city					
Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Water	Stormwater adaptation	We are ensuring that climate change considerations are embedded into the way we design and improve stormwater networks.	The city-wide flood management project is progressing well, with Te Rapa flood data released in December 2021. Staff are currently focused on Waitiwhiriwhiri (Dinsdale/Temple View) area. Work is also progressing on city-wide overland flow path and flood depression data.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Rainwater Storage Tanks Incentivisation Study	This project investigates the use, benefits and incentives for rainwater tanks and grey-water reuse as a tool for meeting potable water demand needs.	Staff have completed the report, and the outcomes of the review will now be considered for strategic direction on water sustainability. This action is funded by the Water Stimulus Project.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Water Sustainability Strategy	We are developing a Water Sustainability Strategy to guide the future direction of our water activity.	<i>No change</i> – Staff are co-ordinating engagement with iwi, and work on technical inputs to support strategy and internal policy development is underway. This action is funded by the Water Stimulus Project.	Infrastructure Operations	On track
	Three Waters Resilience Study	As part of our three waters services, we are identifying and assessing our vulnerabilities to hazards including flooding, drought, water allocation and access to resources, all of which are impacted by climate.	<i>No change</i> – A resilience scorecard has been developed and follow-on actions arising from the scorecard assessment are now underway. This action is funded by the Water Stimulus Project.	Infrastructure Operations	On track

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Water (cont.)	Water demand management zones	We will continue to address water leakage across the city by creating supply zones and associated Demand Management Areas. These allow us to better manage consumption and leakage by monitoring network pressures and flows at discrete locations.	Staff are continuing design, procurement, and physical works to allow completion of the three remaining supply zones (Hamilton South, Newcastle, and Pukete).	Infrastructure Operations	On track
Biodiversity	Nature in the City Strategy	This strategy aims to achieve 10% native vegetation cover in Hamilton by 2050.	The programme management plan has been approved, and five positions have been recruited to undertake native restoration including one position to work with volunteer community groups planting in our gullies. Recruitment is underway for a new Programme Manager. Staff have met with the Fairfield Project and initial discussions indicate an interest in working closely together at Donny Park via an established memorandum of understanding. Staff are currently planning to have the first tree for Nature in the City planted during May 2022 and are hoping to have an event for this inaugural planting.	Environment	On track

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Attachment 1

Attachment 1

Outcome area	Action	Description	Update	Responsible committee	Status
Biodiversity (cont.)	Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park	We are continuing to invest in Waiwhakareke to develop path networks and enhance the park as a visitor destination.	Waiwhakareke continues to showcase the benefits of an ecological restoration project in an urban environment and has been enjoyed by large numbers of residents and visitors over the last quarter, totalling 23,000. Anecdotal comments from park users indicate that Waiwhakareke has been a necessary and much-loved refuge, especially at trying times like a pandemic. The scoping for a potential predator-proof fence is progressing well, with a contractor to be engaged in January 2022. Pest animal trapping has removed over 100 pests so far, including possums, rats, and stoats. Recent water quality measurements have shown a continual and pleasing improvement. Plant releasing, track maintenance and weed removal has been continual both with contractors and volunteers, and a permanent Parks Grounds person is starting in February 2022.	Community	On track

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Council Report

Item 8

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 22 February 2022
Author: Jamie Sirl **Authoriser:** Blair Bowcott
Position: Team Leader - City Planning **Position:** General Manager Growth
Report Name: Waikato Bat Alliance and Waikato Regional Bat Strategy

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

1. To update the Environment Committee on the Waikato Bat Alliance and seek endorsement for staff to continue participating in the Alliance; and
2. To seek endorsement of the Waikato Regional Bat Strategy from the Committee.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

3. That the Environment Committee:
 - a) receives the report;
 - b) endorses the Waikato Regional Bat Strategy (**Attachment 1**, page 3); and
 - c) notes continued staff participation in the Waikato Bat Alliance, with the objective of working collaboratively towards the vision of the Waikato Regional Bat Strategy.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

4. Staff have been participating in a sub-regional group, the Waikato Bat Alliance (Alliance) since late 2019.
5. The Alliance was formed to discuss and progress a coordinated view to ensure the persistence of long-tailed bats (pekapeka-tou-roa) in the Waikato region.
6. A discussion document and one-page strategy have been prepared to guide further collaboration between the entities involved and engagement with the wider community (see **Attachment 1**).
7. Staff are seeking endorsement of the Environment Committee of the Waikato Regional Bat Strategy (Strategy), and note continued participating in the Waikato Bat Alliance.
8. Staff consider the decision in this report to have a low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

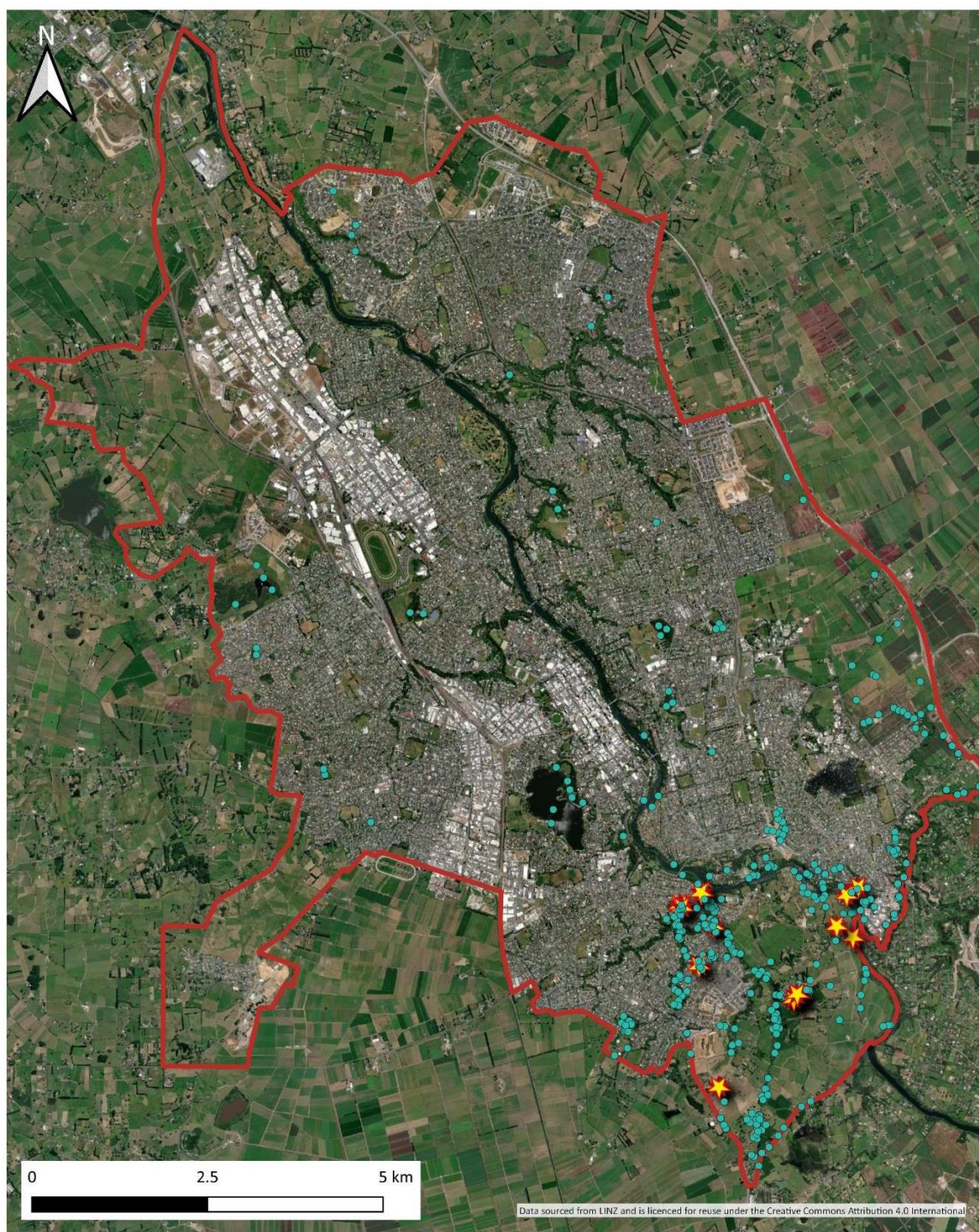
Waikato Bat Alliance

9. The Waikato Bat Alliance (Alliance) is a partnership between Waikato-Tainui, Te Hā o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa (THaWK), Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW), Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Waipā District Council, Waikato District Council, and the Department of Conservation.
10. In establishing the Alliance, the group agreed its role was:

‘to coordinate the collaboration of its members (all with a mandate to protect bat habitat or the bats themselves) and engage productively with stakeholders maximising opportunities to achieve its vision’.
11. The representatives of each organisation making up the Alliance draw from a wide range of disciplines and experience including ecology, tikanga Māori, planning and policy, and arboriculture.
12. The Alliance has no formal status or mandate but provides a forum for representatives of each organisation (with each organisation having their own responsibilities relating to bats and bat habitat) to come together and work through relevant issues.
13. Staff from City Planning, Parks and Recreation and Strategic Development have participated in a number of hui between of 2019 – 2021, which firstly established the Alliance as a forum to discuss the issues and opportunities relevant to the protection of bats and bat habitat across the region, and to collectively coordinate and fund a Waikato Regional Bat Strategy.
14. The need for a coordinated regional approach to bat and bat habitat protection was recently highlighted through the resource consent process for the Amberfield development in Peacocke. The Environment Court judge made comments emphasising the need to work more collaboratively and develop a unified approach to protecting bat habitat at a landscape scale.

Bats in Hamilton

15. Hamilton is one of only a few cities in New Zealand where long-tailed bats are known to persist in an urban landscape.
16. The first study on bats in Hamilton was undertaken in 2011/12, which led to annual city-wide surveys of bats since the summer of 2016/17 until 2020/21. Each year, bats are detected in a greater number of locations, with the highest levels of bat activity consistently in the southern parts of the city. However, bat detections are being recorded more frequently also in the western, eastern, and northern parts of the city.
17. Habitats where bats continue to be detected are primarily the large gullies in the southern parts of the city which are largely still connected (Mangakootukutuku, Mangaonua, Mangaone, and Mangaharakeke gully systems). However, bats continue to be detected sporadically and in low number of detections in some of the gullies in the north of the city, including Mangaiti Gully and Te Awa O Katapaki gully. Bats are known to be roosting within some of these gullies, near the Waikato River, and within shelterbelts set within an open pastureland landscape in the southern parts of the city.
18. Riparian margins along the Waikato River, particularly in the southern parts within Hammond Bush, also see regular and consistent activity throughout the survey seasons.
19. Forest remnants such as Te Papanui - Claudelands Bush and Southwell school in the east, and Farnborough Park and Dinsdale Park in the west of the city see irregular activity and often only a small number of detections per survey season.
20. The following map shows where bats have been detected (turquoise dots) and identified roost sites (yellow stars).



Effects of urbanisation on bats

21. As outlined in a report prepared for the Council District Plan Change 5 ([Peacocke Long-Tailed Bat Report](#)) international and national research identifies the main potential impacts of urbanisation on bats being:

- i. the loss and modification of habitat;
- ii. the severance or partial severance of connectivity between habitat;
- iii. disturbance effects (such as artificial lighting and noise); and
- iv. increases in predators (such as rats).

Role of Hamilton City Council

22. Council is required, under s6(c) of the Resource Management Act, to recognise and provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. One method to achieve this is by identifying and protecting habitat as a Significant Natural Area (SNA).
23. Because of a recorded decline in distribution of known bat populations and susceptibility to predation, long-tailed bats – one of New Zealand's only two extant terrestrial indigenous mammals – are afforded the highest threat status by the Department of Conservation (DOC) of Threatened – Nationally Critical.
24. The habitat of indigenous species within any of the 'Threatened' or 'At Risk' categories is relevant in determining significant biodiversity and recognising and protecting in accordance with the requirements of the RMA.

What Hamilton City Council is currently doing

25. The Peacocke Plan Change (Plan Change 5) protects significant habitat, provides for buffers between habitat and future development, and proposes the protection and establishment of ecological corridors to ensure connections to habitat are maintained as pasture land is developed.
26. The citywide review of Significant Natural Areas identified and protected in the District Plan is underway, which involves identifying significant habitat of indigenous fauna.
27. The Southern Links Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan includes a range of interventions seeking to address the potential effects of the construction and operation of the Southern Links network. Interventions relating to bats include:
 - i. Over 10 ha of gully and 1.5km of stream restoration works including 20 years of predator control (Rats, possums, mustelids, wild cats);
 - ii. Installation of 100 artificial bat roosts;
 - iii. Controls on lighting and the design of gully and river crossings to maintain connectivity;
 - iv. Management of potential construction activity disruption;
 - v. Protection of existing known bat roosts;
 - vi. Vegetation removal protocols to avoid harm to bats;
 - vii. A programme for monitoring bats (e.g. acoustic, thermal, bat box use).
28. Parks and Recreation use the Department of Conservation tree removal protocols when removing stands of trees or individual trees within areas of interest to bats. These areas of interest are based on information gathered during the yearly [Project Echo City Wide survey](#). This methodology is used to mitigate the potential of bats to be harmed when removing large trees within our parks and along our rivers and streams.
29. Council collaborates and contributes funding to Project Echo yearly (\$5K) to support the ongoing education and monitoring of bats within the city boundaries.
30. Council works with the University of Waikato to enable students studying long-tailed bats to use and have access to areas that have or potentially have bats and/or roost sites.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

Waikato Regional Bat Strategy

31. The Strategy is a one-page document (**page 3, Attachment 1**), that is supported and has been informed by a discussion document.
32. The vision of the Strategy is: *'The tāonga pekapeka-tou-roa, long-tailed bat is flourishing and treasured in a growing and developing Waikato region'*.
33. The Strategy and discussion document were prepared by strategy consultant (Alternative Endings) on behalf of the Alliance, with input from Alliance members and stakeholder interviews undertaken by the consultant.
34. The Strategy reflects the range of views and input that informed its development and sets a high-level framework to inform ongoing cross-entity collaboration.
35. Staff consider that the Strategy is a step in the right direction; however, further work is needed to gain agreement across the Alliance members and the agencies represented on matters such as how to approach future growth areas where bats are present. Continued collaboration and boundary-less planning through avenues such as Future Proof and Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan projects (such as a blue-green network plans) will be important in determining the regional approach to bat habitat protection and enhancement whilst also providing for growth.
36. Throughout the development of the discussion document that informed the Strategy, Council staff provided input and feedback to the consultant and Alliance that emphasised:
 - i. the Strategy should establish clear principles and direction on how to address key issues such as ability of future urban growth areas to maintain bat habitat or whether offset of habitat loss with restoration and pest control elsewhere would better serve the bat population within the Waikato;
 - ii. avoiding statements in the discussion document that present a singular view, with a preference for a more generalised approach on matters where knowledge is incomplete or there are differing views in the scientific community;
 - iii. the need for the document to recognise the need to continue to cater for growth and focus on the challenges and opportunities relevant to council's balancing of competing obligations to successfully provide for the wellbeing of the community;
 - iv. that policy and planning development within regulatory agencies should not progress in a silo and needs to have the other obligations of councils front of mind.
37. A range of possible focus area for actions to implement the Strategy has been collated (**Attachment 2**). These actions include:
 - i. a policy and planning working group to collaborate on plan and policy development, such as district plan habitat identification and protection;
 - ii. research and monitoring – data collation and sharing; and
 - iii. educational opportunities within Alliance organisations and wider community.
38. As outlined earlier in this report, Council is already implementing a number of actions.
39. As THaWK attendance at Alliance hui has been limited, staff will also provide an update on the strategy to THaWK and Ngaati Wairere.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

- 40. Other than staff time, costs relating to participation in the Alliance have involved a share of the cost to engage a consultant to facilitate and prepare the Strategy and discussion document. Council's contribution of \$5,700 has been covered by existing budget.
- 41. There are no direct financial implications as a result of endorsing the Strategy.
- 42. If staff continue to participate in the Alliance, as recommended, there will be the staff time costs. It is expected that opportunities to achieve the outcomes of the Strategy can be covered, where appropriate, under existing work programmes and existing budgets. As actions to implement the Strategy are yet to be refined and agreed within the Alliance, estimates of Council's potential share of costs are not yet known. Staff can provide an update to the Committee on Council's contribution towards financial costs.

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

- 43. Staff confirm that the resolutions within this report comply with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

- 44. 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').
- 45. 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.
- 46. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Social

- 47. Achieving the wider goals identified in the Strategy will require involvement and ownership of the wider community, including landowners and developers.
- 48. Taking a collective-impact approach to helping bat populations to thrive within the region brings a range of individuals and groups together.

Economic

- 49. Establishing the Alliance as a forum to constructively work through complex issues such as protecting bat habitat and providing for urban growth presented an opportunity to reduce litigation costs as part of formal RMA processes.

Environmental

- 50. The development of the strategy and continued convening of the Alliance provides a forum to discuss how opportunities involved with bat and bat habitat preservation can be realised at a regionwide scale.
- 51. Collaboration between the various Waikato Bat Alliance members and taking a wider landscape scale approach to the issue will help to ensure the on-going presence of bats in the region.

Cultural

- 52. The Alliance and Strategy provide a forum for the views of Waikato-Tainui and mana whenua to be at the forefront of protecting bats and bat habitat as a taonga.

53. The views of Waikato-Tainui, Te Hā o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa (THaWK), and Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW) on the Waikato Bat Strategy and habitat are understood through the collaboration as members of the Waikato Bat Alliance.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

54. If the Committee do not endorse the Waikato Bat Strategy or staff's continued participation in the Waikato Bat Alliance, it would be a missed opportunity to work collaboratively with our partner Councils and iwi groups on the matter of bats and bat habitat preservation.

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

Significance

55. 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

56. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Waikato Bat Strategy final draft

Attachment 2 - Waikato Bat Alliance Priority Actions

FRAMING A BAT STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO REGION

Themes, outcomes and engaging stakeholders

A discussion document for the Waikato Bat Alliance

16 November 2021



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Waikato regional bat strategy: high level outline

PURPOSE OF STRATEGY	To provide a framework for mana whenua, councils and Department of Conservation to collaborate on bat habitat protection and restoration measures in the Waikato region, share resources and information, align policies and planning, meet new national policy and legislation requirements for bats, and resolve dilemmas and conflict outside legal and planning challenges.		
VISION	The tāonga pekapeka-tou-roa, long-tailed bat is flourishing and treasured in a growing and developing Waikato region.		
ROLE OF ALLIANCE	To coordinate the collaboration of its members (all with a mandate to protect bat habitat or the bats themselves) and engage productively with stakeholders maximising opportunities to achieve its vision.		
PRINCIPLES OF WORK	Collaborative Landscape in perspective Respectful of all parties and world views/perspectives		
WORK STREAMS <i>Outcomes</i>	Planning and policy Across the Waikato region, high-level strategic collaboration between Alliance members has resulted in aligned and effective plans, policies and methods for bat habitat protection and restoration.	Research and monitoring Bat research and monitoring is regionally coordinated, resourced, and designed to address priority information needs. Mana whenua are empowered to contribute mātauranga iwi and hapū.	Empowerment Communities and landowners have the knowledge, incentives and resources to ensure bats are a treasured, protected and enduring component of the Waikato region's identity



This document

The **Waikato Bat Alliance** is a partnership of Waikato-Tainui, Te Hā o te Whenua o Kiriikiriroa (THaWK), Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW), Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Waipā District Council, Waikato District Council, and Department of Conservation.

The Alliance recognises:

- the tāonga status of pekapeka-tou-roa/long-tailed bats to mana whenua of the Waikato region
- the conservation ranking of these native mammals as Threatened, Nationally Critical (the highest threat category for a New Zealand species)
- long-tailed bats are found throughout the Waikato region although the complete range, resilience and sustainability of their populations are unknown
- the presence of bats in Hamilton city and Cambridge is distinctive because of the rarity of bats in New Zealand's urban landscapes
- the habitat of long-tailed bats in the Waikato is under threat
- that development and growth in the Waikato region will continue and therefore needs to be accommodated and managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on bat habitat.
- members of the Alliance have the mandate and regulatory responsibility to protect bat habitat, and
- once they are aware of them, the people of the Waikato have a strong interest in protecting and celebrating the region's bats.

These eight features indicate a complex interface between bats and people in the Waikato – a region where growth pressure overlaps with bat habitat, where there is a desire to protect bats, and where much about bat distribution and long-term needs is uncertain.



4

The Waikato Bat Alliance believes that addressing the conflicts and opportunities of bat habitat protection will require a region-wide aligned effort across all agencies with a mandate to protect bats and their habitat, as well as increased awareness, understanding and action from people everywhere. For these reasons, the Waikato Bat Alliance has agreed a **high-level strategy** will be important to shape its bat habitat protection initiatives, as well as a **stakeholder engagement assessment** to explore how best to involve the people of the region in bat habitat protection.

This document backgrounds the situation including the findings of the stakeholder assessment. It provides a framework for considering the issues and it presents the proposed high-level strategy. This framework will guide and inform collaborative action by the Alliance.

SCOPE

In terms of place, the scope of this document is focused on the approximately 5,900 square kilometres of land that comprises the Waikato and Waipā District Councils and Hamilton City Council – about one quarter of the total area that falls within the regional authority of the Waikato Regional Council (WRC).

It is acknowledged that the 8 other district councils within WRC's boundaries, together with mana whenua iwi and hapū from these areas, also have an interest in long-tailed bats. The bats themselves will be flying across council boundaries. Sharing the work of the Waikato Bat Alliance and potentially expanding its membership to include all of the Waikato region may be an outcome of this strategy.

Approach to the work

This document is informed by:

- Five meetings of the Alliance and its working groups during 2020. These meetings shaped the parameters of the high-level strategy and agreed on essential contributing information.
- In-depth interviews with most Alliance members.
- Interviews with 25 external groups and individuals with an interest in Waikato bats.
- Background reading of research, expert witness statements and other papers and information.

CONSULTATION

This document is a working draft, designed to frame a proposed approach to bat habitat conservation and to draw organisations and individuals into its implementation over time.

While consultation has been extensive, not all interested parties have been able to be contacted during the time frame of this work. In particular it is to be noted that not all mana whenua represented on the Waikato Bat Alliance have had an opportunity to contribute to recent engagement on this document and that opportunity will need to be extended. Waikato Tainui were able to put forward their perspective and this is provided here.

Consultation with mana whenua should be regarded as incomplete.



Perspective of Waikato Tainui

For Waikato-Tainui pekapeka-tou-roa are a tāonga species and all tāonga species deserve protection.

The conservation of pekapeka-tou-roa should be considered holistically, engaging at the level of an ecosystem/te taiao, and inclusive of all interactions within that. In this respect, rather than a specific focus on pekapeka-tou-roa, there is value in considering the other species that live alongside them that will also benefit from conservation.

To protect pekapeka-tou-roa, we will need a much deeper understanding of her behaviour, her habitat and her needs. This understanding would be enhanced through region-specific, hapū-specific, cultural monitoring and mātauranga. Waikato Tainui consider an important baseline of such monitoring to be the situation prior to 1863.

Planning for conservation needs to be long-term, a minimum of 50 years.

Waikato long-tailed bats – their story

WHERE ARE THEY?

Long-tailed bats are widely distributed throughout the Waikato region.

Particularly, bats are present in: native forests of Maungatautari, Pirongia, Karioi and the Hunua Ranges; in forest remnants on farm land around Raglan, Huntly, Ngāruawahia and Cambridge; and along forested river and stream edges in many places in the region. From these areas, bats' flyways extend across night-dark pasture, particularly where this includes suitable roost trees and linear features such as shelter belts.

In Hamilton City, bats are concentrated in the southern part of the city, in the deep, densely vegetated gully systems and along the Waikato River.

It is highly likely that known bat distribution will expand with increased survey effort. However, because bats are long-lived and highly mobile, finding more bats is not necessarily indicative of the long-term resilience of those populations.



WHAT DO THEY NEED?

Long-tailed bats are highly mobile species whose large home ranges are landscape in scale. They have specialist habitat requirements to provide for roosting, foraging, commuting, and socialising activities. In particular they require:

- **Mature trees** to roost and breed in. Long-tailed bats are evolved to roost in mature native tree species and they breed more successfully where these are available¹. Where native trees are not available, long-tailed bats depend on exotic trees. Every tree that is selected by bats as a roost is important, chosen by bats because of specific thermal qualities in a roost site. Trees that can provide those special roosts are limited in a fragmented landscape.
- **Darkness**. Bats avoid areas that are brightly lit at night by street lights and high-density housing. A small increase in housing density from one house per hectare to around five houses results in a decline in bat activity by 42%.²
- **Productive foraging grounds** Bats feed on insects above water, along linear landscape features like shelter belts, and across pasture, where these habitats are night-dark³.
- **Flyways**. Bats commute between resource patches if there is connectivity between these patches. Landscape connectivity for bats includes roost trees (where bats can rest at night between flying and feeding bouts, and roost during the day), linear features (such as shelter belts that they can fly along and get shelter from wind), and darkness. Some uncertainty remains about what degree of connectivity is important for long-tailed bats and what the major barriers are.
- **Predator control** to protect them from cats, mustelids, possums and rats.
- **Large landscapes** that combine all of these features. In and around Hamilton, the home range of individual female bats is up to 1,600 hectares⁴ and potentially larger than that. Long-tailed bats have high fidelity to their home range. Even when large parts of individual bats' home range are lost to tree felling or habitat disturbance, they are unlikely to move to an entirely new area⁵.

What's going on?

Long-tailed bat habitat is at risk in the Waikato region.

There are three direct threats to bat habitat and ecology, and a number of underpinning causes of those threats. The three direct threats are:

Land development and subdivision

The northern Waikato is undergoing rapid development. There is pressure to increase the area of land available for subdivision and housing, to clear marginal land for carbon storage forestry and to clear trees and forest remnants for dairy intensification. Some of the land where these pressures are focused is existing bat habitat.

Without consideration for bat habitat needs, land development can result in: loss of roost trees; loss of darkness through housing and street lighting; diminishing of connecting commuting routes through the construction of highways⁶ and the removal of shelter belts and vegetation cover; and an increase in predators, including cats accompanying housing subdivision.

Tree felling

Even without land intensification, trees that may be important bat roost sites are being felled as landowners tidy up properties, address health and safety concerns from falling branches, and access firewood. Tree felling can directly kill bats if they are roosting inside them and cannot safely escape. Felling occupied maternity roosts can be catastrophic for a bat social group. And felling any roost tree where these are rare in a landscape diminishes bat habitat.

Predators

Rats, mustelids, possums and cats are all known predators of roosting long-tailed bats.

BAT PROSPECTS

The cumulative and long-term effects on Waikato bats from these threats is unknown.

Bats are long-lived, more than 20 years, so they may persist in an area for decades. We can't yet tell if the widespread presence of bats in the region is evidence they are flourishing or masking a decline in breeding success. Monitoring⁷ indicates that their populations and social groups are small and that bats have largely disappeared from northern parts of Hamilton City, for example. That makes the breeding potential of every individual critically important.

With real gaps in our understanding of bat needs (how much light can they take? how large do development-free buffers need to be? how many of their roost trees can be cut down? do bat boxes provide short-term benefits? where are the bats anyway?), efforts to explore how we can live with bats while achieving our development goals are experimental, and based on limited existing knowledge and internationally recognised approaches.

Bats cannot be translocated so once they are gone, they are gone. Currently it is estimated that the long-tailed bat population nationally is declining by between six and nine percent a year.⁸



Complexity

Resolving the three direct threats to bats described above will require an exploration of underlying causes, and the challenges and opportunities within these.

In turn it will be helpful to recognise the Waikato bat-human interface as a complex problem, unlikely to be resolved by traditional approaches.

A complex problem has large number of interacting, uncertain and diverse elements to it and as a result, solution finding is elusive. Experts alone can't solve the problem. There are many compelling ideas but no one clear answer.

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH COMPLEX PROBLEMS

- There are increased levels of interaction and communication to gather perspectives, generate ideas and open up discussion. Teams that include all perspectives work together to assess which approach is likely to be a better fit for the opportunities that present themselves. There is unlikely to be a best practice or one correct answer so we look for **emergent practice** – the approach that is having some resonance.
- **Certainty** will always be elusive so the solution cannot wait for that.
- We set **clear boundaries** based on bottom lines and work within those.
- A good way to proceed is to discover **what aspects of the problem are showing promising resolution** and to understand why that is so.
- We'll only know that if we **effectively monitor and assess**.
- **Stimulating small successes**, persisting with the pieces that are making headway, helps attract resonating change.
- Using all this information we move forward **bravely but cautiously**, ready to shift direction if we our assumptions are emerging to be false.
- Respecting and drawing on a range of epistemologies and disciplines; balancing ecological understanding with mātauranga Māori, social sciences and socio-ecological system approaches.

Underlying causes: challenges and opportunities

The three direct challenges to Waikato bats described above rest on underlying causes centred on:

1. Planning and policy
2. Research and monitoring
3. Empowerment
4. Collaboration

There are other, less tangible, factors that underpin the complex situation between bats and people in the Waikato. These four have been selected as offering the most practical pathways for resolution, and so forming a strong foundation for an effective, impactful and positive bat strategy.



CHALLENGE ONE: PLANNING AND POLICY

CHALLENGES

At the heart of this challenge is a fundamental and largely unexamined planning conflict between bat habitat protection and the pressure for urban growth and land development. The population of the Waikato region is increasing which influences the land-use and infrastructure decisions district councils are required to make. High growth councils are required under national policy (National Policy Statement on Urban Development -NPS UD) to make land available for urban growth and enable higher levels of intensification in existing urban areas. They are also required, under the Resource Management Act, to protect the habitat of endangered species. Under the Wildlife Act, 1953, anyone can be prosecuted if individual bats are harmed or killed. Conflict is most evident where bat habitat overlays housing development areas.

Unprecedented housing development pressure has revealed the gaps in current central government direction and inadequacies of existing local authority planning, policy and regulation to manage this conflict. Existing plans and policies were put in place when the range and needs of bats were even less known than they are now. As a result, planning and policy in the Waikato region are currently inadequate to protect bats and their habitat, and a case-by-case approach is being taken in assessing development proposals and resource consents.

The nature of bats as highly mobile, cryptic, landscape-scale species whose conservation requires people to protect most trees and vegetation in bat inhabited places, challenges the practicality of enforceable and affordable rules about tree felling. This is exacerbated by a lack of knowledge about bats within the planning and policy department of councils, by landowners and by the general public. It is also exacerbated by limited resources for enforcement of rules.

OPPORTUNITIES

A shift in focus is inevitable because:

- Reformed resource management law and a forthcoming National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity are likely to make habitat protection of highly mobile species such as bats a priority requirement for local government
- It is highly desirable to avoid planning and legal challenges in bat habitat-housing development conflicts, and
- With a growing awareness of bats and understanding of how special they are, there will be a greater public desire to enhance their protection. It will become increasingly important for the councils to demonstrate how they are doing this.

As well as being driven by central government policy and law, along with emerging case law, there are existing opportunities to change plans, standards, and rules within local and territorial government to better resolve issues around bat habitat protection. These include district plan changes and reviews, spatial plan reviews, structure plans, reserve management plans, urban design standards, tree protection protocols, and redrafting of indigenous biodiversity strategies. There is opportunity for the Alliance to work together at a strategic level to inform a consistent and effective pathway to collectively protect bat populations and bat habitats and meet other obligations (such as meeting demand for housing).



CHALLENGE TWO: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

CHALLENGES

Bat researchers and consultants are in short supply relative to the need for them. There are few university supervisors able to bring on a new cadre of researchers. Funding for bat research is very limited.

While the fundamentals of bat range and habitat needs are reasonably predictable, there are large and problematic gaps in knowledge that fall under three themes:

- *Where are they?* What is the range of each of the bat meta-populations, colonies and social groups in the Waikato? What constitutes a 'population'?
- *How are they doing?* Are they increasing, stable or decreasing? What does their population structure tell us about their long-term survival?
- *What do they need?* What are the long-term, sustainable requirements for roosts, darkness, flyways and disturbance?

Bats are not easy to study. They are night-active, cryptic, long-lived and use large landscapes in somewhat mysterious ways. Despite this complexity, science is being asked to confidently come up with options for developers and planners so firm and trusted rules can be put in place.

Monitoring of bat populations is taking place but it is largely piecemeal. At a landscape scale, monitoring is uncoordinated, inconsistent and underfunded and its overall purpose is not always clear.

Data on bats in the region is being collected by multiple sources but is not being collated centrally and not being fed back into decision-making for planning, policy and rules about bats.



OPPORTUNITIES

Likely because there are long-tailed bats within Hamilton city itself, the Waikato is a hot-spot of research and knowledge of bats in fragmented landscapes. Councils, DOC, Waikato University, Project Echo, Waka Kotahi and a number of consultants working in the region are all contributing to a growing body of knowledge about bats in a fragmented urban and peri-urban environment. With a broader alliance, mana whenua would be empowered to play their part as partners, with mātauranga iwi and hapū contributing to knowledge and monitoring.

Understanding that bats are landscape-scale species and that new national policy is likely to require councils to consider the special needs of highly mobile species will help lift research efforts from piecemeal to connected. A landscape-scale overview of bats could also help define regional outcomes of monitoring, set clear questions, clarify who is responsible for it, and ensure it is coordinated regionally.

Technology and research methodology are improving all the time. Time, however, is also needed. Adaptive management approaches, caution and patience can help ecologists prepare planners and developers for the art of dealing carefully with uncertainty and experimentation.

Data could be centrally collated, interpreted and included in decision-making for plans and policies. Spatial mapping bat habitat would be an important contribution to decision-making.

CHALLENGE THREE: EMPOWERMENT

CHALLENGES

The uncertainties and constraints of bat habitat protection are compounded by two critical barriers for people everywhere:

Barriers of understanding

Across all stakeholders and partners there is **limited knowledge** of bats. In councils, consenting, planning and policy teams often do not have access to any information about bats. Landowners are usually unaware they have potential bat habitat on their land and if so, how that could be a good thing. Once bats are discovered there is little understanding about what landowners might do about that. Arborists, at the 'cutting edge' of human-bat interaction, may not recognise or even know to look for bat roosts in trees they have been asked to fell or trim.

Barriers to action

Landowners who encounter bats in trees on their property face a number of barriers to action. They are unsure who they should contact about bats and what official contact might lead to. It isn't clear what best practice is to protect bats, nor is it clear how retaining bat roosts will sit comfortably with health and safety requirements for dangerous trees. Only too clear, in the minds of some, are the costs of bats to subdivision potential. Ecological advice can be costly.

OPPORTUNITIES

There is already **passion in the community for bats** and a readiness to learn about them. The cultural lens for conservation of the natural world is shifting to concern and engagement. There is unprecedented recent expansion of community-based land care groups, predator and weed control groups and engagement in nature-based activities. This in turn connects with the mana whenua-inspired holistic approach to conservation, where the focus on an individual species (bats) is not as critical as an approach that embraces te taiao/whole ecosystems.

There are opportunities to **upskill arborists** and there are arborists willing to lead such an initiative. Modules for bat surveying and pruning for roost protection could easily be added to arborist training (Wintec and other training providers). **Planners** could be offered introductory training workshops in bat issues.

A **campaign for bat pride** would be engaging to the general public. Community groups and mana whenua have already demonstrated their interest in creating educational initiatives about bats. Bat tours and information evenings are sold-out events. Many landowners are interested to discover they have bat roosts on their land. Engaging local influencers and political leaders, a bat campaign has the potential to make bats a visible and treasured component of the region's identity.



CHALLENGE FOUR: COLLABORATION

CHALLENGES

The key parties with an interest in bats and bat habitat are mostly operating in isolation from one another.

Each council is having to independently draft policies, planning and rules for bat habitat protection. Not only is this piecemeal approach inefficient, but it misses opportunities for alignment and connectedness across landscapes. It also creates inconsistencies and inequities for stakeholders in the region.

Operating without collaborative ways of problem solving, parties are ending up in expensive legal and planning challenges as they argue over bat protection frameworks.

OPPORTUNITIES

As has been demonstrated, the various parties involved in bat habitat protection are dealing with complexity. One of the important defining conditions of working within complexity is collaboration - one group alone will never have all the answers, nor the resources to find all the answers. Increased levels of interaction and communication gather perspectives, generate ideas and open up discussion.

A collaborative working framework best fits the landscape-scale range of bats where, from a bat perspective, no jurisdictional boundary is apparent. It is also more able to embrace the holistic approach to conservation of te taiao that mana whenua call for. It could result in:

- Aligned plans, policies, methods and rules across landscapes
- Better designed plan provisions for bats and development
- Shared resources, information and data
- Shared solution finding outside legal challenges.

There are already community-based initiatives for landscape scale connectivity conservation (Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor Project, led by NZ Landcare Trust). This, and other landowner-engaging initiatives offers a platform for collaboration where bat protection could become part of a suite of outcomes for te taiao which the Alliance as a collective could support and partner with.



Who will be part of the solution-finding?

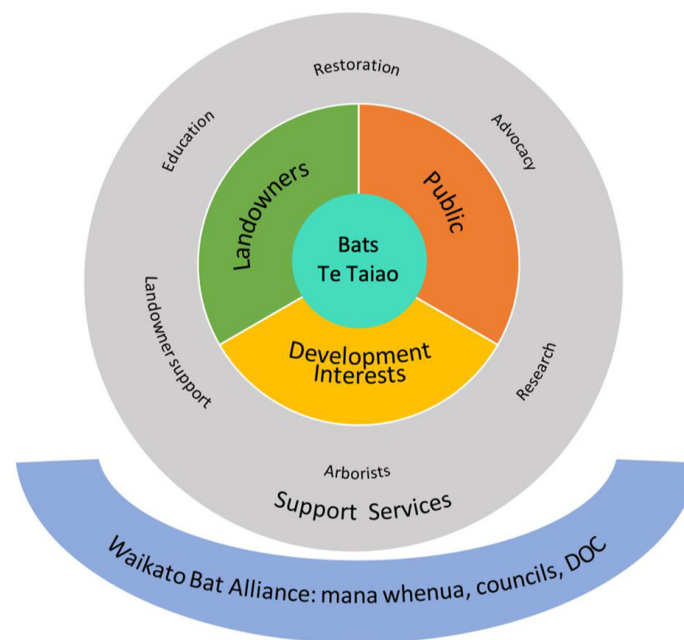
Outside the mana whenua-council-DOC partnership of the Waikato Bat Alliance there are a number of stakeholder cohorts.

In terms of direct influence on bats, landowners (both urban and rural), development interests and the general public form a central grouping.

Contributing to their knowledge, actions and opportunities are clusters of support services. The groups, businesses and institutions that deliver services for bat habitat protection do so across multiple outcomes. Because of this, it is clearer to group them by the service they deliver rather than by type of organisation they are.

Bat habitat protection services that are delivered in the community include:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Restoration
- Land owner support
- Research
- Arborists



Direct Influence Cohorts: LANDOWNERS

Landowners, both urban and rural, directly influence bat habitat protection. Their property-based decision-making and actions affect roost trees, flyways, darkness and the fate of bat predators. They are important stakeholders for the Alliance.

Landowners are a **diverse cohort**. They encompass land uses such as urban residential, golf courses, lifestyle blocks, land banks, horticulture, tourism, dairy and dry stock farms and forestry blocks, councils and DOC.

There is also diversity in their understanding and acceptance of conservation and in having sufficient resources to manage their property for conservation outcomes. This diversity ranges from landowners being deeply committed and actively engaged; interested but unaware and/or unable to act; disinterested; and actively oppositional.

Despite this diversity, most landowners have points in common.

- Many landowners will willingly engage with, or allow, conservation management of bats on their land but **face barriers** to action including: lack of knowledge and information; land management concerns (such as health and safety issues); the cost of bat-sensitive tree maintenance and ecological advice; and time availability to do predator control or restore vegetation. **Incentives** and breaking down these barriers are important engagement points.
- Landowners usually **have pride in their land**. Dying or weedy trees won't be seen first up as ecological treasures. On the other hand, having an extremely rare native mammal on their property can bring rewards.
- Landowners want to **work with people they trust and know**. Support organisations, including land care groups, community groups, locally-based NGOs, sector groups (such as Fonterra, Beef+Lamb, and Dairy NZ) and others are often closer to local landowners than council or DOC and can have a better understanding of the issues they face. These support groups are also influencers.
- **Demonstration sites, field days, community meetings** are enjoyable and informative ways for landowners to learn about bats and see practical ways to help them.
- Landowners are part of their communities and see what their neighbours do. Initiatives to protect bats will be visible and talked about locally as will neighbourhood development that fells roost trees or disturbs habitat. **Consistency and fairness in sharing conservation costs and benefits are important to landowners.**
- Landowners are positively influenced when: **everyone is talking about the value of bats**; when accurate information is easily sourced; where bat habitat protection is visible everywhere – letter box stickers, social and mainstream media, in local and sector organisations' newsletters; and when barriers to action are easily overcome.



Direct Influence Cohorts: DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS

Development interests include: land developers creating housing subdivision along with the roading and other infrastructure that serves development; dairy intensification; and land clearance for carbon offset tree planting. The impact on bats and bat habitat of these actions have been discussed earlier in this report.

Development interests believe they have a lot at stake in being able to execute their plans with certainty, with fairness and without hindrance. Their interests have been well represented by councils because they are delivering outcomes that councils are required to enable (growth and housing supply). Some developers have put up serious legal and planning challenges to bat habitat protection proposals, in some cases against councils' own objectives on habitat protection.

Development interests note that the rules they are expected to comply with for bat habitat protection must also apply to other land users. A bat roost tree is important whether it is in a farmer's paddock or in the way of a new motorway.



Direct Influence Cohorts: GENERAL PUBLIC

There is a low level of general public understanding about bats. People are sometimes astonished to learn that Aotearoa even has bats. Increasing the general public's knowledge about bats is an important component of the Waikato Bat Alliance strategy.

People who understand the value, rarity and importance of bats create a public who are more likely to:

- understand and support bat habitat protection policies and initiatives
- praise landowners who act to protect bats
- volunteer for community conservation initiatives
- support funding being spent on bat habitat protection.

The Waikato Bat Alliance could play an important role in providing information and educational opportunities about bats directly to the public. The Alliance could align with and support organisations who are already doing this work. These groups are directly connected with the general public as well as with their own networks and alliances. Their involvement in this work is an important component of an awareness-raising strategy.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Contributing to the actions, knowledge and opportunities of landowners, development interests and the general public are clusters of **support services**.

The groups, businesses and institutions that deliver services for bat habitat protection include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Project Echo* delivering education, awareness, research, advocacy
- *Go Eco* delivering education, advocacy, restoration, and capability development
- *University of Waikato (and other New Zealand universities) and DOC* providing research and education
- *Manaaki Whenua* providing research and education
- *Consulting ecologists* providing monitoring, research and advice
- *Riverlea Environment Group* engaged in advocacy and hands-on restoration
- *Forest and Bird* engaged in advocacy, education, awareness-raising
- *Waikato Museum* providing education and awareness
- *Enviroschools* providing education and awareness
- *Predator Free Hamilton, Cambridge, Mystery Creek and Bush to Burbs* engaged in hands-on restoration in urban/rural landscapes
- *NZ Landcare Trust* providing landowner support, hands-on restoration and awareness raising across landscape-scale connectivity restoration
- *Sector support agencies and companies* including Fonterra, Beef+lamb, DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, New Zealand Association of Small Farmers, HortNZ, QEII Trust. This group provides training, support and information to landowners and are also thought-leaders and advocates
- *Arborists* who provide tree felling and trimming services to landowners and development interests

WORKING WITH SUPPORT SERVICES

The groups, agencies and businesses that provide support services on bats are diverse in their interests, in how they are resourced and in the ways in which they contribute to the regional bat story. They have, in common an interest in contributing to the outcomes of the Waikato Bat Alliance.

Their engagement would be enhanced by the following:

Collaboration

Contributing their special skills, contacts and resources to a collaboratively agreed strategy.

Resourcing

Having access to fresh funding opportunities to pursue their piece of the bigger picture.

Opportunity

Having a place made in the strategy for their ideas and skills and reducing barriers to their engagement.



Bringing it all together

At the heart of the matter, the habitat of the nationally critical taonga species, pekapeka-tou-roa, the long-tailed bat, overlaps both with housing and development plans for the people of the Waikato region and with landowners managing trees on their properties. As a result of these fundamental conflicts of space and land use, along with threats from predators, long-tailed bats are at risk, an outcome that no one wants. Finding solutions to this dilemma has, to date, been both elusive and fraught. There are, however, real opportunities emerging that can shape a positive response.

NEXT STEPS

Summarising key themes developed in this document, three factors will be important in bringing an effective strategy to life.

High level ownership within the Alliance

Executive and political leadership support for a Waikato Regional Bat Strategy across all Alliance members is needed to bring opportunities to life. The strategy described on the first page is scaled at a high-level to allow early buy-in to broadly described outcomes. Detailed objectives and actions must be developed once high-level agreement is reached.

An emphasis on collaboration

To break down the isolated, piecemeal and under-resourced approach to planning and policy development for bat habitat management, the Alliance parties can collaborate to: develop plans, policies and rules that reflect a boundary-less approach; develop a range of bat management tools; share information, resources and data; and avoid legal and planning challenges. Collaboration is also important with businesses, organisations and groups external to the Alliance as they bring resources and contacts essential to this work.

A willingness to think landscape scale connectivity

Long-tailed bats are highly mobile species whose large home ranges are landscape in scale. A regional bat strategy likewise needs to be thinking and planning at a landscape scale. Solutions and actions need to be connecting and aligning, enhancing opportunities that bring in broad alliances at bat-scale.



EXAMPLES OF EARLY INITIATIVES

Drawing on the interviews completed for this document, ideas for early initiatives emerge. Here's five of them:

Bat blitz

A collaborative Alliance-community bat blitz is designed, focused on likely, but currently unmonitored bat territory.

Bat habitat identification

Spatial planning gets underway to delineate special bat habitat areas and design planning rules essential for bat habitat protection.

Rules

A collaborative working group is established to help Alliance members agree on and define bat habitat protection rules, currently the centre of legal and planning challenges and the focus of angst by landowners, planners and arborists. While certainty about what is going work long-term for bats is elusive, clarity can still be provided. Rules for clarity would be set cautiously (so bats are less likely to be lost through experimentation) and they would be adjustable as research fills in knowledge gaps.

Capability development

- Support is provided to train arborists in basic bat habitat identification and management. Rules and resources are put in place to ensure council-contracted arborists have this information.
- Modules for training planners in bat habitat protection are used by planners and policy makers throughout the region.
- Community groups and mana whenua are resourced to build public understanding of bats.
- Alliance members support and resource community-led landscape scale connectivity programmes where bat habitat protection could be advanced.

Regional bat team

Alliance members pool resources to support a roving regional bat team that supports each council in bat habitat protection advice. The team also works with landowners and support groups to provide free or inexpensive ecological advice to people wanting to manage habitat for bats. The team manages a central hub of information about bats, accessible to the public.



REFERENCES:

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Waikato Bat Alliance Priority Actions/Initiatives

16 November 2021

The Alliance agrees there needs to be a mix of long and short term actions, both transformational and operational. Some of these actions or initiatives may be on a larger scale and require more collaboration, resourcing and cross-boundary efforts, while others may be possible to create change in a smaller way.

It is also important to remain aware of what actions can be taken at a regional level without duplicating work at a national level.

Subsequent to achieving high level buy-in to the framework, the way of working and the outcomes by leaders in the Alliance organisations, initial priority actions agreed across the Alliance include:

Planning and policy:

- Policy working group to contribute to policy development for bat habitat management by collaborating with Alliance parties to develop plans, policies and rules that reflect a cross-boundary approach; develop a range of bat management tools; share information, resources and data; and avoid legal and planning challenges. This may include:
 - A review of existing local policy and recent consent conditions/consent orders to identify current processes for bat protection.
 - Develop resources for improved policy and planning – eg. Decision tree to identify steps and risks for trees identified as bat habitat, best practice guidelines
 - Provide training, information sessions or best practice guidelines for planners and policy makers to raise awareness of bats within the plan making and consenting process.

This work should fit in with any organisation's conservation strategy or other similar work program.

Research and monitoring:

- Advance spatial data: Alliance members collate existing data, share methodology and pool resources to work towards defining local bat habitat and environmental bottom lines. Utilising one or two existing case studies could be used as examples of methods to advance data gathering.

Delivery of good spatial data will inform decision making around bats. In this it will be important to consider what good spatial data looks like, how this can be provided and at what scale(s). The Policy Working Group will be able to use spatial data to influence plan provisions, rule development and tie into upcoming work in spatial planning.

This may involve:

- A desktop compilation of knowledge of bat distribution and populations, particularly across Hamilton, Waikato District and Waipā District.
- A retrospective review of resource consent applications to find information on likely and confirmed bat habitat.

- Supporting further bat surveying initiatives to identify unknown or confirm suspected habitat areas.

Empowerment:

- Regional bat team: Alliance members pool resources to support a roving regional bat team that supports each council in bat habitat protection advice. The team may also work with landowners and support groups to provide free or inexpensive ecological advice to people wanting to manage habitat for bats. The team manages a central hub of information about bats, accessible to the Alliance and the public.
This action will act as a central hub to connect the dots and various actions taking place by different organisations and groups, and reduce dependency on consultants, whilst building the capacity of community and other support groups.
This would require a stable research base and considerable funding and training of staff.
- Biodiversity forum: Introduce the bat strategy and raise awareness for this work through the Biodiversity Forum focus event. This will allow various stakeholders to connect and share information, and kickstart the Bat Strategy.
- Taiao Forum: Introduce the bat strategy and raise awareness for this work through the Taiao Forum. This is an opportunity to share mātauranga and korero, educating whanau, hapū and iwi. The Alliance acknowledges that consultation and engagement with iwi thus far is incomplete.
 - Possible opportunity to link place names and stories via language.
- Bat hui: The Bat Recovery Group intend this would take place in May 2022 in or near Hamilton. This could incorporate a “Bat 101” workshop as an opportunity to connect with the hearts and minds of tāngata of the Waikato region.
- Arborist training: Support is provided to train arborists in basic bat habitat identification and bat-friendly tree management. DOC’s roost protection protocol is a useful guide. Council procurement processes are amended to ensure council-contracted arborists have this training. Over time this resource links to and extends reach of the regional bat team.
- Internal council/organisation actions: Possible initiatives that could be considered by individual organisations include:
 - Public outreach/information sessions.
 - Engagement with local iwi and hapū and local NGOs and rural sector groups that may have direct interest or impact on bat habitat and populations.
 - Providing information on existing bat collaboration projects and groups on organisation website.
 - Providing information on pest control and how it helps bats

Council Report

Item 9

Committee: Environment Committee **Date:** 22 February 2022
Author: Sean Hickey **Authoriser:** Sean Hickey
Position: General Manager Strategy and Communications **Position:** General Manager Strategy and Communications
Report Name: General Manager's Report

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

1. To inform the Environment Committee on topical issues or areas of concern which do not necessitate a separate report or decision.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. This report provides updates to Environment Committee Members on activities, actions or projects contained within the plans or strategies for which this Committee and the relevant General Manager have responsibility over and for which significant progress has been made.
4. The following updates are included in this report:
 - i. Hamilton City Council Workplace Travel Plan
 - ii. Climate Change and Environment Communication
 - iii. Regional Update
 - iv. National Update
 - v. International Update
5. Staff consider the matters in this report have medium significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

Hamilton City Council Workplace Travel Plan

6. The Hamilton City Council Workplace Travel Plan is currently in draft and awaiting approval. The intention is to have a plan that transforms the way Hamilton City Council staff travel to and from our places of work.
7. There will be a workshop on 22 February 2022 with Elected Members prior to the Environment Committee meeting where staff will be seeking guidance on the key points of the staff travel plan and the potential development of a governance travel plan.

8. Staff are having discussions with the Waikato DHB and Waikato Regional Council regarding their travel planning with the intention to have collective partnership options to alternative transport modes in the city. These two organisations have also been invited to present to the Elected Member workshop.
9. The 4th tranche of the staff e-bike scheme has been completed and promotion of events such as World Car Free Day and the Aotearoa Bike Challenge which takes place annually for the month of February has also been undertaken.
10. The original launch date of the staff travel plan was proposed to be February 2022 but this will be pushed back slightly so it can be updated based on Elected Members feedback from the workshop.
11. The Senior Leadership Team have endorsed the HCC Workplace Travel Plan and a request for additional funding to be sought from the 2022/23 Annual Plan to support the bus subsidies for staff proposed to run for a 6 to 12 month period.

Climate Change and Environment Communication

12. Staff were requested to provide a summary of media, social media and other communication activity related to environment and climate change matters.
13. **Attachment 1** is the first of these summaries, covering the period October – December 2021.
14. It is staff's intent that this becomes a regular addition to future General Manager reports.

Regional update

Waikato Regional Council

15. Staff attended Waikato Regional Councils 'Low Emissions Waikato online' workshop on 17 November 2021. Stakeholders gave input to a list of regional emission variables that could be included in a regional tool to understand our emissions impacts.
16. Hamilton City Council staff will join Waikato Regional Council's external climate change reference group. This group will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on key emerging issues and planned work with climate implications, including the development of a regional climate change risk assessment.

Climathon Waikato

17. Over September and October 2021, a series of climate change related engagements were led by the Impact Hub and supported by the Waikato Plan. These sessions were initially designed to be pre-events for a Climathon, which has been rescheduled to a one-day event in to be held in March across the Waikato, with both online and in person opportunities to engage.
18. Hamilton City Council agreed to sponsor the Climathon and will continue to be involved in the event planning and delivery in 2022.

EECA Local Government Forum

19. Hamilton City Council Staff attended a presentation on Transitioning to a Low Emissions Fleet, which introduced EECA's [Low Emission Transport Fund](#) (LETF). This was previously called the Low Emissions Vehicles Fund, but has been changed to a Low Emissions Transport Fund to include mode shift and trial new systems to both reduce and decarbonise fleet travel. The LETF is a \$25million contestable fund.
20. The Clean Car Discount has been extended to 2024.

Regional Transport Committee

21. At the Environment Committee meeting on 30 November 2021, Elected Members requested an update on actions from the Regional Transport Committee. Staff note that this update is included in the External Committees Update Report to the Infrastructure Operations Committee on 24 February 2022.

National Update

Emissions Reduction Plan Update:

22. The [emissions reduction plan](#) will set the direction for climate action for the next 15 years and will set a pathway to meeting New Zealand's 2050 net-zero emissions targets. Hamilton City Council submitted feedback in November 2021. The plan is due to be released in May 2022.

Climate Change Risk Assessment guidance update

23. Following the release of [A guide to local climate change risk assessment](#), Hamilton City Council staff have attended a workshop from Ministry for the Environment, which outlined the steps required to complete the assessment and engage with iwi and the community.
24. It is expected that a local climate change risk assessment will take around 12-18 months to complete.

A National Adaptation Plan update:

25. The National Adaptation Plan will outline what New Zealand needs to do to respond to climate risks and is due to be published by August 2022. It is expected to be open for feedback in April 2022.

Review of Road User Charges:

26. Driving climate Change: Reviewing the Road User Charges System was released by MFT ([January 2022 Consultation Document](#)). Feedback is due by April 2022.

International Update

27. The International Panel on Climate Change are currently completing their 6th Climate Assessment (AR6). As part of the 6th report an Impacts Adaptation and Vulnerabilities report is due in February 2022 and a Mitigation of Climate Change Report in March 2022.
28. [The physical science report](#) was released in 2021, stating that evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones and their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the last report (AR5). Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

Financial Considerations - Whaiwhakaaro Puutea

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

Legal and Policy Considerations - Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

30. Staff confirm that the staff recommendation complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

31. 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').
32. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report.
33. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

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

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

Significance

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

Engagement

36. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Climate Change Communication Review Oct-Dec 2021

Communication & Engagement Summary

Climate Change & Environment

October – December 2021

Item 9

MEDIA STORIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STORY</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
26 August 2021	Hamilton's Plans for a Low Carbon Future	Introduction of Climate Change Action Plan 21/22
5 October 2021	Plans for Peacocke create climate-ready neighbourhood	Plan Change 5 includes environmental considerations for biodiversity, transport and growth.
2 November 2021	Hamilton's beloved bat wins Bird of the Year	Peacocke protections for the long-tailed bat
24 November 2021	Hamilton's latest river path puts the environment first	Climate change design considerations and low-carbon commuting
30 November 2021	Council Emissions Bounce Back to Pre-Pandemic Levels	Council emissions profile increased from 2020 level
2 December 2021	Bold goals to transform nature in the city	Key goals for 10-year Nature in the City programme

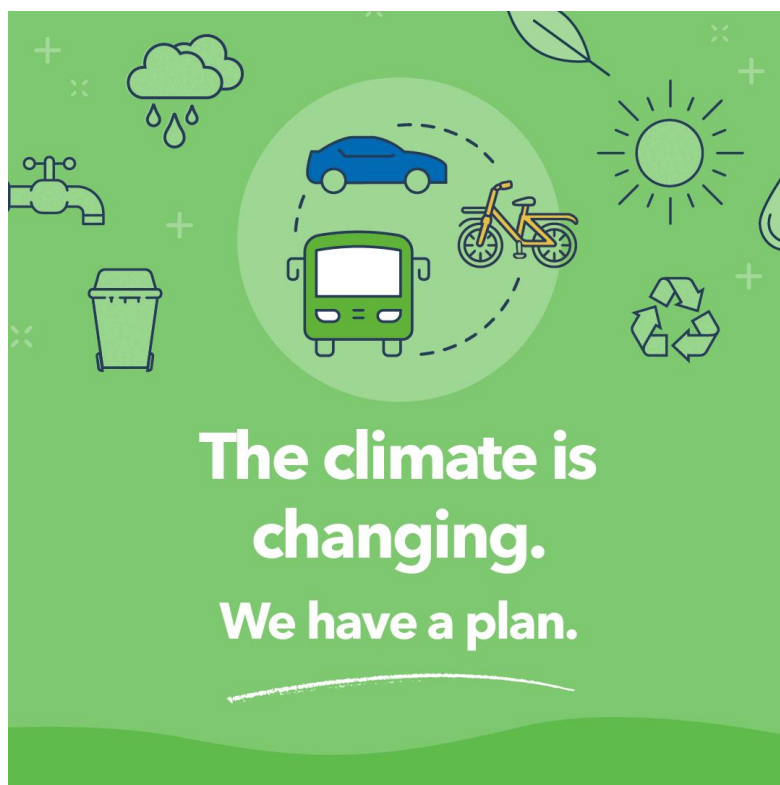
Attachment 1

SOCIAL MEDIA

Climate Change Action Plan Social Series

4 November – 15 December

Facebook & Instagram Post & Stories – Paid Media



Summary: A content series outlining the 5 key messages for climate change and the key actions from Council's Climate Change Action Plan. Broad action messages for the community were also included, e.g. conserve water, use your kerbside bins properly.

Results:

Overall, the CCAP social series was seen by 112,394 people, and 6140 people engaged with the assets by watching, liking, commenting and sharing. 308 people clicked through to our website after viewing the ad. The most successful posts were our plans for biodiversity, water, and waste, which reached the most people and had the most engagements.

ASSET - GIFs	IMPRESSI ONS	REACH	ENAGAGEMENTS (Reactions, comments, saves & shares)	3-SECOND VIDEO PLAYS	CLICK THROUGH RATE (Where applicable)
Climate change action plan – overview	1,991	1,854	1	105	5
CCAP – our plan for transport	4,979	4,266	-	360	13
CCAP – our plan for waste	22,059	14,853	20	1,631	30
CCAP – our plan for water	40,391	23,141	11	2,268	87
CCAP – our plan for biodiversity	22,087	14,573	29	1,526	44
CCAP – our plan for growth	2,094	1,944	-	154	5
TOTAL	93,601	37,335	61	6,044	184

- GIFs automatically move through the different frames, like a video.
- We ran all of the GIFs at one time, and shared budget between them.
- We allowed Facebook to optimise for best performance, so more budget was given to GIFs that had better engagement rates.
- The top performers were water, waste, and biodiversity, with the highest reach, most video plays, and more engagements.
- Overall, 184 people clicked through to our website to learn more about our climate change action.

ASSET - Carousels	IMPRESSIONS	REACH	ENAGAGEMENTS (Reactions, comments, saves & shares)	CLICK THROUGH RATE (Where applicable)
Climate change action plan – overview	5,574	4,558	3	13
CCAP – our plan for transport	13,554	9,702	5	27
CCAP – our plan for waste	17,232	11,917	11	26
CCAP – our plan for water	4,154	3,530	1	3
CCAP – our plan for biodiversity	29,148	17,972	14	49
CCAP – our plan for growth	4,925	4,084	1	5
TOTAL	74,587	29,833	35	123

- The carousel ads appear like a horizontal series of images that people swipe through, so there is an element of interaction with the post.
- We ran the carousel ads in the same way as GIFs above, sharing budget.
- The biodiversity asset was a clear winner here, with the highest reach, most clicks and most engagements.
- Overall, the GIFs performed better than the carousels. In future we will focus on video, static images, and GIFs for climate change storytelling.

Sentiment

There was very little commentary on the posts, most people engaged by liking the post. There were two comments that asked questions about Council's actions cutting down trees. We answered by providing the rationale for the trees being cut down, and that more appropriate trees for the environment were replanted.

Climate Change Quiz

5 November

Facebook and Instagram Stories

Summary: A short quiz to celebrate COP26 launching. We asked the community to answer three quiz questions about Hamilton's carbon emissions, providing incidental education on their carbon footprint.

Results: Over 200 people viewed the story to completion. Approximately 80 people answered the quiz questions, and on average people got 2/3 questions right.

Low Waste, Low Carbon Christmas Series

Facebook Post Series & Moorena Mail



Summary: A weekly series of posts with tips and tricks on how to reduce waste and your carbon footprint leading up to the holiday season. Posts include tips on low waste and recyclable wrapping, reducing food waste at Christmas, and low-carbon gift ideas.

Results:

ASSET	REACH	ENAGAGEMENTS (Reactions, comments, saves & shares)	Comment Sentiment
Week 1 - Low carbon gift giving	5815	106	Question about museum fees
Week 2 – Low waste gift wrapping	2200	80	Questions about how to recycle gift wrap
Week 3 – Reduce holiday food waste	7585	242	Positive responses, people sharing their tips
Week 4 – Climate friendly DIY Christmas decorations	3264	35	None
Week 5 – Sustainable hosting	4434	37	None
TOTAL	23,298	500	-

Item 9**Attachment 1**