

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI AROTAKE MAHERE Ā-ROHE | DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers,
2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Thursday 29 May 2025 commencing at 1:00 pm

PRESENT:

Cr B Dyer (Chair)	Cr S Edwards (Deputy Chair) (via audio-visual link)
Cr J Briggs	Cr A Mitchell
Deputy Mayor T Lewis	Cr N Shaw
Cr K Morgan	

APOLOGIES:

Mayor C Barry, Cr A Mitchell and R Te One.

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development
A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability
L Desrosiers, Head of Urban Development
T Johnston, Head of Planning
N Geard, Policy Planning Manager
K Kaur, Spatial Plan Lead
V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TŪTURU: TĒNEI AU**

Tēnei au	This
Tēnei au te hōkai nei o taku tapuwae	This is the journey of sacred footsteps
Ko te hōkai nuku ko te hōkai rangi	Journeyed about the earth journeyed about the heavens
Ko te hōkai a tō tupuna a Tāne-nui-a-rangi	The journey of the ancestral god Tānenuiarangi
Ka pikitia ai ki ngā rangi tūhāhā ki te Tihi-o-Manono	Who ascended into the heavens to Te Tihi-o-Manono
Ka rokohina atu rā ko Io-Matua-Kore anake	Where he found Io, the parentless source
Ka tikina mai ngā kete o te wānanga	From there he retrieved the baskets of knowledge
Ko te kete-tuauri	Te kete-tuauri
Ko te kete-tuatea	Te kete-tuatea
Ko te kete-aronui	Te kete-aronui
Ka tiritiria ka poupoua	These were distributed and implanted about the earth
Ka puta mai iho ko te ira tāngata	From which came human life
Ki te wheiao ki te ao mārama	Growing from dim light to full light
Tihei-mauri ora!	There was life.

2. **APOLOGIES**

RESOLVED: (Cr Dyer/Cr Briggs)

Minute No. DPRC 25201

"That the apologies received from Mayor Barry, Cr Mitchell and R Te One be accepted and leave of absence be granted."

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

4. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

5. **RECOMMENDATION TO TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI
COUNCIL - 29 MAY 2025**

Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025-2055 for Adoption

Report No. DPRC2025/2/138 by the Head of Urban Development

Speaking under public comment, **Quentin Duthie and Thomas Nash** advocated for the inclusion of two aspirational proposals within the Sustainable Growth Strategy (the Strategy):

- the development of a vision for a predator-free Lower Hutt; and
- support for Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) proposal to establish a fenced wildlife sanctuary in the Wainuiomata Water Collection Area, named Puketahā.

They noted the alignment with the national Predator Free 2050 strategy. They compared it to initiatives such as Predator Free Wellington and Zealandia, suggesting that Lower Hutt could be a key ecological corridor for native bird species. They outlined the significance of the Puketahā proposal, located in one of the most pristine lowland podocarp forests in the lower North Island. Thomas Nash stated that if established, it could become twice the size of Kāpiti Island, supporting species such as kākāpō, hihi, and kiwi, and become New Zealand's largest mainland fenced sanctuary. He emphasised the need for significant capital funding and ongoing collaboration with Mana Whenua, the Department of Conservation and community stakeholders.

In response to questions from members, Thomas Nash said that there was no current timeline for the Puketahā sanctuary project, but that two immediate steps could be taken in parallel. He said the steps could be:

- to establish a governance structure for a future entity to manage and develop the sanctuary, involving Mana Whenua, local government and central government; and
- to undertake a technical engineering study of the proposed fence route. He said that while preliminary work had established the route's feasibility, further work was needed to progress towards obtaining resource consent.

Thomas Nash stated that the project could be delivered within 30 years, highlighting the immediate benefits from the established forest, unlike those in Zealandia. He mentioned no current funding requests and emphasised the need for national-level support. He explained that the proposal was intended to be part of a larger network of fenced sanctuaries in New Zealand, with this site as the anchor for the Lower North Island.

In response to questions from members, Thomas Nash stated that a statement in the Strategy expressing an intention to work in a collaborative partnership with Mana Whenua, GWRC, central government, and the community to pursue a sanctuary in the Wainuiomata headwaters would suffice. Quentin Duthie supported this idea and suggested two additions to the Strategy:

- to specifically support the Puketahā Sanctuary project, led by GWRC, the Department of Conservation and Mana Whenua; and
- to include an intention to pursue a predator-free Hutt Valley, maximising the sanctuary's 'halo effect'.

Speaking under public comment, **Emily Mossman, coordinator of Puke Ariki Predator Free (via audio-visual link)**, shared the vision of Puke Ariki Predator Free and emphasised their commitment to supporting youth education through predator control training and the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. She encouraged Council to support such community-led efforts as part of its long term strategy.

In response to a question from a member, Emily Mossman stated that including predator-free outcomes as a specific goal in the Strategy would be valuable. She explained that such a statement would help support community groups in securing grant funding and create a shared direction. She noted it would also encourage collaboration across projects, shifting the focus from isolated local efforts to a more cohesive regional approach.

Speaking under public comment, **Frank Vickers** said he worked for Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO), highlighting their partnership with GWRC to remove pest species from East Harbour Regional Park and carry out regenerative planting at the Parangarahu Lakes. He noted the goals of a predator-free Lower Hutt and the proposed Puketahā Sanctuary were complementary to GWRC's ecological objectives, and that increased coordination would improve success. He expressed hope that future generations would hear kiwi calls in Wainuiomata and Gollans Valleys.

In response to a question from a member, Frank Vickers suggested that enhancing the Strategy could involve fostering stronger connections between the various community groups engaged in predator control. He noted that informal gatherings would boost morale and reinforce that others shared the same effort.

The Head of Urban Development elaborated on the report. She said the Strategy did not include predator-free language because Council had not yet adopted a formal policy at the time of drafting. She added that the Strategy instead referenced support for GWRC's predator control work. She said officers would be happy to include predator-free goals or the proposed fenced sanctuary if directed by the Committee.

In response to a question from a member, the Head of Urban Development expressed support for enhancing collaboration among local volunteer groups focused on ecological restoration. She noted that Council's Parks and Reserves team were the owner of the Biodiversity Strategy, which governed these initiatives. However, she said officers would be willing to include language in the Strategy to support connections among local groups as needed.

The Director Economy and Development added that the Strategy originated as the Spatial Plan, primarily focused on housing and urban form. He said the Biodiversity Strategy was likely the more appropriate place to address the

ecological and community restoration matters. However, he noted it was at the discretion of the Committee to determine how these matters should be reflected in the Strategy.

Deputy Mayor Lewis expressed support for the idea of uniting community groups. She pointed out that GWRC's Waitua project suggested similar initiatives. She emphasised that collaborating with GWRC through this Strategy would be a more effective way forward, rather than Council bearing the full responsibility on its own.

Cr Briggs expressed support for incorporating predator-free aspirations and the Puketahā Sanctuary proposal into the Strategy, along with updates to the Biodiversity Strategy. He emphasised the need for aligning housing development with environmental care and emphasised that environmental goals should be documented to reinforce Council's direction.

Cr Morgan expressed support for including environmental aspirations in all relevant strategies. She stated that keeping these goals visible helped maintain focus on their importance and highlighted their connection to well-being, social cohesion, and care for land, animals and people.

The Chair expressed support for the Strategy, highlighting its balance of housing and environmental goals. He supported the inclusion of a long term aspiration to become predator-free, aligning with regional and national objectives. He noted the value of local community groups, suggesting that their coordination could occur outside the Strategy. He proposed clarifying the Strategy's ecological restoration ambitions to ensure alignment with the Biodiversity Strategy. He opposed delaying adoption, recommending minor wording changes could be reviewed by the Mayor and Chairs of Committees for final approval.

RECOMMENDED: (Cr Dyer/Cr Briggs)

Minute No. DPRC 25202

"That the Committee recommends that Council:

- (1) notes the Engagement Analysis Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;*
- (2) approves the adoption of the Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025-2055, attached as Appendix 2 to the report;*
- (3) revokes the 2012-32 Urban Growth Strategy and replaces it with the Sustainable Growth Strategy 2025-2055; and*
- (4) officers will take on board the minor adjustments around being predator free and working with Greater Wellington Regional Council on Puketahā and report it to mayors and chairs for final sign off."*

6. **INFORMATION ITEM**

District Plan Review Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 12 May 2025 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Cr Dyer/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

Minute No. DPRC 25203

"That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for the District Plan Review Committee for 2025, attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."

7. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

8. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme sacredness of</i>
Unuhia!	<i>our tasks</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara	<i>journey</i>
takatū	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
runga	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.39 pm.

B Dyer
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 31st day of July 2025