



# KOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

5 November 2024

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the  
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt,  
on:

**Tuesday 12 November 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm**

The meeting will be livestreamed on Council's YouTube page

## Membership

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
|               | Cr J Briggs (Chair)        |
|               | Cr C Parkin (Deputy Chair) |
| Mayor C Barry | Cr K Brown                 |
| Cr S Edwards  | Deputy Mayor T Lewis       |
| Cr A Mitchell | Cr N Shaw                  |

For the dates and times of Council Meetings please visit [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

### Have your say

You can speak under public comment to items on the agenda to the Mayor and Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this by emailing [DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz) or calling the Democratic Services Team on 04 570 6666 | 0800 HUTT CITY

## KOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO | CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Chair:</b>         | Cr Josh Briggs  |
| <b>Deputy Chair:</b>  | Cr Chris Parkin   |
| <b>Membership:</b>    | Mayor Campbell Barry<br>Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis<br>Cr Keri Brown<br>Cr Simon Edwards<br>Cr Andy Mitchell<br>Cr Naomi Shaw<br><br>Refer to Council's Standing Orders (SO 31 Provisions for Mana Whenua) |
| <b>Quorum:</b>        | Half of the membership  |
| <b>Meeting Cycle:</b> | Meets on an eight-weekly basis or at the requisition of the Chair   |
| <b>Reports to:</b>    | Council   |

### OVERVIEW:

The Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee has responsibility for oversight of Council's environment and climate change response.

The committee is aligned with the Environment and Sustainability Directorate.

Its areas of focus are:

- Oversight of Council's plan to reach Carbon Zero
- Collaborating with Mana Whenua, residents and businesses to decarbonise the city
- Developing and implementing climate and environmental policies and plans including ecology, biodiversity, forestry and biosecurity matters
- Climate adaption and resilience
- Treaty partnerships
- Waste and recycling
- Issues affecting the natural environment including streams, rivers and harbour
- Allocate funding for community climate action

### PURPOSE:

To develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with environmental and climate change activities to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the city through climate change awareness and action.

## DELEGATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF FOCUS:

- All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities including the activities outlined below.
- Develop required strategies and policies. **Recommend draft and final versions to Council** for adoption where they have a city-wide or strategic focus.
- Implement, monitor and review strategies and policies.
- Oversee the implementation of major projects provided for in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan.
- Oversee budgetary decisions provided for in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan.
- Oversee the development and implementation of plans and functions that promote environmental well-being, including Council's plan to reach Carbon Zero.
- Maintain an overview of work programmes carried out by Council's Environment and Sustainability Directorate.
- Address matters related to ecological protection, the protection of biodiversity and biosecurity.
- Address matters related to climate change, including raising awareness of climate-related impacts and issues, advocating for climate change impacts, issues and actions and championing initiatives that reduce carbon emissions.
- Advocate for strong relationships with Council's Mana Whenua partners as outlined in the Tākai Here agreements ensuring the outcomes of the committee are in line with the aspirations of the partners.
- Advocate for the best interests of Māori communities in Lower Hutt having regard to the committee's goals.
- Ensure the committee is operating in a way that is consistent with various pieces of legislation that provide for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- **Recommend to Council** the acquisition or disposal of assets unless the acquisition or disposal is provided for specifically in the Long Term Plan.
- Conduct any consultation/engagement processes required on issues before the committee.
- Approve and oversee monitoring of funding for community climate action.
- Approve and forward submissions (other than those delegated to the District Plan Review Committee).
- Any other matters delegated to the committee by Council in accordance with approved policies and bylaws.
- The committee has the power to perform the responsibilities of another committee where it is necessary to make a decision before the next meeting of that other committee. When exercised, the report/minutes of the meeting require a resolution noting that the committee has performed the responsibilities of another committee and the reason/s.
- If a policy or project relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, but aspects require additional decisions by the Komiti Hapori Ahurea me ngā Rangapū | Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee and/or Komiti Hanganga | Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee, then the Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee has the powers to make associated decisions on behalf of those other committees. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of those committees for decisions.

**HUTT CITY COUNCIL**  
**KOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt  
on  
Tuesday 12 November 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm.

**ORDER PAPER**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Whakataka te hau ki te uru   | <i>Cease the winds from the west</i>                      |
| Whakataka te hau ki te tonga | <i>Cease the winds from the south</i>                     |
| Kia mākinakina ki uta        | <i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>                  |
| Kia mātaratara ki tai        | <i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>                 |
| E hī ake ana te atakura      | <i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i> |
| He tio, he huka, he hau hū   | <i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.</i>     |
| Tihei mauri ora.             |   |

**2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies have been received.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Generally up to 30 minutes is set aside for public comment (three minutes per speaker on items appearing on the agenda). Speakers may be asked questions on the matters they raise.

**4. PRESENTATION**

**Te Ara Whakamua Group work update**

A verbal presentation by a representative of Te Ara Whakamua Group

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have

**6. SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE PARKS AND RESERVES ACTIVITY**

Report No. CCASC2024/5/313 by the Head of Parks and Reserves

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**CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:**

“That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed.”

7. **UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE AND WASTE MININISATION MATTERS**
- Report No. CCASC2024/5/310 by the Waste and Resource Recovery Manager 17
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:**
- "That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."
8. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK**
- Report No. CCASC2024/5/311 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability 23
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:**
- "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
9. **DRAFT SUBMISSION ON GOVERNMENT'S EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME CONSULTATION**
- Memorandum dated 4 November 2024 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability 26
10. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2025**
- Report No. CCASC2024/5/312 by the Democracy Advisor 29
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:**
- "That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."
11. **QUESTIONS**
- With reference to section 32 of Standing Orders, before putting a question a member shall endeavour to obtain the information. Questions shall be concise and in writing and handed to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

**12. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!

Unuhia!

Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui

Kia wātea, kia māmā

Te ngākau, te tinana, te

wairua i te ara takatū

Koia rā e Rongo

whakairihia ake ki runga

Kia wātea, kia wātea!

Ae rā, kua wātea!

Hau, pai mārīre.

*Release us from the supreme sacredness of our  
tasks*

*To be clear and free*

*in heart, body and soul in our continuing  
journey*

*Oh Rongo, raise these words up high  
so that we be cleansed and be free,*

*Yes indeed, we are free!*

*Good and peaceful*

Judy Randall

DEMOCRACY ADVISOR



# Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

25 October 2024

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Report no: CCASC2024/5/313

## Six-monthly update Parks and Reserves activity

### Purpose of Report

1. To advise Committee members of the work undertaken by Parks and Reserves in relation to the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (the Strategy) and in support of local community environmental groups.

### Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the information.

### Background

2. Council introduced its Strategy in late 2023 following an in-depth consultation with iwi and the community. The Strategy sets a framework to guide how Council, Mana Whenua and the broader community can work together to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.
3. While Council produced the Strategy, many people were involved in its development - Mana Whenua partners, community groups and ecological stakeholders, who gave their time, expertise, and honest opinions to develop a vision for this mahi, along with goals and focus areas that can be worked on together.
4. The Strategy has eight focus areas:
  - a) Waka Houruatanga (Partnership with Mana Whenua);
  - b) Whakamana hapori (Enabling Community);
  - c) Te whakahaumarū wai me ngā arawai (Protecting water and waterways);

- d) Te whakahaumarū pūnaha hauropi, momo Māori me ngā nōhanga (Safeguarding ecosystems, species, and habitats);
  - e) Te whakaaroturuki me te whakahaere riha (Pest monitoring and management);
  - f) Āhuarangi hurihuri (Climate Change);
  - g) Whakapiki hauora tūmatanui (Improving public health); and
  - h) Te whakatautohu, te whakaaroturuki, te whakaarotake me te whakatiaki (Identifying, monitoring, evaluating biodiversity).
5. The Strategy provides a framework against which Council can assess its progress in delivering the outcomes it has agreed with the community. An Action Plan was developed and approved by Council to deliver on the Strategy.
  6. Due to financial challenges, the Action Plan was not fully funded in the LTP 2024/34, and funding was prioritised for the Community Ranger role and planting programme.
  7. This and future updates will consider progress in terms of the Strategy in the format of a 'report card.' The first report card is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## **Discussion**

### ***Mouri Tupu***

8. Mouri Tupu is proceeding. Over the course of the 2023-24 calendar year, approximately 22,000 plants have been planted across Lower Hutt, including planting at the Wainuiomata landfill, parks and reserves, and numerous green spaces planted by local community groups. Approximately 7,000 plants were planted at Bishop Park and HW Shortt Reserve, as part of the Tupua Horo Nuku project.
9. Multiple community planting events and planting days that have taken place over 2023-24 have seen the number of plants planted since the start of the triennium reach the figure of approximately 63,000 plants.
10. Next year will be even larger than 2024, where the Mouri Tupu team are currently sourcing 30,000 Wellington eco-sourced plants. Of these approximately 20,000 plants will go into riparian strips, wetlands, and reserves in need of increased vegetation and biodiversity.
11. Of the remaining 10,000 plants, 5,000 will be donated to schools across Lower Hutt that have applied through the Enviro School organisation to have their schools revegetated and enriched with more diverse native plants. Another 5,000 plants will be dedicated to more community gifting days and community planting days.
12. An important part of the programme is to gain buy-in from the wider community about how planting native trees provides a win/win in terms of



creating effective environmental habitats whilst mitigating some of the problems experienced due to climate change.

13. To this effect the Mouri Tupu programme continues to engage existing and new community members by providing opportunities to plant natives in their own gardens. Nearly 200 *Olearia paniculata* trees were gifted in September to new residents who have been granted NZ citizenship, during the September Citizenship Ceremony at the Lower Hutt Town Hall.
14. Implementation of the Strategy has seen 10,000 native plants planted by community groups across beaches, streams, reserves and wetlands. An additional 1500 native plants were installed to infill areas where problematic invasive trees were removed.
15. Council continues to provide support to residents where pest weeds encroach on private property from reserve land through its boundary weed programme.
16. Operations are currently underway to clear dense infestations of climbing asparagus and pampas grass from 10ha of native woodland reserve. This will be completed by the end of November 2024.
17. Left untreated, climbing asparagus would quickly overrun existing indigenous vegetation with a consequent loss of habitat diversity and biospheres.

**Image 1:** *Climbing Asparagus Cobwebs*



18. The issue with Pampas grass is that as flower heads turn into seed heads, they release massive amounts of seeds over very large distances carried on the wind. Pampas grass is often the first species to grow on disturbed sites, popping up so densely that no native species can establish. It replaces ground covers, shrubs, and ferns, creates fire hazards, provides habitats for possums and rats, and paves the way for weedy vines to invade the areas it has colonised.

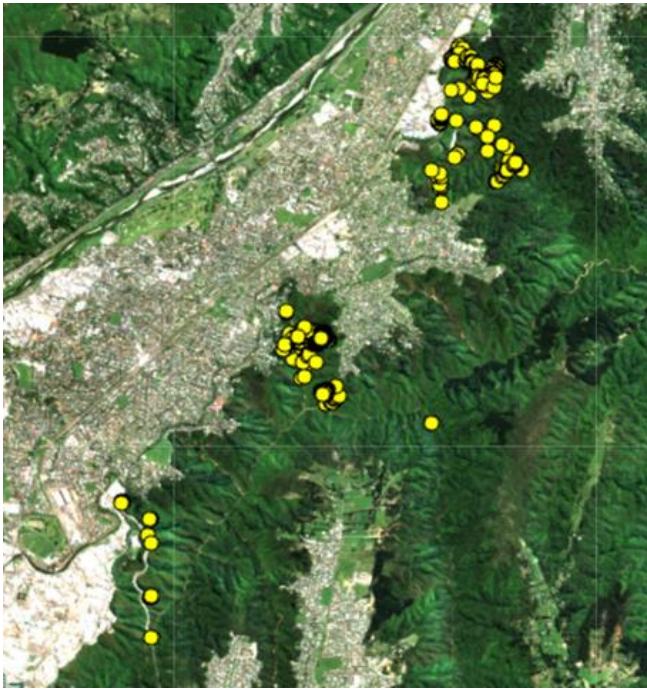
**Image 2:** *Pampas grass due for targeted removal in 2024/2025*



19. Pampas grass is quickly increasing in prevalence and should not be confused with New Zealand's indigenous Toetoe. If you know what to look for, it is relatively easy to tell Pampas from Toetoe, especially since they flower at different times of the year. A rule of thumb is that Toetoe flowers before Christmas, and Pampas flowers afterwards.
20. Toetoe has lax golden flower heads, whereas Pampas has upright creamy white or pinkish purple flower heads. During other times of the year, you can also look at the base of the plant.
21. Toetoe grows from ground level, while Pampas builds up a solid base that can rise to a metre above the ground, and which has dead leaf ends that spiral like wood shavings. This is the part that makes it such a fire hazard, as there is lots of dry material making up this solid base.
22. As dead Pampas dry, they develop seedheads, and become flammable. Targeted control will occur leading into winter 2025 to reduce fire risks.
23. As of this financial year, Parks and Reserves have begun funding cherry tree removal in the Western Hills. Whilst officers have yet to get numbers on how many have been removed, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), who arranged the removal, has said this additional funding has significantly increased their output. GWRC will be asked to report on this matter from now on.
24. In addition to the cherry tree work, 580 wilding pines have been controlled in the Eastern Hills, through a combination of poisoning and physical removal.



**Image 3:** *Wilding Pine Removal (indicated by yellow dots).*



### *Culling*

25. In the 2023/24 financial year, 48 deer and three pigs were culled from Council reserves and private properties. This marks a decrease from previous years, however deer numbers remain very high.
26. Culling is scheduled to occur this financial year (2024/25), taking place in September and November 2024 and from April to May 2025. Details on the culling numbers will be provided as they become available.
27. Parks and Reserves has invested in 10 x 4G hunting cameras. These cameras provide live feed and will increase the efficiency of reactionary deer control. This financial year, GWRC hunters have already removed 21 deer from Council land in just three hunting nights. The use of the new cameras supplied by Parks and Reserves has facilitated this.
28. The use of thermal drones is also a game changer. It is anticipated further use of similar technologies will lead to better and more efficient culling practices in the future.

### *Pest Control*

29. 15 rabbits were shot during rabbit control operations. Parks and Reserves continue to suppress rabbit numbers to very low levels, and maintaining this activity is now very cost-effective.

### *Predator trapping*

30. Parks and Reserves attended the Predator Free Normandale AGM on 16 October 2024. About 50 people turned up. Traps were given out, and free

(expired) peanut butter was supplied by Fix and Fogg for inclusion in the traps.

**Image 4 & 5:** *Normandale Predator Free AGM*



31. In terms of community predator trapping, approximately 250 traps have been distributed to community trapping groups. These allowed groups to expand their networks and replace broken equipment. One new group was also established. There are now at least 15 active predator trapping groups in Lower Hutt.

### *Community Trapping Network*

32. Parks and Reserves is establishing a community network of possum and rat traps throughout the Eastern Hills. This network will cover approximately 180ha of native bush and will be completed by the end of November 2024. Currently, possum numbers are very high, and combined with the browsing pressure from deer, they significantly affect the health of the forest. A copy of the network is included as Appendix 2 to the report.
33. Parks and Reserves maintains the Predator Free Hutt Valley website. This provides information about various groups, including maps and contact details. Parks and Reserves receives a lot of feedback on this website serving as an excellent tool to connect interested public to their local group [Predator Free Hutt Valley](#)

### *Other Initiatives*

34. Section 23 of the Reserves Act allows for the creation of Local Purpose Reserve including Drainage Reserve and Section 461 of the Local Government Act allows for the installation of private drains across such reserve.
35. On acceptance of an application for a private drain Council becomes jointly and severally liable for its maintenance. This means it can ask for contributions from others in the agreement for maintenance/relaying works

of the drain and can itself be asked to contribute to the drain maintenance and repair by private land-owners party to the agreement.

36. Issues relevant to the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy include contaminants in stormwater reaching streams from such connections, which are higher and more concentrated in medium and high-density developments (less soakage on site). In addition, flows tend to be faster given the high quantity of hard surfaces feeding into the stormwater drains. During high intensity rainfall this can add to issues of scour and undermining of existing riparian planting and possible bank collapse.
37. Developers are on a number of occasions seeking to connect through private drains rather than the existing stormwater. This is not the preferred option given the issues described above and the fact that a proliferation of private connections will create difficulties in tracking, monitoring and remediating such connections at some point in the future.
38. Whilst Parks and Reserves would prefer developers to connect to the existing network for all the reasons stated above, it does recognise that Council has a housing shortage to address and is doing so through a process of housing densification. Officers from Parks and Reserves, the Building team and the Strategic Advisor – Water have been working through these issues to ensure we strike the right balance in our approach.
39. Hence private connections can still be applied for but in keeping with the requirements of the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, developers should be able to clearly state the reasons for the application, and why a connection to the existing network is not possible. Parks and Reserves has developed a simple questionnaire to help it consider applications as per Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** *s461 Application Check List.*

| <b>Note</b> | <b>Question</b>                       | <b>Response</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1           | Schematic provided                    |                 |
| 2           | Description of work                   |                 |
| 3           | Connection location plan              |                 |
| 4           | What stage is the consent at          |                 |
| 5           | Stormwater                            |                 |
| 6           | Other                                 |                 |
| 7           | Reasoning for requesting s461         |                 |
| 8           | How many dwellings require connection |                 |
| 9           | Pipe size                             |                 |
| 10          | Consultation                          |                 |
| 11          | How is SW neutrality being managed    |                 |

40. This will be socialised through our developer network to ensure people are aware of this requirement early in the process. Longer-term, officers are still considering how these competing issues can be managed.

### Options

41. Only one option is available. Parks and Reserves will continue its current programme and seek future opportunities to engage key stakeholders to advance the agenda outlined in the Strategy.

### Climate Change Impact and Considerations

42. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
43. A number of the matters discussed in this report have positive impacts on climate change issues.

### Consultation

44. Consultation is ongoing with key stakeholders.

### Legal Considerations

45. There are no legal considerations

### Financial Considerations

46. There are no financial considerations with work being funded by existing budgets.

### Appendices

| No.               | Title   | Page |
|-------------------|---|------|
| <a href="#">1</a> | Appendix 1: Traffic lights environmental sustainability | 15   |
| <a href="#">2</a> | Appendix 2: Community trapping network                  | 16   |

**Author:** Arthur Nelson  
Head of Parks and Reserves

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**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

| Report Card Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (last six months) |   | Community Engagement |               |             | Noxious Weed Control |              |            | Control of Animal Pests |                   |                   |                   | Rivers & Streams  |              | Other   |                 | Progress        |
|--|---|----------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Principle  | Description   | Mouri Tupu           | Planting Days | Plant Fairs | Boundary Work        | Weed Program | Pest Trees | Pest Culls              | Community control | Trapping trapping | Trapping networks | Riparian Planting | S461 Process | Website | Industry Events |                 |
| 1  | Waka Houruatanga (Partnership with Mana Whenua)   | ✓                    | ✓             |             | ✓                    |              | ✓          | ✓                       |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |              |         |                 | Good Progress   |
| 2  | Whakamana hapori (Enabling Community)   | ✓                    | ✓             | ✓           | ✓                    |              |            |                         | ✓                 | ✓                 |                   | ✓                 |              | ✓       |                 | Good Progress   |
| 3  | Te whakahaumarū wai me ngā arawai (Protecting water and waterways)  | ✓                    | ✓             |             |                      |              |            |                         |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 | ✓            |         |                 | Steady Progress |
| 4  | Te whakahaumarū pūnaha hauropi, momo Māori me ngā nōhanga (Safeguarding ecosystems, species, and habitats)              | ✓                    | ✓             | ✓           | ✓                    | ✓            | ✓          | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                 | ✓                 | ✓                 | ✓            | ✓       | ✓               | Good Progress   |
| 5  | Te whakaaroturuki me te whakahaere riha (Pest monitoring & management)  |                      |               |             |                      | ✓            | ✓          | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |                   |              | ✓       | ✓               | Good Progress   |
| 6  | Ahuarangi hurihuri (Climate Change)   | ✓                    | ✓             | ✓           |                      |              |            |                         |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |              |         |                 | Steady Progress |
| 7  | Whakapiki hauora tūmatanui (Improving public health)  | ✓                    | ✓             | ✓           |                      |              |            | ✓                       |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 | ✓            |         |                 | Good Progress   |
| 8  | Te whakatautohu, te whakaaroturuki, te whakaarotake me te whakatiaki (Identifying, monitoring, evaluating biodiversity) |                      |               |             | ✓                    | ✓            | ✓          | ✓                       | ✓                 | ✓                 | ✓                 |                   |              | ✓       |                 | Good Progress   |

**Good Progress**  5 + ticks  
**Steady Progress**  3-4 ticks  
**Slow Progress**  1-2 ticks  
**Little Progress**  0 ticks



**Appendix B: Community Trapping Network KoroKoro**



| Key |                                       |  |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--|
|     | Red dots - Community Trapping Station |  |
|     | Green dots - Community Bait Station   |  |



15 October 2024

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Report no: CCASC2024/5/310

## Update on solid waste and waste minimisation matters

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update on various solid waste management and minimisation matters.

### Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the update on various solid waste management and minimisation matters.

### Background

2. This report consolidates information on the status of Council's solid waste management and minimisation initiatives.
3. Detailed and regular information on the ongoing development, operation and performance of the Silverstream Landfill is covered in a separate report to the Hutt Valley Services Committee. [The latest report from September 2024 is available online \(page 23\).](#)

### Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP)

4. Development of the WMMP implementation plan by officers of the Wellington region councils continues. Work is progressing towards reporting to the Joint Committee in December 2024. The Joint Committee met last in [September 2024](#).
5. Council's implementation planning for its Local Action Plan under the WMMP is also underway and is scheduled to be complete in line with the regional plan before the end of 2024.

### Diversion of construction and demolition (C&D) waste

6. The options for C&D waste diversion within the Wellington region continue to evolve and develop. Wellington City Council has confirmed [a new](#)

[operator for their C&D landfill](#) with a focus on resource recovery, and Porirua City Council is also progressing work to secure an operator for its planned C&D processing facility. Officers are awaiting further detail on the implementation of these initiatives.

7. With regard to HCC's work on potential options for additional diversion, and an assessment of relative costs, benefits and risks, officers will provide an update in the new year.

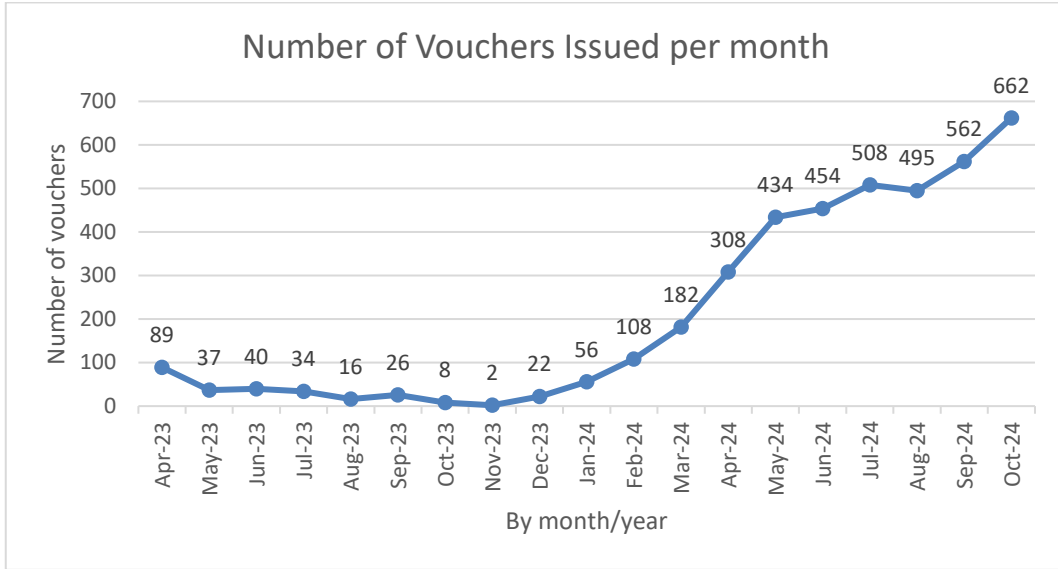
### Resource recovery changes at Silverstream transfer station

8. Earthlink recently appointed a new lead for the Zero Waste Team at Silverstream transfer station, who is on site from Wednesdays through to Sundays.
9. The Zero Waste Team's focus is on directly engaging with transfer station users, and seeking out the materials and products that can be recycled, reused, or recovered.

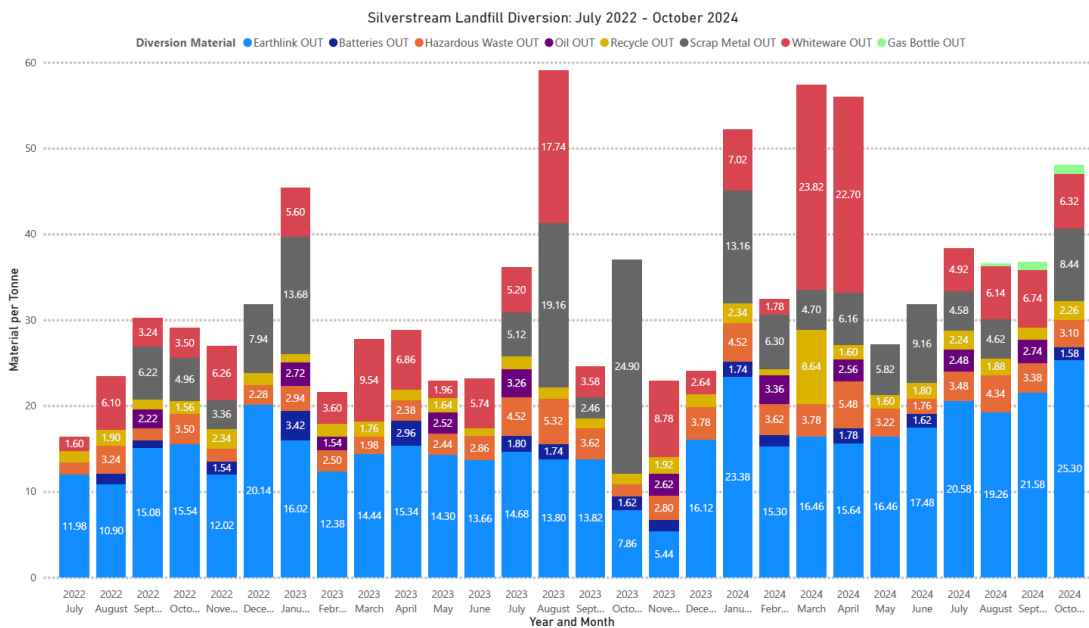


### *Diversion*

10. Since the change to Earthlink's engagement approach at Silverstream transfer station, the number of vouchers that have been issued has gradually increased, as shown below.
11. In October 2024, 662 vouchers were issued. Since the start of the scheme in April 2023, a total of 4,043 vouchers have been issued.



12. With regard to the resulting diversion of material, the weighbridge data indicates that diversion is increasing, in particular the material targeted by Earthlink, as shown below in light blue.



*Rebranding and education*

13. Officers are in the process of rebranding the drop off to 'Zero Waste Hub' to tie in with the Kapiti Coast District Council's Otaihanga Zero Waste Hub. New signage is scheduled to be in place before the end of 2024.

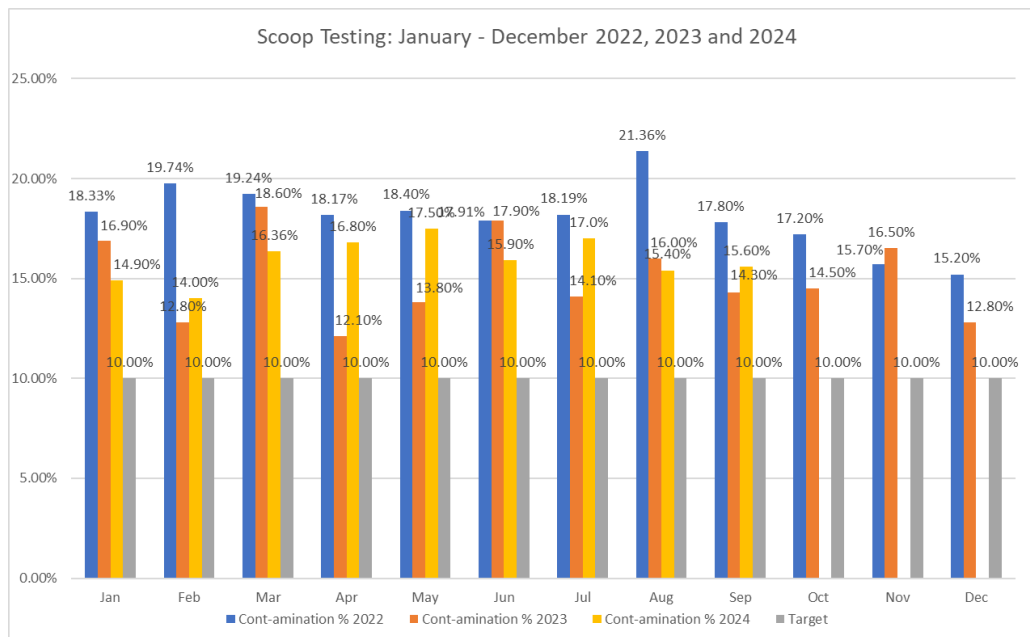
14. In order to assist residents and business, a flyer is being developed that will have a step-by-step guide on how to pack trailers/utes/vans before they make their way to the transfer station. This will help to ensure that all recyclable/repairable items are easy to unload at the hub and any residual waste to the pit as the last step.

- 15. Work is also under way to create a video to promote the discount voucher scheme with key messages on how to pack your trailer for an easy transfer station visit and cost savings.

**Kerbside service**

*Reducing contamination*

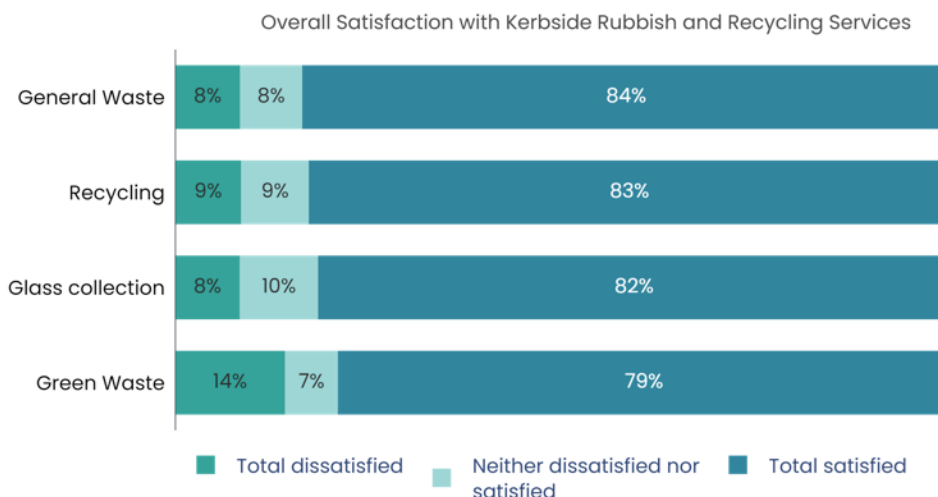
- 16. The contamination rates for August and September 2024 are 15.4% and 15.6% respectively. While these figures show relatively stable levels of contamination, they highlight the need for continued efforts to bring the rates down to meet the KPI of 10%.



- 17. Earlier this year, it was noted that bin ambassadors often faced challenges in issuing a final notice and removing bins from households that repeatedly contaminate their recycling. In response, Council collaborated with Waste Management New Zealand (WMNZ) to update the bin removal process, allowing collection vehicle drivers to inspect and remove bins using bin brackets on the trucks. This project was completed in August 2024 and is now operational.
- 18. Since the bin removal scheme was implemented in November 2022, 461 recycling bins that were heavily contaminated have been removed (as of September 2024).
- 19. Officers are progressing further investigations into the highest value contamination reduction measures as considered by the Committee in September 2024 (refer [Minute No. CCASC 24401](#)).
- 20. This work includes scoping out short, medium and long-term actions and how these interact in practice with the service operated by WMNZ.

*Resident satisfaction*

- 21. The results of the 2024 annual resident satisfaction survey are now available, this is a continued improvement in each stream compared to 2022 and 2023.



### Recycling markets

22. In response to the OJI plant closure in Auckland, officers reached out to WMNZ to assess whether this will impact our recycling services. At this stage the closure of the mill will not have any impact on recycling collections and processing for Lower Hutt residents. OJI has confirmed that it will continue to recycle approximately 90,000 tonnes of cardboard annually at the Kinleith Mill, located near Tokoroa, while other wastepaper will be directed to an OJI Group mill in Malaysia.

### Alternative technologies to manage food and green waste

23. [On 4 June 2024, Council resolved to conditionally include a FOGO service in its LTP](#), but asked officers to complete further work and report back to Council.
24. While work is still under way in order to fully respond to Council's questions and that report back is now scheduled for March 2024, officers also sought advice from Morrison Low on what alternative technologies are available to manage food and green waste.
25. Morrison Low note that all organics processing in New Zealand at scale either relies on composting (eg Hamilton) or anaerobic digestion technology (eg Auckland), and while there are small scale trials of other technologies such as pyrolysis, these are not operating at scale and are not anticipated to do so at least in the short to medium term.
26. Morrison Low also considered the potential use of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). As reported in July 2024 (refer [Report no: CCASC2024/3/160, page 12](#)), MBT systems enable the recovery of materials contained within mixed waste, and facilitate the stabilisation of the biodegradable component of the material. In essence, kerbside waste is shredded and screened, and the heavier fraction (which has a significant portion of the organic material) is then composted in windrows.
27. MBT could avoid the separate collection of FOGO and results in some reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. However, the resulting 'Compost Like Output (CLO)' is not compost and is destined for the landfill, due to risks associated with physical and chemical contaminants (eg plastic pieces,

glass shards, PFAS, etc). New South Wales has a ban in place regarding the application of CLO to land. Morrison Low do not consider that it has any key role to play in New Zealand.

28. Further to this, in August 2024 officers visited an MBT facility in South Australia and found that while this technology has benefits in that context (eg it is used to produce landfill cover material), the success factors for this technology do not apply to Lower Hutt or the Wellington region. Therefore, while MBT may be useful for the remaining share of organic material in the waste stream in the future, it is unlikely to offset the need for separating FOGO at the source where possible.
29. Note that WMNZ had proposed to trial an MBT process at Silverstream Landfill to extract organics from the kerbside waste stream. However, upon further investigation, it was found that even a trial at Silverstream Landfill would not be feasible without resource consent, in light of various potential adverse effects that would need to be managed carefully (eg odour, run-off, litter production, etc). WMNZ has decided not to progress a potential trial at Silverstream, albeit may still look to carry out a trial at one of their own sites.

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

30. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.
31. Minimising waste, diverting recyclables from landfill, and recovering reusable materials (such as the potential addition of C&D diversion opportunities, diverting biosolids, etc) contribute to a more circular economy. These activities reduce the need to extract further resources from the environment, minimising the associated energy use.

### **Consultation**

32. Not applicable

### **Legal Considerations**

33. Not applicable

### **Financial Considerations**

34. There are no current financial considerations currently.

### **Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Geoff Roberts  
Waste and Resource Recovery Manager

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**Reviewed By:** Jörn Scherzer  
Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery

**Approved By:** Alison Geddes  
Director Environment and Sustainability

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Report no: CCASC2024/5/311

## Update on Council's climate change work

### Purpose of report

1. Officers provide a regular update on key climate change work to implement Council's organisational carbon target and [Council's Carbon Reduction and Climate Resilience Plan \(CRP\) 2021-31](#), facilitate a reduction in city-wide emissions in line with the [Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway](#), and address climate change impacts.
2. To avoid duplication, some work with climate change implications is reported in separate reports and/or other committees. This includes work on waste minimisation, Council's kerbside service, project-specific updates for RiverLink, and the new Naenae Pool.

### Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the update on climate change work streams currently underway; and
- (2) notes that updates are only provided for those projects or activities where significant progress has been made, or where significant changes have occurred since the [previous update on 4 September 2024](#).

### Reducing Council's organisational carbon emissions

#### *Council facilities*

3. Procurement of the plant and installation provider for the heating plant change at the Dowse Museum is under way. Installation is scheduled for June/July 2025 at this stage and will need to tie in with the museum's operational and exhibition schedule.
4. The heating plant change at the Huia aquatic facility is scheduled to commence at the same time the Naenae Pool opens in December 2024.

*Vehicle fleet*

5. There has been no change to the Electric Vehicle (EV) share in Council's vehicle fleet since the last report. However, replacements of 4WD utes with plug-in hybrid electric alternatives are scheduled before the end of 2024.

*Council's carbon footprint reporting*

6. Work on Council's carbon footprint for the 2023/24 financial year has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2024. An update on the results will be provided at the next Committee meeting in February 2025.

*Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCA Fund)*

7. The next funding round of the Low Carbon Acceleration fund (LCA fund) is scheduled to open in March 2025 with an anticipated funding envelope of at least \$150,000 (including the use of an unallocated \$72,000 from Round #1, and some additional funds from the sale of carbon credits that will be received in early 2025). The exact funding envelope will be confirmed closer to the opening time of Round #2.
8. A promotional event was offered for the business community first on 10 October and again on the 30 October 2024 however no businesses registered to attend. The event did not go ahead. The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce, that was hosting the event has agreed to feed any enquiries through to Council so they can receive individual advice on the fund.
9. Staff are now preparing to host two webinars on the LCA fund, one focused on opportunities for businesses and one focused on opportunities for clubs and groups. These will be recorded and added to Council's website as an additional resource. The webinars will be advertised in a more targeted way (i.e direct email invitation) to increase the chances of engagement.

**Adapting to climate change impacts***Regional climate change project on adaptation*

10. In a continuation of the last two years' work (ie, Wellington Region Climate Impact Assessment (WRCCIA)), the next phase of this work is for councils in the region to collaborate on an Adaptation Project that will be informed by the findings of the WRCCIA.
11. An open briefing will be held in November 2024 where Project Lead Tom FitzGerald will outline details of the Adaptation Project's scope.

**Climate Change impact and considerations**

12. This report responds directly to the need to reduce carbon emissions and respond to climate change by providing a regular update on Council's key carbon reduction and climate change response initiatives.



**Consultation**

13. Not applicable.

**Legal Considerations**

14. There are currently no legal considerations.

**Financial Considerations**

15. There are currently no financial considerations.

**Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Miriam Randall  
Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

**Author:** Jörn Scherzer  
Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery

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**Approved By:** Alison Geddes  
Director Environment and Sustainability

*Our Reference*



**TO:** Chair and Members  
Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

**FROM:** Miriam Randall

**DATE:** 04 November 2024

**SUBJECT:** DRAFT SUBMISSION ON GOVERNMENT'S EMISSIONS  
TRADING SCHEME CONSULTATION

### **Purpose of Memorandum**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the Committee with a submission to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on the government's proposal for resetting the Emissions Trading Scheme annual charge for post-1989 forestry participants, and to seek the Committee's approval for this submission.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) notes and receives the memorandum; and
- (2) approves the draft submission to the government's consultation on resetting the Emissions Trading Scheme annual charge for post-1989 forestry participants as attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum.

### **Background**

2. The NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is a key market-based measure to incentivise a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The ETS covers a range of sectors, including transport and electricity, but it also includes forestry on the supply side. This means forest owners that register and meet the relevant criteria can gain New Zealand Units (NZUs) in recognition of the carbon sequestered by their trees (1 NZU represents 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent). These units (or carbon credits) in turn have monetary value.
3. The opportunity to earn carbon credits is tied to various conditions, including the size and height of a forest, and when it was established.
4. In simple terms, forests that were already in place prior to 1 January 1990 (pre-1990 forests) cannot earn carbon credits, albeit they may be subject to a carbon liability (that is, Council would need to surrender carbon credits if it chose to cut down those forests without replanting). Indigenous and exotic forests that were established (or left to naturally return to forest) after 31 December 1989 (post-1989 forests) can earn carbon credits for annual growth in carbon stocks.

5. The government is currently consulting on a charge that applies to forest owners participating in the ETS. See the consultation document here <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/resetting-the-emissions-trading-scheme-annual-charge-for-post-1989-forestry-participants>.
6. While currently there is no fee for holding carbon credits in the ETS, the previous government had implemented a fee of \$30.25 in 2023 on a per-hectare and annual basis for all ETS participants. However, this fee was challenged by the forestry sector and as a result the fee had not yet been charged to forest owners.

### Financial considerations

7. Council has about 250 ha of native forest registered in the ETS. The proposed new fee is half that of the original 2023 fee at \$14.90 per ha per year, and for Council the charge would amount to about \$4,000 per year. This would need to be covered out of existing budgets.
8. Carbon credits earned in relation to Council's registered forests are currently used to fund initiatives under the Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund. The proposed fee would reduce the amount of money available to the LCA Fund (<https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/people-and-communities/community-funding/low-carbon-acceleration-fund>).
9. Submissions close on Wednesday 13 November 2024, one day after the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee's meeting.

### Appendices

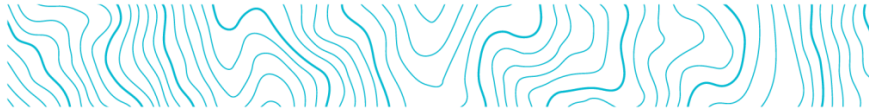
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**Author:** Miriam Randall  
Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

**Author:** Jörn Scherzer  
Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery

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**Approved By:** Alison Geddes  
Director Environment and Sustainability



By email

4 November 2024

Email to: [etsforestrychanges@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:etsforestrychanges@mpi.govt.nz)

Tēnā koutou katoa,

**Resetting the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) annual charge for post-1989 forestry participants**

Hutt City Council (HCC) thanks you for the opportunity to make a submission on resetting ETS annual charges for post-1989 forests in the ETS.

As a territorial authority, HCC is responsible for large areas of forest with a number of areas eligible and already registered under the ETS, while others are potentially eligible for registration in the future.

Our submission points below are general points on the overall approach taken by the government on the proposed changes and are not answering specific consultation questions.

***Point of sale fee instead of an annual per hectare fee***

HCC has about 250 ha of native bush registered in the ETS. The annual charge would amount to about \$4k. While this in itself does not appear to be a significant cost, indigenous forests earn a marginal number of NZUs per hectare compared with exotic species. Hence, a flat fee would likely disincentivise indigenous forests, alongside the many co-benefits they generate.

HCC urges the Government to consider an alternative approach whereby a fee is collected at the point of sale of any NZU, instead of an annual per hectare fee on forestry. This would better account for indigenous forests in the ETS that earn only a marginal number of NZUs per hectare and per year.

***The new online system Tupu Ake is not yet working optimally***

The forestry sector should not shoulder the problems and cost of releasing the new online system Tupu Ake for the Ministry of Primary Industries. A new review of the costs of the system should be undertaken once the system runs normally and there are no further teething issues.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Josh Briggs

**Chair of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee**

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▲ The pattern at the top of this page is inspired by the natural landforms, hills, river, and coastline surrounding Lower Hutt. It represents our people, our place, and our home.



# Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

24 October 2024

Report no: CCASC2024/5/312

## Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Forward Programme 2025

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with a Forward Programme of work planned for the Committee for 2025.

### Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for 2025 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### Background

2. The Terms of Reference for the Committee require the Committee to assist Council in developing, monitoring and reviewing strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with environmental and climate change activities.
3. The Forward Programme for 2025 provides a planning tool for both members and officers to co-ordinate programmes of work for the year. The Forward Programme is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### Forward Programme

4. The Forward Programme is a working document and is subject to change on a regular basis.

### Appendices

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**Author:** Judy Randall  
Democracy Advisor

**Reviewed By:** Kate Glanville  
Senior Democracy Advisor

**Approved By:** Kathryn Stannard  
Head of Democratic Services

**Komiti Kaupapa Taiao**  
**Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Forward Programme 2025**

| Description  | Author                               | Cycle 1<br>Feb | Cycle 2<br>Apr | Cycle 3<br>Jul | Cycle 4<br>Sep | Pending |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Regular update on climate change work  | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |         |
| Regular update on solid waste management and minimisation work streams   | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |         |
| Six-monthly update on implementation of Biodiversity Strategy  | Parks and Reserves                   |                | ✓              |                |                |         |
| Te Ara Whakamua Group work update  | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery |                | ✓              |                | ✓              |         |
| Low Carbon Acceleration Fund Round #2  | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery |                |                | ✓              |                |         |
| Food and green organics collection and processing  | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery | ✓              |                |                |                | ✓       |
| Annual report on progress against the Climate Action Pathway, Council's Carbon Reduction Plan and WMMP Local Action Plan | Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery |                |                |                | ✓              |         |