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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 and via Audio Visual link on Tuesday 2 August 2022 at 9.33am.

#### PRESENT

**Chairperson** Cr M Gallagher

*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr S Thomson

*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members**

Cr K Naidoo-Rauf

Cr D Macpherson (via audio visual link)

Cr M Donovan

Mayor P Southgate

Maangai Maaori N Hill

**In Attendance**

Cr M van Oosten (via audio visual link)

Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication

Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

Poppy Barran – Sustainability and Environment Advisor

Luke Archbold – Operations Planning and Capital Projects Manager

**Governance Staff**

Carmen Fookes – Senior Governance Advisor

Narelle Waite – Governance Advisor

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**1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

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

That the apologies for absence from Cr O'Leary are accepted.

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

**Resolved:** (Cr Gallagher/Maangai Hill)

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 korero***

No Members of the public wished to speak.

**5. Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 10 May 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 10 May 2022 as a true and correct record.

**6. Chair's Report**

The Chair spoke to his report and noted the significance of the upcoming agenda items, especially those regarding the climate strategy. He acknowledged the work of staff and committee Members and his desire that the incoming Council continue the Environment work of this Committee. He responded to questions from Members regarding focus of Climate Change Action Plan and community communications.

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

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

**7. Update on 2021/22 Climate Change Action Plan**

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced the report noting that the purpose was to provide an update on the 2021/22 Climate Action Plan and highlights from the year which included the drop in Council's natural gas emissions, fuel, and waste. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning biogenic emissions of the wastewater treatment plant, workplace travel plan, progress of transport actions, staff resource, consideration of airport emissions and opportunities for climate goals, and relationships with stakeholders to support climate actions.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to circulate the Workplace Travel Plan actions to Member via an Executive Update.*

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

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

**8. Nature in the City Programme Update**

The Operations Planning and Capital Projects Manager introduced the report, noting the official launch was in May 2022 and that the key to the long-term success of the programmes was the engagement and collaboration with the community. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning volunteer monitoring, mature tree health and succession, canopy cover, inclusion of maatauranga maaori, cultural baseline in Waikato, Significant Natural Areas, and promoting the community relationships.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to provide the incoming Council with information concerning the current state and management of urban trees as well as how to improve management of urban trees and increase urban tree canopy cover moving forward.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

**The meeting was adjourned from 10.56am to 11.25am.**

*Cr Macpherson retired from the meeting during the above adjournment.*

**9. Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa - strategy approval** (*Recommendation to the Council*)

The Sustainability and Climate Change Manager introduced the report noting that the work that been undertaken by staff and Member to develop the strategy. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the alignment of the strategy with the Action Plan, how the community would be informed and the related education programme, how it would contributed to Waikato Wellbeing project, connection to Waikato Regional Airport, development of emissions reductions pathway actions, and the measurement of outcomes and how they would be reported to the future Council.

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

That the Environment Committee:

- a) recommends the Council;
  - (i) adopts the climate change strategy 'Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa',
  - (ii) Next steps for Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa - Our Plan for 2022-23; and
- b) notes that the supporting documents will be published on Council's website following the approval of the strategy.

**10. General Manager's Report**

The General Manager outlined the report.

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

That the Environment Committee

- a) receives the report; and
- b) request staff present resourcing options for delivering the Our Climate Future strategy at a relevant information session of the new triennium so that any funding implications can be considered as part of the 2023/24 Annual Plan.

**The meeting was declared Closed at 12.24pm.**