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## Environment Committee

### *Komiti Taiao*

### OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 9.31am.

#### PRESENT

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr S Thomson

*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members** Cr M Bunting (audio visual link)  
Cr A O’Leary  
Cr K Naidoo-Rauf  
Cr D Macpherson  
Mayor P Southgate  
Maangai N Hill

#### In Attendance

Cr Gallagher  
Cr van Oosten  
Cr Wilson  
Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication  
Eeva-Liisa Wright – General Manager Infrastructure Operations  
Maria Barrie – Unit Director Parks and Recreation  
Zeke Fiske – Senior Operations Planner  
Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Environment Advisor  
Jamie Sirl – Team Leader City Planner  
Maire Porter – City Waters Manager  
Poppy Barran – Resource Recovery Co-ordinator

#### Governance Staff

Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader  
Carmen Fortin and Narelle Waite – Governance Advisors

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*The meeting was opened with a karakia and a hymn from Maangai Hill.*

*The Chair acknowledged that this was the first Environment Committee meeting since the passing of Cr Forsyth. She spoke to the impact Cr Forsyth had within Council and the Community specifically with the work she had undertaken in relation to the Nature in the City Strategy and Environment Principles.*

*A moment silence was then had to acknowledge the passing of Bunny Mortimer. Mayor Southgate spoke to the impact that Bunny Mortimer and her late husband had on Hamilton City including the gully and advocacy work, and noted the legacy she had left behind.*

1. **Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/ Cr Macpherson)

The apologies for partial attendance from Mayor Southgate are accepted.

2. **Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/ Mayor Southgate)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. **Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. **Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

**George Lusty (Friends of Mangaonua Esplanade)** spoke to item 8 (Opportunities for influencing national and regional climate change response), and the impact of infill on the gullies. He noted that there is currently no system to report back to Members regarding the infill in the gully areas, and that some changes to the RMA wording could act as a protection to the future gullies. He responded to questions from Members concerning the effect of the desired RMA change on wording, designated areas of gullies, areas affected, cultural implications on gully loss.

**Martin Toop** spoke to item 6 (Natural Areas Funding Update) and noted that he wished to see an increase in staffing for planting and urgent action to combat climate change.

**Jo Wrigley (GoEco)** spoke to item 6 (Natural Areas Funding Update) in support of the gully groups and the impact which they have on the city. She outlined the impact the funding had on the ability of GoEco to build relationships and networks, develop training and employment scheme, as well as predator control, and gully restoration. She responded to questions from Members concerning Maatauranga Maaori within the environmental community groups.

**Lynne Garnham** spoke to item 6 (Natural Areas Funding Update) in support of the funding, and the impact that the funding has had within the community and the positive impact within the gullies.

**Te Kopa King (Manga Waitawhiriwhiri Kaitiaki)** spoke to item 6 (Natural Areas Funding Update) in support of protecting the gullies. He spoke to the mana enhancing impact that the funding has had on the community and suggested that additional funding could be used for personal protection equipment, planting equipment, and training. He responded to questions from Members concerning structure, alternative funding opportunities, and length of work occurring in Waitawhiriwhiri.

5. **Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 2 March 2021**

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

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

6. **Natural Areas Funding Update**

The Unit Director Parks and Recreation and the Senior Operations Planner introduced the report, noting that the report was an update as to how the funding had been allocated throughout the year, and the projects which had been undertaken as a result of the funding. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the allocation of funding, Waikato Regional Council involvement, Project Watershed, maximising funding within Long-Term Plan, alignment with other funders and funding, community connections, role of Iwi and Mana Whenua to date, timeline of requesting further funding through the Annual Plan, impact on Significant Natural Areas through

District Plan amendments, and the process for notifying SNAs.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the development of a holistic implementation plan for the city in relation restoration and the role of Waikato Regional Council in this process.*

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to inform Members of the impact of District Plan policies on Significant Natural Areas prior to notification.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Mayor Southgate)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) requests staff report back to the 26 August 2021 Environment Committee meeting on infill and loss of vegetation in gullies, and the work that is being undertaken by the District Plan Committee in this regard.

**The meeting was adjourned from 11.05am to 11.22am.**

## **7. Update on delivery of the 2020/2021 Climate Change Action Plan**

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor spoke the report and outlined some of the areas of climate change action from across Council. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the reduction carbon emission, alternative transport actions, transport policies, travel plans, leadership in climate change strategy and RMA reform, visibility of the action plan, Council's fleet, collaboration opportunities, incorporation of water and swimming within plan and how staff had reduced emissions through active management of traffic systems in areas of congestion.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to circulate the Waikato Regional Council travel plan and to inform members as to how Council could collaborate with the Waikato Regional Council in the development of Council's own travel plan.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

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

**Cr Macpherson Dissenting.**

*Mayor Southgate retired from the meeting (11.44am) during the above item. She was not present when the item was voted on.*

## **8. Opportunities for influencing national and regional climate change response**

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced the report, noting that there is a current stakeholder engagement plan in place to ensure that all stakeholders are involved within the process. She highlighted that there were to be that workshops organised concerning the Climate Adaptation Plan, Emissions Reduction Plan, and National Adaptation Plan. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning how Members would be involved and informed of matters going forward and the submission process.

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr O’Leary)

That the Environment Committee:

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

*Maangai Hill closed the meeting with a karakia.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 12.07pm.**