

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 23 February 2023

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.31am

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban (from 9.33am)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Nash

That the Council accepts the apology for lateness from Councillor Laban.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Item not on the agenda to be dealt with

The Chair advised that Council would need to deal with an additional report on the Ngāti Kahungunu easements.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

1. That under Standing Order 3.5.5, Report 22.546 – *Ngāti Kahungunu easements* is dealt with at this meeting.
2. This report is not on the agenda for this meeting as at the time the agenda was prepared Greater Wellington was still determining the necessary process required to sign the easements.
3. Discussion on matters contained in this report cannot be delayed until the Council's next meeting because the matters need to be progressed and finalised promptly before the Ngāti Kahungunu settlement date of 7 March 2023.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Laban arrived at 9.33am, at the conclusion of the above item.

3 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4 Public participation

There was no public participation.

5 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 15 December 2022 – Report 22.543

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Nash

That Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council meeting on 15 December 2022 – Report 22.543.

The motion was **carried**.

Strategy, policy, or major issues

6 Public Transport Fares: Annual Fares Review – Report 23.48

Samantha Gain, General Manager, Metlink, and Tim Shackleton, Manager Commercial, Strategy and Investments, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Lee

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the policy in Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-31 provides that fare

levels will be adjusted annually with inflation within 1% to 3%, subject to Council decision through annual fares review and the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

- 2 Notes that on 16 June 2022 (Report 22.263), Council:
 - a agreed to increase fares by a minimum of 3 percent from 1 March 2023, with the option to increase above 3 percent to also cover financial year 2023/24
 - b noted that officers will bring a report to Council in February 2023 for the Council to determine any additional level of fare increase.
- 3 Notes that Annual Planning for 2023/24 (currently in progress) assumes a 5.8% annual inflationary increase to operating costs for 2023 (higher than the 2.5% LTP assumption).
- 4 Notes that fares have remained unchanged since the last increase of 1.5% on 1 February 2021, and annual inflation rose to 7.2% in the December 2022 quarter which has contributed toward a 13% increase to service costs over the last two years.
- 5 Agrees to increase fares by 6% from 1 April 2023.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Councillors Duthie, Laban, and Ropata requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

7 Public Transport Fares: Implementation of Future Fares Direction Initiatives – Report 23.23

Samantha Gain, General Manager, Metlink, and Tim Shackleton, Manager Commercial, Strategy & Investments, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Saw

That Council:

- 1 Notes that on 25 August 2022 Council agreed through the adoption of the Future Fares Direction to the following fare initiatives:
 - a The adoption of an 'off-peak fares package' to be implemented from the beginning of the financial year 2023/24 which includes:
 - i. An increase to the off-peak discount from the current 25% discount on the full adult fare to 50%; and
 - ii. The introduction of cumulative off-peak discounts for all concession holders.
 - b The adoption of a policy that allows children to travel free on non-premium services, buses and trains on weekends and public holidays to be implemented in financial year 2023/24.
- 2 Agrees to implement the following fare changes from 1 April 2023:

- a Increase off-peak discount from the current 25% to 50%
 - b Apply the 50% off-peak discount to the adult Snapper fares and all concessions available on Snapper.
- 3 Notes that the Government's half price public transport fares initiative will continue to apply until the initiative ceases.
 - 4 Notes that the Community Connect Concession will not be available until after the Government's half price public transport fares initiative ceases.
 - 5 Notes that in adopting the policy on free travel for children on non-premium services, buses and trains on weekends and public holidays, the Council requested that the General Manager, Metlink, liaises with NZ Police and local authorities in relation to the introduction of the policy.
 - 6 Notes that the feedback received from the key stakeholders raised serious concerns about potentially severe and unintended consequences of offering free weekend travel for unaccompanied children.
 - 7 Notes that the increase to the off-peak discount compounded by the child concession will significantly reduce the fares for children on weekends and public holidays when paying with a Snapper card.
 - 8 Revokes its resolution of 25 August 2022 regarding children travelling free (as set in resolution 9 of Council's resolutions on Report 22.363) and withdraws the initiative.
 - 9 Notes that officers will continue to investigate mechanisms for implementing free travel for children on non-premium services, buses and trains on weekends and public holidays prior to 7pm, as part of the implementation of the National Ticketing Solution.

The motion was **carried**.

8 Council Submission on the draft Future for Local Government Report – Report 23.45

Councillor Ponter spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Adopts its submission on the draft Future for Local Government Report - *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui*.
- 2 Authorises the Council Chair to approve minor editorial changes for the purpose of finalising the submission.

The motion was **carried**.

9 Ngāti Kahungunu Easements - Report 23.546

Pauline Hill, Principal Advisor, Māori, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Ponter

That Council authorises the Council Chair to sign three instruments establishing registrable easements in favour of Greater Wellington Regional Council on parcels of land that are the subject of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua settlement redress.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 10.35am, at the conclusion of the above item, and reconvened at 10.50am.

Governance

10 Triennial Agreement 2022-2025 – Report 23.46

Moved: Cr Ponter / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Approves the Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2022-25 (Attachment 1).
- 2 Authorises the Chief Executive and the Council Chair to make any minor amendments to the Triennial Agreement 2022-25 required as a result of changes requested by other local authorities in the Region as part of the adoption process.
- 3 Authorises the Council Chair to sign the finalised Wellington Regional Triennial Agreement 2022-25.

The motion was **carried**.

11 Establishment of the Waiōhine River Plan Advisory Committee – Report 23.5

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Connelly

That Council:

- 1 Establishes the Waiōhine River Plan Advisory Committee.
- 2 Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Waiōhine River Plan Advisory Committee (Attachment 1), subject to the wording in section 3.3 being changed to read:

“To be eligible for appointment under sections 3.2c and d, each person must either:

- a Have river expertise, or*
- b Be a resident or ratepayer within the Waiōhine catchment, or*
- c Be a Friend of Waiōhine, or*
- d Be a sustainability advocate.”*

The motion was **carried**.

12 Appointments to Greater Wellington advisory bodies – Report 23.16

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Staples

That Council:

- 1 Appoints to the Lower Ruamahanga Valley Floodplain Management Advisory Committee Councillor Pip Maynard to represent the South Wairarapa District Council.
- 2 Appoints to the Upper Ruamahanga River Management Advisory Committee:
 - a Councillors David Holmes, Craig Bowyer, and Stella Lennox to represent the Masterton District Council.
 - b Councillors Brian Deller and Steve Cretney to represent the Carterton District Council.

The motion was **carried**.

13 Greater Wellington's Quarter Two Summary Report 2022/23 – Report 23.50

Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Laban

That Council accepts Greater Wellington's performance report for the six months to 31 December 2022 (Greater Wellington's Quarter Two Summary Report as at 31 December 2022 – Attachment 1).

The motion was **carried**.

Resolution to exclude the public

14 Resolution to exclude the public – Report 23.56

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Cr Kirk-Burnnand

That Council excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting 15 December 2022 – Report PE22.544

Appointment of Mana Whenua members to committees – Report PE23.40

Farming Reference Group membership – Report PE23.4

Appointment to Whaitua Kāpiti Committee – Report PE23.35

Appointment to the Lower Ruamahanga Valley Floodplain Management Advisory Committee – Report PE23.43

Interim review of the Chief Executive's performance for 2022/23 – Report
RPE23.20

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific ground/s under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Public Excluded minutes of the Council meeting 15 December 2022 – Report PE22.544	
<i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground/s under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>The matters referred to in these minutes relates to personal and identifying information about proposed freshwater hearing panel nominees. Withholding this information is necessary to protect the privacy of those natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for these appointments.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>
Appointment of Mana Whenua members to committees – Report PE23.40	
<i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground/s under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<p>Information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about a proposed candidate for appointment to the Wairarapa Committee and Wellington Regional Leadership Committee. Release of this information prior to Council's decision is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>

<p>and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p>Farming Reference Group membership – PE23.4</p>	
<p><i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information relating to the appointment of members to the Farming Reference Group. Release of this information prior to Council’s decision is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for appointment as a members of the Group.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>
<p>Additional appointment to the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee PE23.35</p>	
<p><i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information relating to a proposed candidate for appointment to the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee. Release of this information prior to Council’s decision is likely to prejudice the privacy of natural persons (section 7(2)(a) of the Act) as releasing this information would disclose their consideration for</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>

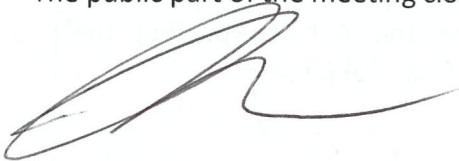
<p>appointment as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	
<p>Appointment to the Lower Ruamahanga Valley Floodplain Management Advisory Committee – Report PE23.43</p>	
<p><i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>The information contained in this report includes personal and identifying information about the preferred candidate for appointment. Withholding the information prior to Council's decision is necessary to protect the privacy of that natural person (section 7(2)(a) of the Act).</p> <p>Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>
<p>Interim review of the Chief Executive's performance for 2022/23 – Report RPE23.20</p>	
<p><i>Reason/s for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></p>	<p><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></p>
<p>Information contained in this report relates to the Chief Executive's interim performance review for 2022/23. Release of this information would prejudice the privacy of Nigel Corry, Chief Executive, by disclosing information pertaining to the employment relationship between the Chief Executive and the Council.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting is excluded as per section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.</p>

Greater Wellington has considered whether the public interest outweighs the need to withhold the information and has determined that there is no public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.	
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This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Act and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The motion was **carried**.

The public part of the meeting closed at 11.34am.



Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: 30/3/23