

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Natural Environment Committee (under COVID-19 Orange Traffic Light restrictions), held at the Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street on Wednesday 24 August 2022 at 1.00pm.

Present

Committee Co-Chairs Councillors Claire McKay and Craig Pauling and Councillor Phil Clearwater*, Tumu Taiao Yvette Couch-Lewis, Tumu Taiao Iaeen Cranwell, and Councillors Grant Edge, Megan Hands, Ian Mackenzie, Nicole Marshall, Elizabeth McKenzie*, Lan Pham, Peter Scott, Vicky Southworth and John Sunckell.

* via audio/visual link

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Cr Craig Pauling opened the meeting with a mihi whakatau, followed by Cr Nicole Marshall with a karakia.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Chair Jenny Hughey and Cr Tane Apanui and for lateness from Cr Vicky Southworth.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

4. Public Forum, Deputations, and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations and petitions.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

6. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

7. Minutes

Refer pages 9-68 of the agenda.

7.1. Unconfirmed Minutes - Natural Environment Committee - 29 June 2022

Refer pages 9-33 of the agenda.

Resolved NEC/2022/025

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Confirms the minutes from the Natural Environment Committee meeting held on 29 June 2022.

Cr Lan Pham/Cr Grant Edge
CARRIED

7.2. Confirmed Minutes - Catchment Sub-Committee - 10 August 2022

Refer pages 34-68 of the agenda.

Resolved NEC/2022/026

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Receives the minutes from the Catchment Sub-Committee meeting held 10 August 2022.

Cr Ian Mackenzie/Tumu Taiao Iaeān Cranwell
CARRIED

8. Report Items

Refer pages 69-198 of the agenda.

8.1. Natural Environment Committee Resolutions Status Report - August 2022

Refer pages 69-71 of the agenda.

Staff provided visibility on the status of resolutions made by the Natural Environment Committee.

Resolved NEC/2022/027

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Notes the status of previous resolutions provided in the Status of Natural Environment Committee Resolutions report August 2022.

Cr Peter Scott/Cr Nicole Marshall

CARRIED

Cr Megan Hands left the meeting at 1.14pm, returned at 1.23pm and left at 1.24pm during discussion on item 8.2.

Cr Vicky Southworth joined the meeting at 1.23pm during discussion on item 8.2,

8.2. CWMS Triannual Report of the Southern Zone Committees

Refer pages 72-83 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the work of two of the four Southern Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Zone Committees (Upper Waitaki and Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Water Zone Committees) and their Action Plans to support the implementation of the CWMS.

It was requested that the Committee's thanks to the Chairs of these Zone Committees be recorded.

Resolved NEC/2022/028

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Receives this update on the Upper Waitaki and the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury CWMS Water Zone Committees and their current priorities and progress in advancing their Action Plans and budget.

Cr Nicole Marshall/Cr Peter Scott
CARRIED

8.9. Co-Chairs of Catchment Sub-Committee Report - Request for Overspend for July 2022 Flood Event Impacts

Refer pages 194-198 of the agenda.

The Co-Chairs for the Catchment Sub-Committee provided this report in support of two resolutions from the meeting of 10 August 2022.

Resolved NEC/2022/029

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Recommends to the Council that Council approves an overspend by up to \$150,000 in general rate funded 'out of scheme' goods and services budget, to support the July 2022 flood event impacts.

Tumu Taiao laean Cranwell/Cr Ian Mackenzie
CARRIED

Cr Grant Edge requested that his vote against resolution 1 above, be recorded.

2. Recommends to the Council that staff work with Waimakariri, Selwyn, and other District Councils to consider alternative river rating options (such as whole of catchment) for consideration as part of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

Tumu Taiao laean Cranwell/Cr Ian Mackenzie
CARRIED

Cr John Sunckell left the meeting at 2.04pm and returned at 2.07pm, during discussion on item 8.3.

Tumu Taiao laean Cranwell left the meeting at 2.13pm and returned at 2.22pm during discussion on item 8.3.

8.3. Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio Progress and Future Briefings

Refer pages 84-92 of the agenda.

Staff provided a summary of programme progress in the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio in Year One of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

Resolved NEC/2022/030

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Notes the progress made in the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio in year one of the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031.

Cr Lan Pham/Cr Ian Mackenzie
CARRIED

8.4. Update on Ōtūwharekai

Refer pages 93-101 of the agenda.

Staff provided a progress updated from the Ōtūwharekai Working Group, which aims to work collectively to halt and reverse the degradation of Ōtūwharekai.

The Committee suggested that public communications should acknowledge the full compliance with the regional plan and the positive work being done by Ōtūwharekai landowners.

Resolved NEC/2022/031

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Receives the update from the Ōtūwharekai Working Group.

Cr Grant Edge/Cr Elizabeth McKenzie
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3.00pm and reconvened at 3.11pm during discussion on item 8.5 as per Standing Orders 4.2 'Meeting duration' in relation no meeting sitting for longer than two hours continuously without a break of at least ten minutes.

8.5. July 2022 rainfall and flow information

Refer pages 102-110 of the agenda.

Staff provided the Committee with the available data on rainfall across the region in July 2022 with the resulting river flows and groundwater response.

Resolved NEC/2022/032

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Notes the information in this report.

Cr Nicole Marshall/Cr John Sunckell

CARRIED

8.6. Summary of Council workshop on wallaby management

Refer pages 111-116 of the agenda.

Staff provided a summary of the Council workshop which explored future options for wallaby management.

Resolved NEC/2022/033

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Notes that a Council workshop was held on 9 June 2022 to 'explore the best funding and management options for wallaby eradication, including consideration of the highly successful Wallaby Board model', as resolved by the Natural Environment Committee at its meeting of 23 February 2022.
2. Notes that the conversation about future options for wallaby management will be continued with the incoming Council beyond the 2022 local government elections.

Cr Lan Pham/Cr Elizabeth McKenzie

CARRIED

8.7 Report back on Government Submissions

Refer pages 117-187 of the agenda.

Staff provided the Committee with a record of recent Environment Canterbury submissions on the following draft legislation:

- Water Services Entities Bill.
- Exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).
- Exposure draft of proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM 2020) and National Environment Standard for Freshwater (NES-F).

Resolved NEC/2022/034

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Receives Environment Canterbury's submissions on the:
 - 1.1 Water Services Entities Bill.
 - 1.2 Exposure draft of National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).
 - 1.2 Exposure draft of proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM 2020) and National Environment Standard for Freshwater (NES-F).

Cr Peter Scott/Cr Grant Edge
CARRIED

8.8 CWMS Action Plan Budget 2021-22 Projects Report

Refer pages 188-193 of the agenda.

Staff provided an overview of all 48 Canterbury Water Management Strategy Action Plan budget projects confirmed for 2021/22.

Resolved NEC/2022/035

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Natural Environment Committee:

1. Receives this report on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Zone Committees Action Plan Budget projects confirmed for 2021/22.

Cr Peter Scott/Cr Lan Pham
CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

This is the last meeting in the triennium.

10. Mihi/Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

A karakia was provided by Cr Nicole Marshall.

Meeting concluded at 3.48pm.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 28.4 THE CHAIRPERSONS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE CATCHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE NEXT ELECTION OF COUNCIL.

CONFIRMED 30 AUGUST 2022

Co-Chair, Councillor Claire McKay
Environment Canterbury

Co-Chair, Councillor Craig Pauling
Environment Canterbury

Chief Executive, Stefanie Rixecker
Environment Canterbury