



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 29 September 2022, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero, Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Brash

Cr Hughes

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Laban

Cr Lamason

Cr Lee

Cr Nash

Cr Ponter

Cr Staples

Cr van Lier

Barbie Barton

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Environment Committee

Thursday 29 September 2022, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero, Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

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5.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting on 9 August 2022	22.362	7
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9.	Crown Funded Projects update – September 2022	22.446	24



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 29 September 2022.

Report 22.370

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 18 August 2022

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.31am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (from 9.35am; until 10.09am)
Councillor Staples
Councillor van Lier
Barbie Barton

Councillors Laban and van Lier participated at this meeting remotely, via Microsoft Teams, and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

The Committee Chair advised, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.6, that there will be an update on the Farming Reference Group, which was not on the agenda.

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 23 June 2022 – Report 22.296

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Connelly

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 23 June 2022 – Report 22.296, as corrected.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Environment Committee Meetings – August 2022 – Report 22.321 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, and Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Councillor Ponter joined the meeting at 9.35am, during the above item.

6 Farming Reference Group Update – Oral Report

Barbie Barton, Farming Reference Group Chair, updated the Committee on the farming sector, and tabled a handout.

After significant rainfall, there is a lot of water lying because the water table is very high. South Wairarapa has experienced the worst of it, due to the high level in Lake Wairarapa. Two members of the Farming Reference Group have said that they have received their average annual rainfall figure already for the year.

Farmers have experienced a significant amount of debris from slash from local forestry sites and from poisoned willows. This is creating a lot of tidy up work for farmers.

Farmers are also concerned about rural road access, with slips closing some roads, and some detours involving up to two hours of extra travel time. Members of the Farming Reference Group voiced their appreciation of the hill country erosion planting programme

Ms Barton outlined pasture conditions, which have been affected by the wet, warm weather, with some good growth; however, pugging and surface flooding continue to be an issue with regrowth. Lambing has had few reported issues; however, calving has been challenging in the wet.

Ms Barton tabled a media release from NZ Farm Environment Trust, which detailed the winners named in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This is a competition funded by

Greater Wellington. Patrizia Vieno and Rod Clutton of Rewa Rewa Station were named as the Supreme Winners.

Ms Barton commented on the implementation of regulations and the need for regional councils to develop a system for certifying farm environment plans, and for Greater Wellington to be aware of the limited HR capacity the farming sector has.

7 Environment/Catchment Update – Report 22.23 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, and Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that officers:

- Provide members with information about data sources relating to sedimentation in Porirua Harbour, and what that data is telling us
- Provide members with recommended actions to manage sediment inputs
- Monitor Horokiwi Stream, once harvesting commences in Puketiro Forest.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 10.09am, during the above item, and did not return.

8 Annual Asset Management Condition Report – Report 22.233

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, and Lucy Ashford spoke the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that at the Wairarapa River scheme advisory committee meetings held between 21 June 2022 and 23 June 2022, that the committees were satisfied that flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets for these catchments have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.
- 2 Agrees that the flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets on the 15 schemes across the Wellington Region have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Annual Floodplain Management Implementation Report – Report 22.234 [For Information]

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, spoke to the report.

Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 10.30am, during the above item.

10 Fly Tipping on Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River – Quantum and Causes – Report 22.332 [For Information]

Joby Mills Hutt River Ranger, and Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That the Committee requests officers explore a fines regime and other options to address the illegal dumping issue.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Hughes returned to the meeting at 10.44am, during the above item.

11 Crown Funded Projects Update – August 2022 – Report 22.366 [For Information]

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 11.07am.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 29 September 2022.

Report 22.362

Public minutes of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday 9 August 2022

Hutt City Council Chamber
30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt at 4.30pm.

Members Present

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Councillor Lamason (Chair)
Councillor van Lier (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Lee

Hutt City Council

Deputy Mayor Lewis
Councillor Edwards

Upper Hutt City Council

Mayor Guppy
Councillor Wheeler

Councillor van Lier participated at this meeting remotely and counted for the purposes of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting on 28 June 2022 – Report 22.298

Moved: Councillor Lee / Mayor Guppy

That the Subcommittee confirms the Public minutes of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting on 28 June 2022 - Report 22.298

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee Meetings – August 2022 – Report 22.322 [For Information]

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, spoke to the report.

6 Asset Management Report for Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt, Wainuiomata and Waiwhetu Floodplains 2021/22 – Report 22.235

Lucy Ashford, Section Leader, Operations Planning spoke to the report.

Moved: Councillor Connelly / Councillor Edwards

That the Subcommittee recommends to the Environment Committee that it is satisfied that flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through maintenance and improvement work programmes.

The motion was **carried**.

7 Moonshine Stopbank Capacity Assessment – Report 22.259

Andy Brown, Team Leader, Investment, Strategy and Planning, spoke to the report and spoke to a presentation.

Moved: Mayor Guppy / Deputy Mayor Lewis

That the Subcommittee endorses the proposed Response Plan.

The motion was **carried**.

8 RiverLink Project update – Report 22.312 [For Information]

Tracy Berghan, RiverLink Lead, Greater Wellington introduced William Peet, Independent Chair, RiverLink Board. Tracy and Tom Newson, RiverLink Project Director spoke to the report.

9 Hutt and Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Implementation Annual Report to June 2022 – Report 22.236 [For Information]

Sharyn Westlake spoke to the report.

The Council Chair, Greater Wellington Councillors, and Subcommittee members thanked the Subcommittee Chair for her passion and significant contribution to improvement in the flood protection works in the Hutt valley and in particular RiverLink over the last 15 years. Flood Protection officers also acknowledged Councillor Lamason with a presentation.

The public meeting closed at 5.36pm.

Councillor P Gaylor
Chair Environment Committee

Date:

Environment Committee
29 September 2022
Report 22.420



For Information

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER 2022

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the progress of action items arising from previous Committee meetings.

Te horopaki

Context

2. Items raised at Committee meetings, that require actions by officers, are listed in the table of action items from previous Committee meetings ([Attachment 1](#) - Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – September 2022). All action items include an outline of the current status and a brief comment.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

3. There are no financial implications from this report, but there may be implications arising from the actions listed.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

4. Completed items will be removed from the action items table for the next report. Items not completed will continue to be progressed and reported. Any new items will be added to the table following this Committee meeting and circulated to the relevant business group/s for action.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – September 2022

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory**

Writers	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao/General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua/General Manager, Catchment Management
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Action items contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies and plans to the extent identified in Attachment 1 .
<i>Internal consultation</i> There was no additional internal consultation in preparing this report and updating the action items.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts.

Attachment 1 to Report 22.420

Action items from previous Environment Committee Meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
31 March 2022	<p>Update on the progress of action items – Report 22.86</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that an update on the broader engagement strategy relating to the Mangaroa wetland be provided.</p>	<p>Status:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>A strategy will be developed following the completion of all formal court actions and will be informed by the outcome of any internal reviews which may follow.</p>
18 August 2022	<p>Environment/Catchment Update – Report 22.23</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that officers:</p> <p>Provide members with information about data sources relating to sedimentation in Porirua Harbour, and what that data is telling us.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 8/9/22 with Cr Brash, Lucy Baker and Dr Megan Oliver to discuss core sediment monitoring sites in Porirua Harbour and the catchment and the key results of that monitoring. This information has been summarised in an email for Councillors Brash and Kirk-Burnnand.</p>
	<p>Provide members with recommended actions to manage sediment inputs.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>The email summary prepared for Cr Brash and Kirk-Burnnand (noted above), will include reference to actions within the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme to reduce sediment inputs to Porirua Harbour.</p>

Attachment 1 to Report 22.420

Action items from previous Environment Committee Meetings

	<p>Monitor Horokiwi Stream, once harvesting commences in Puketiro Forest.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>The Environmental Science programme includes a real-time turbidity monitoring site on the lower Horokiri Stream. This has been in place since 2013 and the results of this monitoring are used to calculate the sediment load entering the harbour from this catchment. This data and summary reports can be found on our website at this link 2020/21 Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour catchment sediment monitoring Greater Wellington Regional Council (gw.govt.nz)</p> <p>These results, however, are not specifically related to the effects of harvesting, but capture sediment loads generated by all catchment activities. Monitoring specific to the effects of forestry harvest should be a requirement of the consent for this activity.</p>
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Environment Committee
29 September 2022
Report 22.24



For information

ENVIRONMENT/CATCHMENT UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

Te horopaki

Context

Regional issues

2. Mountains to Sea Wellington (MTSW) is working with us at our offices in Cuba Street 1-2 days a week. We have been working closely with MTSW for many years now, and this new arrangement will support improved collaboration with their teams as well as providing them with a place to connect with each other.
3. Ongoing wet (and slippery) conditions have slowed field work.
4. An issue for our Regional Possum Predator Control Programme is the shortage of Feratox bait - we have pre-ordered but are in a long line!
5. Feral rabbit control (Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) sustained control species): Staff are busy with rabbit night shooting – slowed by lambing in some areas. We are working with AgResearch to import Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) antibody testing kits but need other regional councils to commit so the order is big enough to warrant the cost.
6. Magpies (RPMP site led species): we are no longer loaning out traps (the public can now buy these from several suppliers) and are assembling existing traps for use by Greater Wellington staff in the spring attack season.
7. Biosecurity submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency Te Mana Rauhi Taiao (EPA) in support of releasing a biocontrol agent, the bud-galling wasp, *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae*, for Sydney golden wattle. We also gave input to the Greater Wellington submission on the Wellington City Council (WCC) District Plan – recommending that WCC do not protect as 'notable trees' those species listed on our RPMP Harmful Organism list (sycamore, monkey apple) as we don't want seed sources of invasive species legally protected.

8. Council adopted the regional coastal plan provisions of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan at its meeting on 25 August 2022 and recommended to the Minister of Conservation that she approve those provisions. Upon the Ministers approval, Council will then be able to make the Natural Resources Plan fully operative; and withdraw the existing 5 operative regional plans (Soil, Air, Discharge to Land, Freshwater and Coastal Plans).
9. Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for the Wellington Region was notified for public consultation on 19 August. We have held two information sessions on RPS Change 1 for planners likely to be completing submissions, one in Masterton and one at Cuba Street. Submissions close 14 October 2022.
10. Our Environmental Incident Response service has been temporarily reduced to exclude any response outside of normal working hours. This is due to workload and resourcing pressures across the Environmental Regulation department and current impact on staff wellbeing.
11. We regularly survey all consent applicants about their customer service experience with us. In 2021/22 the average overall customer service rating was 4.41 out of 5. (Note: The range provided is from 1 = very dissatisfied to 5 = very satisfied.) This is a very pleasing result as our staff frequently operate in a complex consenting environment.
12. The grant QEII Trust received from Greater Wellington enabled support for 18 new covenants in the region in 2021/22. This has helped inspire private landowners to protect and enhance open spaces of ecological and cultural significance. There are now 362 Open Space Covenants (OSC) and five 'Life of Tree' agreements registered to protect 6,245 hectares in the Wellington region.
13. The Flood Protection department has completed the Wellington Regional Flood Exposure Assessment (previously known as the Wellington Regional Flood Vulnerability Assessment; naming changed to align with the terminology used by the Climate Change Impact Assessment Project). This study has developed a new regional rapid flood model to assist with strategic planning activities and is conducting an exposure assessment for a range of social and economic indicators in light of development and climate change predictions. This will be used to support the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment and will be used by Flood Protection to inform strategic investment and priorities.
14. This winter was particularly wet, and our flood incident response duty officers were particularly busy responding to high river levels. Seven of our rainfall sites had the 'wettest winter' since their respective records began. Eight flood incidents were classified between June and August 2022. The total time Greater Wellington was in a 'live incident' (i.e. the time between classification and declassification) for these events combined was 26 days. The updated flood response procedures are being used by the flood response teams across the region.
15. Winter planting – Planting on private land as part of Land Management's farm environment plan services is forecasting 529,000 plants to be in the ground by the end of September. These plants include 230,000 natives, 29,000 poplar and willow trees, and 280,000 exotic trees including radiata, eucalyptus, and tree lucerne. This planting

has occurred across all five Whaitua with the intension of shifting land use to improve water quality, biodiversity, resilience, and sustainability.

16. Parks had a huge winter of native planting with around 154,000 plants in the ground. This effort came from a range of contributors including: community groups, Jobs for Nature teams (HEM of Remutaka), Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF) projects, Sustainable Coastlines and Porirua City Council (PCC), Macleans Trust at Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP), 1 Billion Trees (1BT) and subdivision mitigation.
17. In total, Greater Wellington's planting operations across all departments this winter have planted over 800,000 trees with about two-thirds of those being native trees.
18. The parks leadership team, Jigsaw and Greater Wellington's Legal team are working through a process to address encroachments on Parks land across the network and determine a fair, reasonable and manageable system for addressing these.
19. Restoration Services Panel establishment continues to be led by Parks with input from other Environment and Catchment groups and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri. To ensure we have a good, robust and efficient system in place to procure planting services for Recloaking Papatūānuku and other Greater Wellington restoration and planting.
20. Kaupapa Funding and partnering with Mana Whanua: Parks continues to have discussions with the Te Hunga Whiriwhiri team to determine the best way to package and enable mana whenua partnering in parks. There are significant opportunities with restoration planning, master planning, Better Off Funding for Storytelling and then all the implementation work associated with planting and restoration.
21. Flood Protection added to Greater Wellington's submission on Hutt City Council (HCC), Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC), Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) and WCC plan change/district plans regarding the intensification rules for urban development. Flood Protection comments related to the consequences for flood protection infrastructure, flood warning and response of large-scale intensification in existing urban areas either protected by flood protection infrastructure or in existing areas with limited protection.

Whaitua-specific issues

Te Whanganui-a-Tara

22. An interim decision has been issued by the Environment Court for the RiverLink resource consent. The Environment Court has provided further direction in relation to reworking and inclusion of additional consent conditions in relation to noise/vibration, walking and cycling. Project partners have meet with cycling groups and exchanged updated conditions with all parties. Comments are due back with the Court from all parties by the 30 September 2022. The full decision will then be issued following the receipt of these comments by the Court.
23. Procurement of consultants for design of the RiverLink 'Early Works' is underway. These works comprise the Mills Street stopbank and river and berm works between Melling and Kennedy Good Bridges.
24. The Fast Track application for Kaiwharawhara Ferry Terminal Resource Consent has been lodged and accepted by the Environmental Protection Authority. Greater Wellington will have the opportunity throughout the process to provide comments on the substantive proposal, technical areas, and possible conditions of consent.

25. Biosecurity: A plague skink (*Lampropholis delicata*, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Unwanted Organism) was found at Kilbirnie Pak n Save; neither MPI nor Department of Conservation (DOC) intend to follow up, so we are carrying out some surveillance and monitoring. Plague skinks are not established in the Wellington Region, and we aim to keep it that way.
26. RPMP species-led programmes: We currently have an incursion of the RPMP Exclusion species, alligator weed, in Taitā. A contract has been arranged for wilding pine control in Pakuratahi (RPMP Progressive containment species).
27. Wainuiomata Mainland Island (part of Wainuiomata Orongorongo Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) site) - rats have increased due to a heavy rimu fruiting season. Pigs are a problem currently with 50+ being caught in the Mainland Island again this month. A long-term solution to keep them out is required as they are doing a lot of damage and will keep being drawn to the area by the highly productive healthy podocarp forest created through years of intensive pest management investment.
28. We are carrying out deer control at Kaitoke Regional Park and goat control at Parangarahu Lakes and in the Wainuiomata Catchment. Spring deer control for HCC has been completed (17 controlled). The 'PigBrig' trap (a live capture trap made of a mesh corral enclosure) has been very successful at a Makara property¹.
29. Hutt Kaitoke aerial 1080 operation: the decision was made with Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) to postpone the completion of this operation as WWL can't fit it into their current schedule. Issues include weather, infrastructure maintenance and the need to refill the Te Marua Lakes before the summer dry period. We are therefore working through requirements to dispose of expired 1080 bait in an approved landfill.
30. Predator Free Wellington: Phase 1 (Miramar Peninsula) - Oruaiti Reserve continues to have near zero activity. Use of a rodent dog detection continues on a regular basis. It is currently taking on average of over 417 trap checks to find a rat within the team's operational area in the southern part of the peninsula. This has enabled us to shut down some of the areas that we have been working on due to pest absence, and to move operations north. Phase 2 (Island Bay to CBD) - volunteers have now installed over 150 predator control devices.
31. HCC has increased their funding for Enviroschools in 2022/23 by 180%. This will mean that we can now contract two facilitators to work with schools and centres in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai rather than one.
32. A successful track opening event was held on 17 September 2022 for the Manor Park section of the Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River trail. This completes the Western bank connections from Seaview to Birchville. This work is part of the Kānoa (partially Crown funded) Climate Resilience projects.
33. Also underway as part of the Kānoa Climate Resilience projects are the new cycleway/walkway bridge at Hulls Creek and Taitā Park safety improvements and planting. Revetment works at Port Road and park development and planting at Poets Park are to commence this month.

¹ <https://pigbrig.com/>

34. Planting events in parks have been disrupted by the wet weather, with Rōpū Tiaki event at the Lakes going ahead on the third attempt. Luckily by this time the Lake levels had dropped, which had the roads underwater for 3 weeks at Kohangapiripiri. HEM of Remutaka key part of the event and the Kaitiaki Ranger lead a number of the components of the day including the Rahui.
35. A joint Jobs for nature project day was hosted by Parks at Baring Head. Both the HEM of Remutaka and Mahi Mō Te Taiao team for Waikanae joined forces to do a working bee at the Lighthouse complex in a terrible southerly storm. Great opportunity for the teams to share experiences and talk about the talk they are both doing.
36. Plantation Forestry – ongoing issues with Parks trying to monitor operator compliance, particularly in relation to the use of the Hukinga Ford crossing. Sedimentation of the river is a major issue in this location. Parks is trying to work closely with Environmental Regulation on this and develop a clear system for roles and responsibilities.
37. Bridge Road Swingbridge replacement is nearing completion with final load testing to be completed by the end of September 2022. This will improve access to the popular Birchville Dam.
38. Air quality monitoring in Manners Street in Wellington city has been tracking impacts of bus fleet electrification on air quality along the Golden Mile. This monitoring suggests that, among other factors, changes to introduce more electric and low-emission diesel buses to the Metlink fleet are reducing levels of harmful particles and gases in the air along the Golden Mile.

Ruamāhanga

39. Erosion protection works at River Road, Masterton on the Ruamāhanga River, adjacent to the historic Masterton landfill, will commence once the resource consent has been approved. There are three stages to the project with the co-government funded Kānoa Climate Resilience project undertaking stage one, the remaining two stages being funded through the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan. Stage two pre-construction work is now underway.
40. The approval of the new funding system for the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan has allowed work to commence on the programme prioritisation. The Paierau Road flooding signage project is now underway with a hope to have signage in place in the next few months.
41. The Waiohine River Plan implementation is currently on hold due to a lack of capacity to undertake the work. The first step is to establish the governance structure. We are awaiting the names of the governance group from the Waiohine Action Group. They are awaiting the outcome of the local body elections and any potential changes to the committee structures before they are willing to submit their governance committee.
42. Flood Protection has commenced planning for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review and Management Plan project. Scoping assessments are currently being undertaken for modelling and geomorphology for the Lower Valley. This review will require significant inputs from a number of Departments / Groups within Greater Wellington.

43. Flood Protection continues to work with the Wairarapa councils and community groups over the provision of flood hazard information to support the Combined District Plan review process currently being progressed. Updated flood hazard maps will be provided for the proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan in 2023. Consultation on draft flood hazard maps for the Mangatāre Stream, Waipoua River and upper Ruamāhanga River is being planned for November 2022.
44. RPMP species led programmes: The rook control programme (RPMP eradication species) is underway. Early surveys of our problem rookeries from past years is underway to establish if birds are present and if we need to prepare for Biosecurity Act 1993 entries. Annual inspections for moth plant in Masterton and Featherston and a delimiting survey in Featherston are underway, as are woolly nightshade annual inspections in Carterton and Featherston (both RPMP eradication species).
45. Enviroschools has launched a new partnership with Garden to Table in Masterton with support from Masterton Trust Lands Trust. This is enabling us to contract a garden support person to work initially with three schools in Masterton to support them to grow, harvest and prepare food in their school grounds.
46. Land Management has been meeting with the Parkvale Catchment Group regarding the implementation of Certified Farm Environment Plans now required by the proposed Natural Resources Plan. About 100 properties in the Parkvale catchment will require a Certified Farm Environment Plan by December 2023. Another 500 properties have the same requirements coming into effect by June 2025. It is expected that these pNRP requirements are a “head start” but will be superceded when the national framework for certified farm plans under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) take effect in the Region in 2024/25.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua

47. The Community Environment Fund in Te Awarua o Porirua whaitua, which we co-manage with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, is open for applications until 30 September 2022. This is a contestable fund for community groups involved in environmental restoration projects. Groups can apply for up to \$10,000 each year for up to three years. Successful applicants will be notified in November 2022.
48. The hearing has been held for the resource consent application for the continuation and expansion of Willowbank Quarry. The hearing was held jointly with PCC with several experts and submitters in attendance. A decision on this application is expected from the independent hearing panel towards the end of September.
49. With Transmission Gully, we are continuing to work through the outstanding issues as required. For instance Greater Wellington has been processing applications lodged in July 2022 associated with approximately 3km of unconsented streamworks undertaken on site, changes to streamworks consented by the Board of Inquiry and proposed additional biodiversity offset works. Pre-application advice has also been provided regarding additional earthworks required to complete the project. We are also assessing retrospective planting plans associated with ecological offset planting already undertaken on site by Waka Kotahi.
50. The hearing for Porirua Wastewater Treatment Plant was adjourned mid-June 2022 and remains open. Ongoing actions are being directed via Minutes from the Hearing Panel.

Actions yet to be completed include an assessment of consenting requirements under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-FW), rerunning the dispersion modelling, review/update the quantitative microbial risk assessment, conferencing between applicant and Greater Wellington planning experts, comment from Greater Wellington on the Rukutane Point pump station discharge, an updated set of draft consent conditions, and the applicants right of reply. The Have Your Say webpage is being updated regularly to outline progress and all information relevant to the consent application is available for download on this webpage². Submitters will be given the opportunity to comment on the updated draft consent conditions prior to the Hearing Panel the hearing panel making a decision.

Kāpiti Coast

51. A scope to develop a management plan for the Ōtaki quarry lake area, currently sits with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki for review and signing.
52. The Te Roto link project is still in the design phase. We are currently working with Winstone Aggregates to set up a safe crossing point over their quarry haul road in the event that people attempt to access the river trail from the Ōtaki Lake area (once the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway shared path is open).
53. The partnership project with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to develop a long-term plan for flood risk management in the Waitohu stream is continuing. A report has been written on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki as part of this project. Flood risk management options are currently being assessed by a specialist hydraulic modeller.
54. Brightly coloured sponge gardens, important as a source of food and shelter for fish, have been mapped off the Kapiti coast. In a joint project between Greater Wellington, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington (Victoria University), and DOC, a multi-year habitat mapping project has commenced to find and describe coastal sites of particular importance for biodiversity. These deep water reefs, found below 30m depth, provide three dimensional structure which traps food, and provides nooks and crannies which act as nursery habitat and shelter for a range of other organisms. These reefs and ‘gardens’ can be biodiversity hotspots important not only for the huge range of species living there, but also for the high levels of productivity (cycling of nutrients, food production). They are vulnerable to anchoring, some forms of fishing, sedimentation and warming oceans. Regional councils have a key role to play in halting the decline of indigenous biodiversity and identifying and mapping the extent of important coastal and marine habitat and ecosystems is a central objective of Te Mana o Te Taiao (NZ Biodiversity Strategy) and the NZ Coastal Policy Statement. We have already scheduled more than 50 areas and habitats in the NRP as being important for indigenous biodiversity. This programme of work will continue to add to those schedules and the development of policies and rules for their protection. We have

² <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/poriruawwtp>

posted some articles on our Facebook page, and our partner Victoria University has also published an article on their website³; and Stuff has picked up the awesome work too.⁴

55. Macleans Trust planting continued at Queen Elizabeth Park with 12,000 plants going into the NE corner adjacent to the peatland area. We are nearing the end of this amazing multi year project that has had such a profound impact on the restoration of that corner of the park.

Wairarapa Coast and Eastern Hills

56. The six Catchment Schemes administered by the Land Management Department have had some damage to community roading assets with frequent flooding throughout the winter. It is expected that the work programmes will require some re-prioritising and may require the use of flood damage reserves in some schemes.
57. The Regional Predator Control Programme in the Pakowhai (Mataikona area) is 45% complete and the Peaks (southeast of Tinui) 2021-22 unfinished control is now complete. A complete re-treatment is planned for later this year, post-lambing. Some of the KNE works programmes are now delayed due to lambing pressures.
58. Boneseed (RPMP sustained control species) annual inspections have been completed at Manatoetoe and Ngawi townships, with new sites found in Ngawi and Cape Palliser.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Approvers	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua General Manager, Catchment Management
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³ <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/news/2022/09/thriving-underwater-gardens-found-off-wellingtons-coast>

⁴ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/129816561/researchers-find-neverseenbefore-sponge-gardens-off-wellington-coast>

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation work programmes of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Development and implementation of related work programmes falls under the core activities of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.
<i>Internal consultation</i> Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> This report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial, and HSW risks, and implications are associated.

Environment Committee
29 September 2022
Report 22.446



For Information

CROWN FUNDED PROJECTS UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2022

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the Crown funded projects and programmes.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Government announced infrastructure investment funding to create jobs and progress COVID recovery. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) secured funding for regional projects, as outlined in [Attachment 1](#) – Crown funded projects and programmes – progress update presentation September 2022.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

3. The General Manager Catchment Management will speak to [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#) at the Committee's meeting on 29 September 2022.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Crown funded projects and programmes – progress update September 2022
2	Crown funded projects – J4N Riparian Buffer Planting programme update

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatory

Writer	Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager Catchment Management
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He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> It is appropriate for the Committee to be informed of the progress of the Crown funded COVID-19 recovery projects as the projects in the Wellington Region relate to Council's environmental strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives, which address environmental issues in the Region.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The update contributes to the delivery of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project, Ruamāhanga River flood protection strategies, Predator Free Wellington, and 1 Billion Trees Partnership Project.
<i>Internal consultation</i> All Crown Funded projects are reported to the Greater Wellington Crown Funded Project Board, comprising representatives from Catchment, Environment and Corporate Services.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts.

Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects - Progress Update



The Projects:

ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
DELAYED / AT RISK
OFF TRACK / NOT ACHIEVED

FUND	FUNDER	PROJECT	TOTAL VALUE	GW CONTRIBUTION	JOBS CREATED	STATUS
MfE	J4N	Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Expansion	\$5M	\$1.5	2 FTE + staff support & DOC resources (2 FTE)	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
Kānoa	Shovel Ready	Climate Resilience Programme – Erosion Projects	\$23.3M	\$12.5M	50 FTE (25 FTE)	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
Kānoa	Shovel Ready	Climate Resilience Programme – Major Projects				ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
MfE	J4N	Ruamahanga River buffer riparian planting	\$5M	\$2.5M	1 FTE (1 FTE plus contractor labour)	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
PFW	NEXT F WCC PF2050 Ltd	Predator Free Wellington	\$7M	\$500K	31 FTE (25 FTE) Up to 15 contractors (4 permanent)	DELAYED / AT RISK
1BT	MPI	1 Billion Trees – Hill Country Erosion	\$15M	\$7.4 (GW & landowner)	6 FTE (100% MPI funded) (6 FTE)	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
1BT	MPI	1 Billion Trees Partnership Grant – Riparian/Parks/Biodiversity programme increase	\$4.5M	\$3.25M (GW & landowner)	1 FTE (100% MPI funded) (11 estimated FTE)	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
MfE	Freshwater Improvement Fund	Improving Fish Passage in the Greater Wellington Region	\$4.6M	\$2.6M	3 FTE for GW and 1 FTE for Ngāti Toa	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED
DoC	J4N	HEM of Remutaka	\$1.6M	\$0 (staff time)	6 FTE	ON TRACK / ACHIEVED

MfE – Ministry for the Environment • J4N – Jobs for Nature • MPI – Ministry of Primary Industries • PDU – Provincial Development Unit now known as Kānoa-RDU – Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit
DoC – Department of Conservation

J4N Wairarapa Moana Wetland Enhancement

- The Ōnoke Spit vehicle diversion fence to protect the threatened ecosystem has been completed by Ngā Kanohi Marae o Wairarapa (Marae Based Trades Training).
- Staff met with Fish and Game and DOC to discuss the Okakura Weir replacement at JK Donald wetland. Fish and Game are to take the lead on this project with support from GW and DOC.
- A plan is being put in place for consenting and installing a fish passage rock ramp in a slumped section of the conveyance channel at Wairio wetland.
- Pest animal control is ongoing.
- Planting preparations for JK Donald Wetland and Kahutara Lagoon has been completed, and planting will begin at the end of the month.
- In October, the team are hosting Pō Whakanuia, a celebratory event to launch the ecological restoration and engagement plans. This is to acknowledge and thank the contributors and look forward to collaborative implementation.

Climate Resilience (previously Shovel Ready)

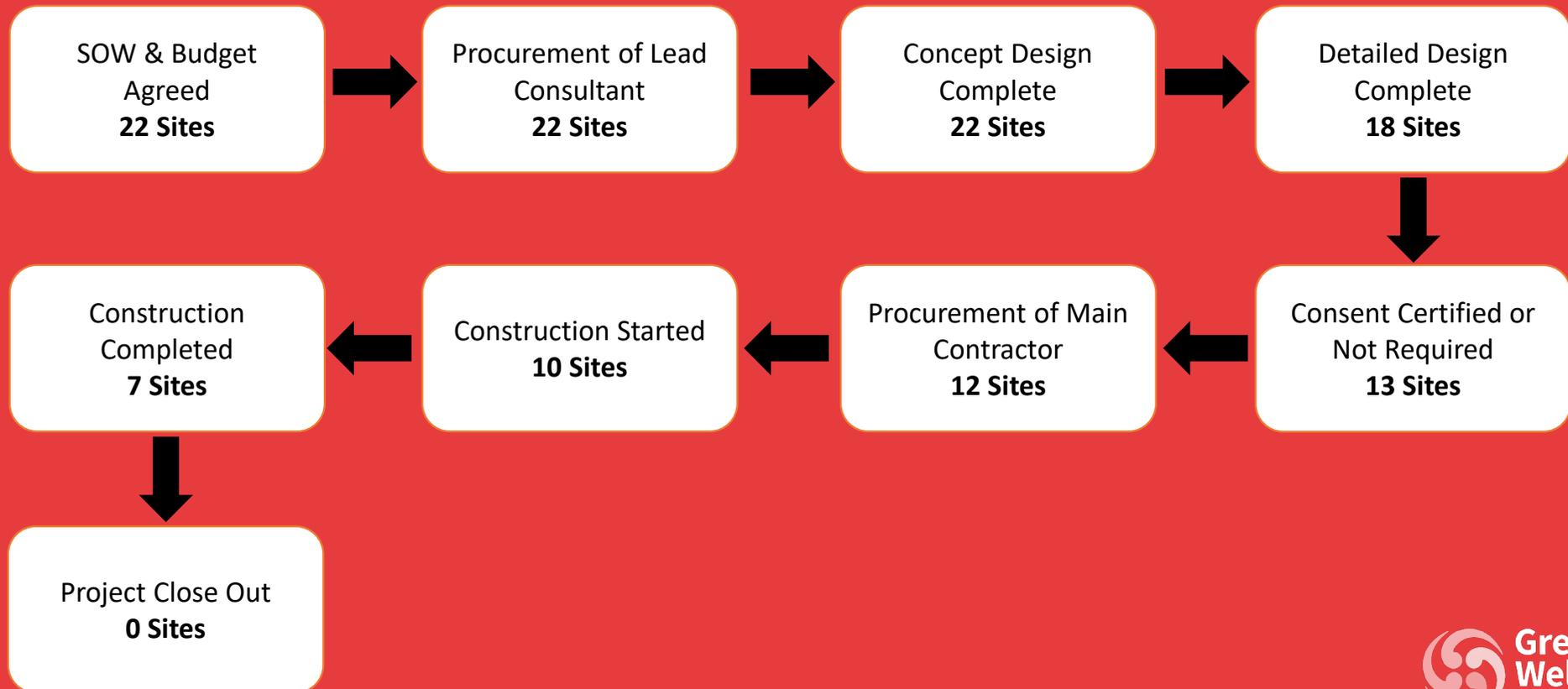
Two projects over 22 sites (7 complete, 2 under construction, 5 preparing for construction, 7 deferred)

Consenting and construction processing as scheduled

Broader outcomes process:

- Supporting our contractors to focus on worker mental health:
 - *Resources, support and training for promoting and enhancing worker mental wellness*
- Initiative to strengthen iwi-Corrections relationships, facilitation support provided by GWRC program team
 - *Meeting held between Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections), MBIE, GWRC*
- Supporting growth of Māori businesses
 - *Mills Albert - local, Māori owned contractor procured for works at multiple sites*
- Wetland restoration project
- Specified program funding for professional development, life skills, mental wellness, etc.

Resilient River Communities Programme Overview – August 2022



J4N Ruamahanga River Riparian Planting

- **Planting is ongoing, approximately 38,000 plants will be planted this winter**
- **Pest animal control activities are continuing**
- **Fencing activities are ongoing, approximately 4km will be installed before the end of winter**
- **Planting and fencing activities are running behind schedule due to the wet weather over the last four weeks**

Predator Free Wellington

Phase 1: Miramar Peninsula

- Strategy underway to eradicate rats from a smaller portion of the Miramar Peninsula. This allows us to focus on eradication in a concentrated space
 - Major strides have been made forward, faster than expected. We have managed to ‘retire’ large parts of the southern end of the peninsula after seeing no evidence of rats.
 - Camera network is kept in place and regularly assessed to continue to test the assumption that these areas are rat free.
 - As we push further north, evidence is showing that the rats exist in very low numbers in the new operational spaces. We anticipate a swift progression through these areas.
 - Volunteers continue to provide great assistance outside of our operational area.
 - Early trials with new software for assessing trail camera images look positive but more testing needs to be done to determine reliability.

Phase 2: Owhiro Bay to CBD

- Community Outreach Officers continue to gather permission to operate on private property in Newtown.
- Volunteers have installed over 150 predator control devices in the buffer area and will shortly start baiting.



1 Billion Trees

- **Pre-spraying of planting sites began in March to ensure planting can begin as conditions allow.**
- **The iwi liaison role has compiled a Māori tree and plant use document based on Akura species list.**
- **The Riparian programme is on track for complete delivery this winter, including over 70 planting projects and an estimated total of 100,000 native plants on private property. All works are prioritised regionally, and by catchment, based on water quality improvement needs where the project is proposed.**

Improving Fish Passage Project

- Ngāti Toa has recently signed a statement of works with GW for the delivery of the fish passage project work
- Additional funding has been approved from the Environmental Regulation Restitution Fund for the engagement of an environmental planner to assist the project team in developing an application for a global consent to authorise small to medium scale remediation measures
- Staff have continued fish passage assessments in the Kaiwharawhara stream, tributaries of the Porirua stream, Wellington's south coast and Pakuratahi Regional Park.
- The project team is currently finalising its approach to allocating fish passage remediation funding for the project and have also identified five high priority areas to focus on undertaking fish passage assessments and remediation this financial year. These catchments are: Hawkins, Wellington catchments, Whareroa, Wharemake and Waikanae.

HEM of Remutaka

- **Joined Rōpū Tiaki at planting day in August**
 - **Kaitiaki Ranger led: Rahui, Karakia, planting demos**
- **Joint working bee with mahi mo te tai ao group (Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai)**
- **Helping a lot with GW Parks planting at Parangarahu Lakes (3,000) and Baring Head (8,000)**
- **Now servicing traplines installed along Wainuiomata Coast Road, Orongorongo River and Turakirae Head.**
- **Track work on Remutaka Cycle Trail (Great Ride) – Wild Coast Section**
- **Weed control - focus on boxthorn and Lupin**



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting

Project goals

- By June 2025, 150,000 riparian buffer plants will be planted across 100ha of riparian land within the Ruamāhanga Catchment, to create a riparian margin.
- By June 2025, 30km of river buffers within the Ruamāhanga catchment are fenced to protecting planting and exclude stock.

[UNCLASSIFIED]

J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting



J4N 'Major Rivers' Riparian buffer planting

Progress to date

- Natives planted; 80,828 across 45 hectares
- Approximately 16,000 willow poles planted
- 6km of fencing installed
- Two trap networks setup (near Barrage Gates) to protect Australasian bittern nesting sites.

