

Minutes of inaugural meeting of the Natural Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch, on Thursday, 1 July 2021 at 10.15am

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Present

Cr Claire McKay (Co-Chair) Councillors Tane Apanui, Phil Clearwater, Grant Edge, Nicole Marshall, Elizabeth McKenzie, Craig Pauling (Co-Chair), Lan Pham (via MS Teams), Peter Scott and Vicky Southworth

Management and officers present

Stefanie Rixecker (Chief Executive), Tim Davie (Director Science), David Perenara-O'Connell (Acting Director Strategy & Planning), Tafflyn Bradford-James (Director Communication and Engagement), Caroline Hart (Senior Strategy Manager), Jesse Burgess (Senior Strategy Manager), Judith Earl-Goulet (General Manager–Regulatory Services), Nick Daniels (General Manager–Field Operations), Toshi Hodliffe (Acting General Manager Governance), and Louise McDonald (Senior Committee Advisor).

Report writers and other staff were also present.

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga – Opening

Committee Co-Chair Cr McKay welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Natural Environment Committee. Committee Co-Chair Cr Pauling gave a mihi whakatau and a karakia.

2. **Apologies**

Council Chair Jenny Hughey, Tumu Taiao Yvette Couch-Lewis, Tumu Taiao Iaeon Cranwell, Councillors Megan Hands, Ian Mckenzie and John Sunckell

3. **Conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. **Public Forum, Deputations and Petitions**

There were no public forum, deputations or petitions

5. **Decision Items**

5.1 **Terms of Reference/How We Work**

Refer pages 7 to 10 of the agenda.

It was explained that the Co-chairs would work with staff on agenda items that would include reporting on the relevant work programmes.

Clarification was sought on item 5(d) of the Committee's Terms of Reference relating to appointing hearing committees.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. notes the Terms of Reference for the Natural Environment Committee adopted by Council on 29 April 2021**
- 2. notes the function of the Natural Environment Committee**
- 3. notes the connection to and scope of the Catchment Subcommittee.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Edge
CARRIED

5.2 **Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Refresh 2021**

Refer pages 11 to 16 of the agenda

Staff presented this report with a demonstration of how the information in the Targets report will look on the Environment Canterbury web site.

Feedback from the Committee included on the Targets report included:

- Support for the move to reporting outcomes as well as reporting actions.
- Look to identifying expected timelines for anticipated improvements in nitrate levels, environmental flows and other indicators in the report.

A request was made for a review of a recent report on irrigation and water use in the Ashburton/Hinds zone.

There was a suggestion the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) goals may need to be reviewed, particularly in the Target area of Recreation and Amenity. It was confirmed that through the Fit for Future project the CWMS Regional Committee had looked at this and agreed that this work would sit better with the zone committees.

The Committee Co-chairs would work with staff to ensure that the Committee has visibility over progress and financial performance for the work on Long-Term Plan levels of service and CWMS goals.

The Committee was advised that a workshop will be held on CWMS target reporting before it is presented to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Targets Progress report for 2021**
- 2. approves the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Targets Progress Report for 2021 for sign off by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 20 August 2021, following a Committee workshop.**

Cr Scott/Cr Southworth
CARRIED

6. Information Items

6.1 Soil Conservation and Revegetation Programme

Refer page 17 to 24 of the agenda

Staff presented this report and acknowledged the support provided by Hurunui and Kaikōura District Councils.

In response to a question staff explained that landowners can register for the Emissions Trading Scheme if they meet the requirements.

The Committee thanked the staff for the report and expressed support for future applications to the Ministry for Primary Industries to run the programme in other areas.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the report on the Soil conservation and Revegetation programme.**

Cr McKay/Cr Clearwater
CARRIED

6.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Refresh 2021

Refer pages 25 to 27 of the agenda.

It was advised the appointment would be considered by the relevant territorial authorities and the Regional Council at upcoming meetings.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the update on the 2021 Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Zone Committee Refresh.**

Cr Southworth/Cr Edge
CARRIED

6.3 Report on 29 – 31 May 2021 Flood

Refer pages 28 to 32 of the agenda.

Staff explained that the 1 per cent annual exceedance probability figure in the report was based on the same statistics as the one in one hundred year figure often cited for flood events. Staff said that work was being done on how best to explain rainfall probability. It was suggested that a comparison of the usual flow for a river against the flow during the flood event would also be useful.

The impact on the community of this event was acknowledged. The Chief Executive, staff and all those who worked on the response and recovery were thanked.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the 29 to 31 May 2021 flood event report.**

Cr Clearwater/Cr McKenzie
CARRIED

7. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

8. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

9. General Business

Items for future meetings

The Co-Chair advised that the next meeting would have more of a focus on biodiversity. Members were invited to forward requests for future items to the Committee Co-Chairs.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 23 September 2021.

12. Mihi / Karakia whakamutunga – closing

The Co-Chair thanked everyone for their participation and invited Cr Pauling to close the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm.

CONFIRMED

Co-Chair BE Mley

Date 23/9/21

Co-Chair Cr Pauling

Date 23/09/21