

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Natural Environment Committee held at Environment Canterbury, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Thursday, 23 September 2021 at 10.31am.

Contents

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening
2. Apologies
3. Conflict of Interest
4. Public Forum, Deputations and Petitions
5. Minutes
6. Matters Arising
7. Decision Items
 - 7.1. Freshwater Farm Plan and Stock Exclusion Low Slope Map submissions
8. Information Items
 - 8.1. Catchment Sub-Committee
 - 8.2. Overview of Biodiversity and Biosecurity activities in the Long-Term Plan
 - 8.3. Me Uru Rākau update
 - 8.4. National Wilding Conifer Control Programme update
 - 8.5. Winter Air Quality and Clean Air Programme update
 - 8.6. Ki Uta Ki Tai: Hill and High Country update
9. Notices of Motion
10. Extraordinary and Urgent Business
11. Next Meeting
12. Mihi/Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

Present

Councillor Craig Pauling (Co-Chair)	Councillor Elizabeth McKenzie
Councillor Claire McKay (Co-Chair)	Councillor Lan Pham*
Chair Jenny Hughey	Councillor Tane Apanui
Councillor Peter Scott	Councillor Vicky Southworth
Councillor Phil Clearwater	Councillor Megan Hands
Tumu Taiao Iaeān Cranwell	Councillor John Sunckell
Councillor Grant Edge	Councillor Nicole Marshall
Councillor Ian Mackenzie	

*Via MS Teams.

In attendance

Stefanie Rixecker (Chief Executive), Tim Davie (Director Science), Giles Southworth (Director Finance and Corporate Services), Katherine Harbrow (Director Operations), Catherine Schache (General Counsel and Acting General Manager Governance), David Perenara-O'Connell (Senior Strategy Manager), Cameron Smith (Senior Strategy Manager), Judith Earl-Goulet (General Manager – Regulatory Services), Nick Daniels (General Manager – Field Operations), Toshi Hodliffe (Team Leader Strategy and Planning), Dann Olykan (Team Leader Strategy and Planning), Graham Sullivan (Regional Leader – Partnership Projects), Fiona Myles (Principal Strategy Advisor), Mel Renganathan, (Principal Strategy Advisor Water), Jennifer Rochford (Principal Advisor – Portfolio Management), *Carl Diamond (Manager – Biosecurity, Parks and Forests), Claire Pattison (Senior Strategy Advisor), Paul Stanton (Programme Manager), Anita Fulton (Senior Strategy Advisor – Water and Land), *Alex Morgan (Team Leader Strategy and Planning, Biodiversity and Biosecurity),

Maree Willetts (Principal Strategy Advisor), Duran Keeley (BIS Support Specialist), Juliet Bruce (Committee Advisor).

*Via MS Teams.

Other members of staff were also present.

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening

The Committee Co-Chair Craig Pauling welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Karakia: Councillor Craig Pauling.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the audio recording of the meeting would be uploaded to the environment Canterbury website.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Tumu Taiao Couch-Lewis, from Chair Hughey for early departure, and from Councillor Pham for lateness.

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

4. Deputations and Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

5. Minutes

Refer to page 7 - Natural Environment Committee agenda

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives and confirms the minutes of the Natural Environment Committee meeting held on 1 July 2021.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Scott
CARRIED

6. Matters arising

The Director of Science responded to the minutes of the meeting of 1 July 2021.

Item 5.2: Canterbury Water Management Strategy – 2021 Targets Progress Reporting

- It was requested during the Committee meeting of 1 July 2021 that a review be provided of a recent report on irrigation and water use in the Hinds zone. The Director gave an overview of the report, and explained Environment Canterbury's consideration of the report's findings in modelling good management practice in sub-regional plans.
- The Committee was advised that the proposed workshop on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy targets report, which was to be held before the Canterbury Mayoral Forum 20 August 2021 meeting, would be rescheduled for

October. Staff were reviewing the targets and would provide an update at the October workshop.

In response to questions of clarification it was confirmed that:

- The October workshop was to examine the report in light of stakeholders' feedback and concentrate on future work for 2025 targets, rather than to discuss the 2021 targets specifically.
- **Action:** Director of Science confirmed that the Committee would be advised when the next targets report would be.

7. Decision Items

7.1 Freshwater Farm Plan and Stock Exclusion Low Slope Map submissions

Refer page 12 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Principal Strategy Advisor – Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Staff sought Committee approval on Environment Canterbury's final submissions on the central government discussion documents on *Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations* and the *Stock Exclusion Regulations: Proposed changes to the low slope map*. The key themes of the submissions were highlighted, including clarification of processes and technical definitions that were relevant to the implementation of the regulations.

There were questions of clarification regarding the certifiers' role in the process. The Committee was advised the submission requested clarification from the Ministry for the Environment due to uncertainty regarding the advice and certification processes.

The Co-Chair confirmed that the Ministry for the Environment had extended the submission deadline to 7 October 2021, however it was desirable to progress the submission process as soon as possible. The Co-Chair suggested a further recommendation authorising the Council Chair and Deputy Chair to make minor changes to the submissions.

MOTION

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. approves the final submission on the Freshwater Farm Plans Regulations discussion document
2. approves the final submission on the Stock Exclusion Regulations: Proposed changes to the low slope map discussion document.

An amendment was moved by Councillor McKenzie and seconded by Councillor Edge. That the above motion be amended by adding a third (3) recommendation:

3. *That the following be added to the end of the Freshwater Farm Plan submission, for example as point 133:*
"We note that climate change adaptation has not been included in the FWFP discussion document. Climate change brings with it an increase in heavy rainfall and flooding, droughts, increased fire risk, increased air and water temperatures, and high winds. These factors will affect our farmers more as climate change intensifies. Our farmers need a mechanism in their farm plans that enables them to plan in measures for adaptation to climate change – farm resilience. FWFP guidance could require farm plans to include climate change predictions for the region the farm is in,

ask that the farm plan describes how these predictions will affect their farm, and shows how farm plans will deal with them. FWFP guidance can also flag current farm practices that are at a high risk of being maladaptive to climate change, in the sense that they decrease farm resilience in the face of climate change.”

Cr McKenzie clarified that the amendment was regarding climate change adaptation and resilience, not mitigation, which was dealt with in the submission already at points 30 and 45.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pauling and seconded by Tumu Taiao Cranwell. That the first (1) and second (2) substantive motion be amended by striking out the word “approves” and have added in its place the word “receives” ie:

1. *receives the final submission on the Freshwater Farm Plans Regulations discussion document*
2. *receives the final submission on the Stock Exclusion Regulations: Proposed changes to the low slope map discussion document*

The amendment was CARRIED

This became part of the substantive motion.

The amendment to add a third (3) recommendation was put to a vote as follows:

3. *That the following paragraphs be added to the submission at a location to be decided by the Chair, as follows:*
 - a. *“We note that climate change adaptation has not been included in the FWFP discussion document. Climate change brings with it an increase in heavy rainfall and flooding, droughts, increased fire risk, increased air and water temperatures, and high winds. These factors will affect our farmers more as climate change intensifies. Our farmers need a mechanism in their farm plans that enables them to plan in measures for adaptation to climate change – farm resilience. FWFP guidance could require farm plans to include climate change predictions for the region the farm is in, ask that the farm plan describes how these predictions will affect their farm, and shows how farm plans will deal with them. FWFP guidance can also flag current farm practices that are at a high risk of being maladaptive to climate change, in the sense that they decrease farm resilience in the face of climate change.”*

The amendment was CARRIED

This became part of the substantive motion.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Edge and seconded by Councillor McKenzie. That the third (3) recommendation be amended to include a second paragraph (b.), ie:

- b. *That paragraph 10 of the submission on Freshwater Farm Plans Regulations discussion document be amended by adding the following sentence to the conclusion of the paragraph, as follows:*
“Further clarity is required to better understand the relationship between the FW-FP system and regional council planning processes, particularly with regard to how cumulative effects as well as any collective or non-statutory actions (e.g. from NPS-FM 2020 action plans) are considered.”

There was a robust discussion regarding the practical implications of the amendment, including the following:

- The amendment would encourage comprehensive catchment-wide assessments and measurement of cumulative effects. This would involve going beyond farm by farm assessments, and focus on holistic catchment understanding. The farm plans can then be modified to address issues of the whole catchment.
- The amendment would add clarity back into the submission that was removed during the drafting process.
- There was support for further clarity of process however it was suggested that the meaning of this amendment was already sufficiently clear within the final submission.
- There was concern that the amendment would cause confusion, as it was already expected through the standard farm plan methodology that an all-of-catchment approach would be used.

The amendment was CARRIED

This became part of the substantive motion.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pauling and seconded by Tumu Taiao Cranwell. That the above motion be amended by adding a fourth (4) recommendation ie:

4. *approves the submissions with the changes previously resolved*

Abstained: Cr Hands and Cr McKay

The amendment was CARRIED

This became part of the substantive motion.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pauling and seconded by Councillor Clearwater. That the above motion be amended by adding a fifth (5) recommendation ie:

5. *delegates to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council authority to make changes to the submissions that are minor and have minor effect.*

The amendment was CARRIED

This became part of the substantive motion.

The following was noted:

- The rural sector and Environment Canterbury had made considerable progress in recent years, with many positive changes for farm management principles and relationships between organisations and groups within the sector.
- The increasing complexity of regulations was introducing new systems and decreasing farmers' ability to put capital towards on-the-ground actions leading to environmental improvements.

Councillor Pham joined the meeting at 11.58am via Teams.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. receives the final submission on the Freshwater Farm Plans Regulations discussion document
2. receives the final submission on the Stock Exclusion Regulations: Proposed changes to the low slope map discussion document
3. That the Committee agrees to amend the submissions as follows:
 - a. That the following paragraphs be added to the submission at a location to be decided by the Chair, as follows:

We note that climate change adaptation has not been included in the FWFP discussion document. Climate change brings with it an increase in heavy rainfall and flooding, droughts, increased fire risk, increased air and water temperatures, and high winds. These factors will affect our farmers more as climate change intensifies. Our farmers need a mechanism in their farm plans that enables them to plan in measures for adaptation to climate change – farm resilience. FWFP guidance could require farm plans to include climate change predictions for the region the farm is in, ask that the farm plan describes how these predictions will affect their farm, and shows how farm plans will deal with them. FWFP guidance can also flag current farm practices that are at a high risk of being maladaptive to climate change, in the sense that they decrease farm resilience in the face of climate change.”
 - b. That paragraph 10 of the submission on Freshwater Farm Plans Regulations discussion document be amended by adding the following sentence to the conclusion of the paragraph, as follows:

Further clarity is required to better understand the relationship between the FW-FP system and regional council planning processes, particularly with regard to how cumulative effects as well as any collective or non-statutory actions (e.g. from NPS-FM 2020 action plans) are considered
4. approves the submissions with the changes previously resolved
5. delegates to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council authority to make changes to the submissions that are minor and have minor effect.

Cr Pauling/Tumu Taiao Cranwell
CARRIED

8. Information Items

8.1. Catchment Sub-Committee

Refer page 45 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Co-Chair of the Catchment Sub-Committee, Councillor Ian Mackenzie.

Chair Hughey left the meeting at 12.02pm.

Councillor Mackenzie provided an update on the Catchment Sub-Committee. The cost of the floods was about \$20 million in total. Environment Canterbury and National Emergency Management Agency were contributing resources to the recovery efforts. Canterbury mayors had indicated support for a Canterbury-wide flood recovery rate.

RESOLVED

That the Regional and Strategic Leadership Committee:

- 1. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Catchment Sub-Committee held on 12 August 2021.**

Tumu Taiao Cranwell/Councillor Mackenzie
CARRIED

8.2. Biodiversity and Biosecurity

Refer page 50 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Team Leader Strategy and Planning – Biodiversity and Biosecurity.

Staff gave a brief overview of the paper as providing a strategic overview of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio. It was noted that the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee would oversee financial reporting, and the Regional and Strategic Leadership Committee would oversee performance reporting.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio work programme overview.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Edge
CARRIED

8.3. Me Uru Rākau

Refer page 55 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Zone Manager – Northern, Zone Delivery.

Staff updated the Committee on the Me Uru Rākau project, a regional indigenous biodiversity enhancement programme approved as part of the Long-Term Plan.

The following key points were discussed:

- The programme to date has focused on developing catchment criteria to identify suitable Canterbury catchments.
- Thirteen catchments were identified as suitable due to their potential for community engagement, including with papatipu rūnanga.
- Arrangements with the QEII National Trust were based on the current financial year's priorities.
- Co-design and co-development with papatipu rūnanga were in the early stages and were considered an important part of the programme.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. notes the Me Uru Rākau programme update.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Marshall
CARRIED

8.4. National Wilding Conifer Control Programme update

Refer page 59 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Regional Leader - Partnership Projects, Biosecurity, Parks and Forests.

Staff provided an update on the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme's progress within the past twelve months.

The following was noted:

- A brief overview of the Programme structure was provided, including the key organisations, skills and connections required to carry out the programme effectively.
- The wildfires at Lake Pukaki and Lake Ohau caused significant delays to delivery of the programme, however the wildfires increased the Programme's 'social licence' to carry out wilding conifer control.
- The Ministry for Primary Industries front-loaded the programme funding to create more jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry for Primary Industries funding scheduled for Canterbury wilding conifer control in years 3 and 4 of the programme was not guaranteed.
- The wilding conifer control was carefully managed in Canterbury to ensure shelterbelts and forestry blocks were retained and forestry investments were not put at risk.
- Mana whenua were not represented within the programme, however Environment Canterbury was working with rūnanga at a local scale to progress the programme.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the report on the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme.**

Cr Pauling/Cr Apanui
CARRIED

8.5. Winter Air Quality and Clean Air Programme update

Refer page 65 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Principal Consents Planner and Senior Science Analyst – Air Quality.

Staff explained the results of air quality data collection from across Canterbury. The following key points were noted:

- Particulate matter (PM) data were collected across Canterbury. Staff explained the meaning of PM2.5 and PM10, and where these particles were found depending on the residential and industrial densities of Canterbury locations.
- The highest levels of PM2.5 were recorded during winter. Canterbury's highest levels of PM10 were recorded in areas of intensive industrial land use.
- Air quality improvement was slower recently compared to continuous improvement in previous years.
- The winter operational plan was recently completed. Staff were considering how to improve for the following winter.
- Also noted as progressed recently by staff were the Clean Heat subsidy scheme, targeted compliance campaigns for expiring and expired woodburners, retaining focus on the Timaru airshed and expanding to consider the Rangiora and Kaiapoi airsheds.

Councillor Sunckell left the meeting at 1.02pm and returned at 1.06pm.

- Territorial authorities' responsibilities for housing consent processes were partially responsible for improving air quality.
- The majority of woodburners available on the market were now ultra-low emission burners.
- Staff were in contact with the South Canterbury District Health Board regarding winter illnesses.

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

- 1. receives the Clean Air Programme report and update on Canterbury winter air quality.**

Cr Pauling/Cr McKenzie

CARRIED

8.6. Ki Uta Ki Tai: Hill and High Country overview

Refer page 71 – Natural Environment Committee agenda

Presented by: Principal Strategy Advisor Water and Senior Strategy Manager.

Staff took the report as read. The following points were noted:

- Regarding agricultural land use change, it was clarified that the report referred to in the agenda was referring to the intensity of the agricultural land use. The land referred to may be farmed land or conservation land.
- There was ongoing collaboration between Environment Canterbury and statutory agencies involved in the hill and high country environment.

MOTION

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. notes the report Ki Uta Ki Tai: Hill and High Country overview.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pauling and seconded by Councillor Edge.

That the above motion be amended by adding a second (2) recommendation, ie:

2. notes that a report on Environment Canterbury's work related to braided rivers, plains and lowland streams will be provided to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Committee.

The amendment was CARRIED

RESOLVED

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. notes the report Ki Uta Ki Tai: Hill and High Country overview
2. notes that a report on Environment Canterbury's work related to braided rivers, plains and lowland streams will be provided to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Committee.

Cr Pauling/Cr Edge
CARRIED

9. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

10. Extraordinary and urgent business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

11. Next meeting

Thursday, 2 December 2021.

12. Closure

The meeting closed at 1.27pm.

The day's karakia followed the afternoon meeting for the Transport and Urban Development Committee.

CONFIRMED 2 DECEMBER 2021

CONFIRMED:

Co-Chair Craig Pauling
Councillor, Environment Canterbury

Co-Chair Claire McKay
Councillor, Environment Canterbury