



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 28 August 2025, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Quorum: Seven Members

Members

Councillors

Penny Gaylor (Chair)

David Bassett

Chris Kirk-Burnnand

David Lee

Daran Ponter

Yadana Saw

Simon Woolf

Quentin Duthie (Deputy Chair)

Ros Connelly

Ken Laban

Thomas Nash

Hikitia Ropata

Adrienne Staples

Appointee

Barbie Barton

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Environment Committee (A Committee of the Whole)

1 Purpose

Oversee the development, implementation and review of Council's:

- a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators to improve environmental outcomes for the Wellington Region's land, water, air, biodiversity, natural resources, parks and reserves, and coastal marine area
- b Regional resilience priorities in the delivery of plans, programmes, initiatives and activities for flood protection, erosion control, and regional parks and forests
- c Regulatory systems, processes and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities
- d Plans, programmes, and efforts to increase volunteer uptake, community involvement and mahi tahi with others seeking to improve environmental outcomes in the Wellington Region.

2 Specific responsibilities

The Committee's environmental responsibilities include the areas of land use management, air quality, water health and quality, regional natural resources, river control, flood protection, regional parks and reserves, coastal marine environment, maritime navigation and safety, biosecurity and biodiversity.

- 2.1 Apply Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles when conducting the Committee's business and making decisions.
- 2.2 Oversee the development and review of Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience prioritiesand recommend these matters (and variations) to Council for adoption.
- 2.3 Review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience priorities.
- 2.4 Consider regional, national and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in the legislative frameworks for their implications for Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regulatory systems, processes and tools.

- 2.5 Recommend to Council changes to improve the effectiveness of Council's:
 - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators
 - b Regional resilience priorities
 - c Regulatory systems, processes and tools.
- 2.6 Review Greater Wellington's compliance with Council's related legislative responsibilities¹, and the monitoring and enforcement of compliance.
- 2.7 Ensure that the Committee's decision making:
 - a Considers climate change-related risks (mitigation and adaptation)
 - b Is consistent with Council's plans and initiatives to give effect to Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 21 August 2019, including agreed emissions reduction targets.
- 2.8 Review, after each Farming Reference Group meeting, a written report of the business conducted at that meeting.

3 Delegations

- 3.1 Subject to sections 3.3 to 3.7, Council delegates to the Committee all the powers, functions and duties necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities (except those that must not be delegated, have been retained by Council, have been delegated to another committee, or have been delegated to the Chief Executive).
- 3.2 The Committee has the authority to approve submissions to external organisations for matters pertaining directly to the Committee's purpose.
- 3.3 The Committee may make decisions on matters with a financial impact only where the related costs are:
 - a Budgeted for in the relevant business group's budget
 - b Not budgeted for in the relevant business group's budget, but can be met from savings within that budget.
- 3.4 Where the Committee considers a decision with a material financial impact is needed², the Committee must refer the matter to Council for its decision.
- 3.5 The Committee may not make a decision that is materially inconsistent with Council's Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.
- 3.6 Where a matter proposed for consideration by the Committee (including during the development of proposed Greater Wellington plans and policies) is of strategic

¹ These responsibilities include those under the Resource Management Act 1991 and for the granting of resource consents, the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1967, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Reserves Act 1977, and the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

² That is, where savings are identified from other business groups' budgets to meet the related costs; or no savings are identified across Greater Wellington's overall budget to meet the related costs.

importance to the Wairarapa Constituency, that matter shall first be referred to the Wairarapa Committee or its members for their consideration.

- 3.7 The Committee shall ensure that it acts under the guidance of the Memorandum of Partnership in working with Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners of the Wellington Region to ensure effective Māori participation in the Committee's deliberations and decision-making processes.

4 Members

4.1 All thirteen Councillors.

4.2 The Chair of the Farming Reference Group.

5 Voting entitlement

The Chair of the Farming Reference Group sits at the table and has full speaking rights, but has no voting rights at any Committee meeting.

6 Quorum

Seven Committee members.

7 Meeting frequency

The Committee shall meet six times each year, with additional meetings as required.

Environment Committee

Thursday 28 August 2025, 9:30am

Taumata Kōrero - Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
4.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 19 June 2025	25.245	6
5.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meeting on 5 August 2025	25.338	11
6.	Mauri Tūhono Update	25.432	15
7.	Wainuiomata / Ōrongorongo Zero Ungulate Project Update	25.334	28
8.	Year 1 Progress Update: Long-Term Plan Focus Areas for Rōpū Taiao	25.353	49
9.	Te Rōpū Taiao Environment Update – August 2025	25.398	60



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 21 August 2025.

Report 25.245

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 19 June 2025

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

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Duthie (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett (until 11.14am, from 11.31am until 11.54am)
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Kirk-Burnand (until 11.14am, from 12.26pm)
Councillor Laban (until 10.20am)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash (until 11.14am, from 11.35am)
Councillor Ponter (until 11.14am, from 11.36am until 12.00pm)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Staples
Councillor Woolf

Councillor Laban participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Duthie to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Kirk-Burnand

That the Committee accepts apologies for absence from Councillor Ropata and Barbie Barton.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Andre van Halderen, Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet spoke to the vision and work of the group.

Noted: The Committee requested that the issue of recreational water crafts speeding in the Pāuatahanui Inlet be referred to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee.

Jamie Stewart, Pareraho Forest Trust, spoke to item 5 Belmont Regional Park Long-Term Restoration Strategy – Report 25.140.

Anthony Davies, Friends of the Belmont Regional Park, spoke to item 5 Belmont Regional Park Long-Term Restoration Strategy – Report 25.140.

Councillor Andy Mitchell, Hutt City Council, spoke to item 5 Belmont Regional Park Long-Term Restoration Strategy – Report 25.140.

Councillor Laban left at 10.20am during Councillor Andy Mitchell's Public Participation and did not return.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 15 May 2025 – Report 25.210

Moved: Cr Bassett / Cr Saw

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 15 May 2025 – Report 25.210.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Belmont Regional Park Long-Term Restoration Strategy – Report 25.140

David Boone, Manager Ecosystems and Community, and Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Bassett

That the Committee:

- 1 Receives the report.
- 2 Notes the content of the report.
- 3 Approves the restoration strategy described in this report, that future restoration at Belmont Regional Park will involve:

- a Ongoing mana whenua and community involvement,
 - b Intensive, staged restoration over an expected period of 10 years, followed by ongoing ecological maintenance alongside other park values,
 - c Planned planting areas of an average 20 hectares per year designed to enhance the establishment of indigenous ecosystems and restore grazing land,
 - d Allowing for natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation to occur over progressive, annual areas of an average 80 hectares per year, in proximity to existing indigenous vegetation areas,
 - e Utilising grazing in areas, reducing over time to nil, until available resources can actively deliver on restoration objectives.
- 4 Agrees to explore opportunities to accelerate the rate of retirement of land in specific areas of Belmont Regional Park where grazing is not required and natural revegetation is considered feasible.
 - 5 Agrees that future grazing licences be assessed for consistency with Master planning documents and where no Master plan has been agreed, licences must be agreed/ approved by the Environment Committee.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 11.14am and resumed at 11.28am. Councillors Bassett, Kirk-Burnnand, Nash and Ponter were not present when the meeting resumed.

6 Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Structural Works Implementation - Review – Report 25.270

Jack Mace, Director Delivery, and Jackie Cox, Manager Infrastructure Assets and Support, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Duthie

That the Committee:

- 1 Recommends that Council agrees the construction of Stages 3-5 of the Pinehaven FMP structural works remain on hold.
- 2 Recommends that Council requests officers to develop, over the next 12 months, alternative options for Stages 3, 4, and 5 of the Pinehaven FMP structural works, and report to Council and its relevant committees on the options.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Basset returned to the meeting at 11.31am during the above item.

Councillor Nash returned to the meeting at 11.35am during the above item.

Councillor Ponter returned to the meeting at 11.36am during the above item.

7 Waipoua River, Mangatāre Stream and Waiwhetū Stream Flood Hazard Maps – Report 25.248

Francie Morrow, Team Leader Knowledge – Water Resilience, and Ella Boam, Senior Project Manager – Investigations, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Saw

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that the flood hazard maps have been developed in accordance with Greater Wellington's Flood Hazard Modelling Standard, which is the process carried out by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) to understand flood risk from significant water courses in the Wellington Region.
- 2 Endorses the Waipoua River, Mangatāre Stream and Waiwhetū Stream flood hazard maps.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Bassett left the meeting at 11.54am during the discussion of the above item and did not return.

8 Waipoua River Urban Reach – Preferred Flood Risk Management Option – Report 25.249

Francie Morrow, Team Leader Knowledge – Water Resilience, and Ella Boam, Senior Project Manager – Investigations, to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Duthie

That the Committee:

- 1 Endorses the preferred flood risk management option for the urban reach of the Waipoua River, subject to further discussions between Greater Wellington and Masterton District Council regarding implementation and the desired level of service for key assets, including Mawley Park.
- 2 Notes the robust process of community engagement and scientific analysis used to develop the preferred option.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Ponter left the meeting at 12.00pm during the discussion of the above item and did not return.

9 Farming Reference Group Chair's Report – Report 25.285 [For Information]

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Gaylor

That the Committee:

- 1 Agrees to the resolution of the Farming Reference Group that the Chair of the Environment Committee writes to MPI outlining the challenges Canada

geese are causing locally including economic challenges, with an acknowledgement that these challenges extend nationally and seeks that MPI classifies Canada geese as a national pest animal.

The motion was carried.

10 WIP Implementation Reporting – Report 25.172 [For Information]

Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, spoke to the report.

11 Whaitua Update – Wairarapa Coast – Report 25.180 [For Information]

Nicola Patrick, Director Catchment, and Tash Styles, Catchment Manager – Wairarapa Coast, spoke to the report.

12 Te Rōpu Taiao I Environment Update – June 2025 – Report 25.256 [For Information]

Lian Butcher, Group Manager Environment, spoke to the report.

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand returned to the meeting at 12.26pm during the discussion of the above item.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date:



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 28 August 2025.

Report 25.338

Public minutes of the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday 5 August 2025

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 2pm

Members Present

Councillor Connelly (Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Duthie (Deputy Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Edwards	Hutt City Council
Councillor Hammond	Upper Hutt City Council
Councillor Laban (until 3.42pm, from 3.48pm)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Lee	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Deputy Mayor Lewis	Hutt City Council
Benjamin Wynyard-Terry (from 2.24pm)	Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

Councillor Edwards and Benjamin Wynyard-Terry participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25A of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Subcommittee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Hammond

That the Subcommittee accepts the apology for absence from Mayor Guppy.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Lesley Smith and André Oliver, Korokoro Environmental Group, spoke on the work of the Group in remediating Korokoro Stream.

Allison Thwaite spoke on flooding risk ratings for the Manor Park area.

Sue Pattinson spoke to agenda item 6 – Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan – Review Process and Timeframes (Report 25.293), and agenda item 7 – Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Structural Implementation – Review (Report 25.375).

Stephen Pattinson spoke to agenda item 6 – Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan – Review Process and Timeframes (Report 25.293), and agenda item 7 – Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Structural Implementation – Review (Report 25.375), and tabled a presentation.

Benjamin Wynyard-Terry joined the meeting at 2.24pm, during the above public participant's presentation.

Pat van Berkel spoke on Old Man's Beard on the banks of Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meeting on 13 May 2025 – Report 25.208

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Lee

That the Subcommittee confirms the Public minutes of the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meeting on 13 May 2025 – Report 25.208.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on the Progress of Action Items from Previous Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Valley Subcommittee meetings – August 2025 – Report 25.333 [For Information]

Jack Mace, Director Delivery, spoke to the report.

6 Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan – Review Process and Timeframes – Report 25.293 [For Information]

Francie Morrow, Team Leader Knowledge – Water Resilience and Ella Boam, Senior Project Manager – Investigations, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Subcommittee requested that officers prepare advice for the incoming Council and the 2027-37 Long Term Plan for resourcing for flow monitoring across the Region.

7 Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Structural Works Implementation Review – Report 25.375 [For Information]

Kyle Christensen, Project Manager, spoke to the report.

8 Annual Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt River Valley Subcommittee Flood Asset Assessment Report – Report 25.273

Lucy Ashford, Team Leader Assets and Performance, and Jacky Cox, Manager Infrastructure, Assets and Support, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Duthie / Cr Hammond

That the Subcommittee:

- 1 Recommends to the Environment Committee that it is satisfied that Flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets have been managed satisfactorily to the agreed Level of Service (LoS).
- 2 Notes that identified issues are being addressed through maintenance and improvement work programmes.
- 3 Notes that the 2024–34 Long Term Plan provides an increased level of funding for capital works and operational resources to support flood protection outcomes over the next 10 years.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Laban left the meeting at 3.42pm at the conclusion of the above item.

9 Moonshine Stopbank Options Assessment – Progress Update – Report 25.371
[For Information]

Francie Morrow, Team Leader Knowledge – Water Resilience, and Alexander Brotherston, Engineer Investigations, spoke to the report.

10 Hutt Valley Flood Risk Management Update – Report 25.328 [For Information]

Francie Morrow, Team Leader Knowledge – Water Resilience, spoke to the report.

11 Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) – Greater Wellington Programme – Report 25.379 [For Information]

Fiona Abbott, Programme Manager, Tracy Berghan, Manager RiverLink, and Robbie Woods, Project Manager, spoke to the report.

Councillor Laban returned to the meeting at 3.48pm during the introduction of the above item.

12 Annual Floodplain Management Plan Implementation Report – Report 25.276 [For Information]

Tina Love, Team Leader Infrastructure Projects, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Subcommittee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 4.19pm.

Councillor P Gaylor

Environment Committee Chair

Date:

Environment Committee
28 August 2025
Report 25.432



For Information

MAURI TŪHONO UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) the Mauri Tūhono project, including an overview of the Tatau Pounamu wānanga held on 12 August 2025.

Te horopaki

Background

2. In 2018 Greater Wellington, mana whenua, community groups and Department of Conversation initiated the development of a regional biodiversity framework in partnership to join up regional efforts for biodiversity.
3. Greater Wellington approved funding as part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan for the external implementation of the framework, Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui¹, and this was reconfirmed in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
4. Mauri Tūhono is referred to by Council as a korowai aroha (cloak of love) for Greater Wellington in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
5. Between April and May 2023, the Mauri Tūhono working group carried out a limited public engagement process resulting in broad support for the framework concepts and people agreed if implemented, it would deliver positive outcomes for te taiao.
6. The framework, Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework was launched at Te Papa Tongarewa in November 2023.
7. The working group who authored the framework was disestablished in February 2024. The co-chairs of the group Rawiri Smith and Sharlene Maoate-Davis remained with the project, and now as Pou Ārahi, lead the project team to establish an independent entity, external to Greater Wellington.
8. While the working group has been disestablished, its former membership is now recognised as Mauri Tūhono Ambassadors who champion the kaupapa throughout the region and have agreed to be available to support regional implementation.
9. In January 2025, a Terms of Reference was signed between the co-sponsors, Monica Fraser and Lian Butcher, and the Pou Ārahi and identified what was required to respond to the framework within Greater Wellington and as part of a

¹ <https://www.maurituhono.org.nz/frameworkenglish>

regional collective. Two projects were identified as being required and these are underway:

- a Internal Project: Designing Greater Wellington's response to Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui.
 - b External Project: Establishing Mauri Tūhono as an independent entity.
10. The Pou Ārahi, Rawiri Smith and Sharlene Maoate-Davis extend their formal thanks to Council for their continued support of Mauri Tūhono.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

Focus on establishing Mauri Tūhono as an independent entity

11. There are three key objectives to support the establishment of an independent entity:
- a Establish a new Mauri Tūhono structure
 - b Growing the Mauri Tūhono movement
 - c Initiate Pae Kura Case studies

Establish a new Mauri Tūhono structure

12. Market research company Verian Group engaged to support research into the establishment of an independent regional entity for te taiao.
13. A desktop research exercise has been completed to support market research wānanga.
14. Tatou Pounamu research wānanga was held on 12 August at Te Wānanga o Raukawa in Ōtaki.
15. A research report due in October will inform next steps. Illustrations, photographs, storytelling insights also gathered. An overview video will be shared at the Committee meeting on 28 August 2025.

Growing the Mauri Tūhono movement

16. The launch of the framework in November 2023 is the largest Mauri Tūhono event held to date.
17. A seasonal newsletter is circulated to a mailing list of circa 500 subscribers.
18. Re-engagement with key taiao stakeholders took place leading up to the Tatau Pounamu Wānanga and is continuing.

Initiate Pae Kura Case Studies

19. Projects that exemplify how Mauri Tūhono and the Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework has been used to support te taiao will be showcased via video, photograph and written case studies.
20. Three case studies will be created and used on the Mauri Tūhono website. They can be linked to future funding applications and in presentations to key stakeholders, potential partners. The three potential case studies are:

- a Pua o te reinga translocation research: Pua o te reinga is an endangered taonga species, this research involves contribution and collaboration between all Mana Whenua iwi in Te Ūpoko o te Ika. The research will include how the Mauri Tūhono whenu, interwoven strands can play a part in taonga translocation.
- b Wharemauku Awa Enviroschools: A series of four events for Kāpiti teachers based in and around the Wharemauku Awa. Mauri Tūhono content and the Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework are included in the design and delivery of the events. Mauri Tūhono Pou Ārahi Sharlene Maoate-Davis is the project lead.
- c Greater Wellington Mauri Tūhono internal implementation: An overview of the development of the internal implementation of te Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework at Greater Wellington.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

- 21. There are no financial implications.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

- 22. The establishment of an independent entity is an example of a collaborative approach to empower and support Māori-led decision-making. The independent entity sits outside of our current mana whenua partnership agreements because its role is to support taiao groups, initiatives and outcomes as a regional connector. Its function is not to replace mana whenua partnerships, but to strengthen and complement them.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change

- 23. The matters shared are for information only and do not have a direct impact on climate change.
- 24. The Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework outlines transformational shifts and provides examples of actions to address key environmental issues, respond to climate change, and ensure that the efforts of Mauri Tūhono are embedded as an integral component of climate action.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

- 25. Findings from the Tatau Pounamu research wānanga are due in early October, these findings will inform the next steps for Mauri Tūhono, including the governance and operating model of the independent entity.

26. Initial research indications are that there is a definite need and support for the establishment of an independent entity.
27. Case studies to highlight and showcase how the framework has been used to create or foster transformational shifts will be completed.
28. New entity establishment planning has begun and will kick off in earnest when research findings are received.
29. Staff will speak to [Attachment 1](#) at the Committee meeting.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Attachment 1 Mauri Tūhono update presentation

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Ana Nicholls - Hautū Mātauranga Taiao Lana Simmons-Donaldson – Project Lead Mauri Tūhono
Approvers	Monica Fraser – Pou Whakarae Lian Butcher – Group Manager Environment

<p style="text-align: center;">He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>The Committee has responsibility to review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council’s environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators.</p> <p>Mauri Tūhono supports Council’s environmental outcomes for the Wellington Region through mahi tahi and working in alignment with others to improve environmental outcomes. This kaupapa is guided by the mātauranga of mana whenua, acknowledging their responsibilities as kaitiaki and ahi kā of the region.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>Greater Wellington’s four focus areas of its strategic direction, as adopted through the 2024-34 Long Term Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction – Active mana whenua partnerships and participation for improved outcomes for Māori – Improved access to services and equity of outcomes through participation with communities – Holistic approaches to delivery and improved outcomes for te taiao <p>Mauri Tūhono and the framework are relevant to all four of our strategic focus areas, and within the Long Term Plan (page 10, 34, 88, 136) it states our work is guided by Mauri Tūhono, a framework that helps unite people who are working towards a flourishing natural environment in our Region. It offers a set of values and ideas that can help people see how they contribute to a bigger picture for our rohe.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>As part of Greater Wellington’s response to the karanga from te Taiao, Greater Wellington’s internal response so far includes Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, Rōpū Taiao, ELT and leaders from across Greater Wellington working together to design and develop an internal implementation plan. Leaders have participated in range of activities and have been regularly updated on progress in relation to the external project deliverables.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no identified risks or impacts related to the matters for decision.</p>

Me ngā mihi nui ki te Kaunihera

28 August 2025



Photo credit: © James Coleman, Ponga, Upper Hutt Wellington



He karanga ki te hunga e
ngākaunui ana ki te taiao

A call to all who care for the natural
treasures of the Wellington region

Photo credit: © Manaaki Barrett, Harakeke in front of night sky, Kapiti Island

Attachment 1 to Report 25.432



Mauri Tūhono milestones

- Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui framework launched November 2023.
- Mauri Tūhono working group disestablished February 2024.
- LTP – Mauri Tūhono 'Mauri Tūhono is a korowai aroha (cloak of love) for our 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
- New Terms of Reference signed January 2025.
- Two programmes of work:
 - External implementation
 - Internal implementation
- Tatau Pounamu research wānanga 12 August 2025

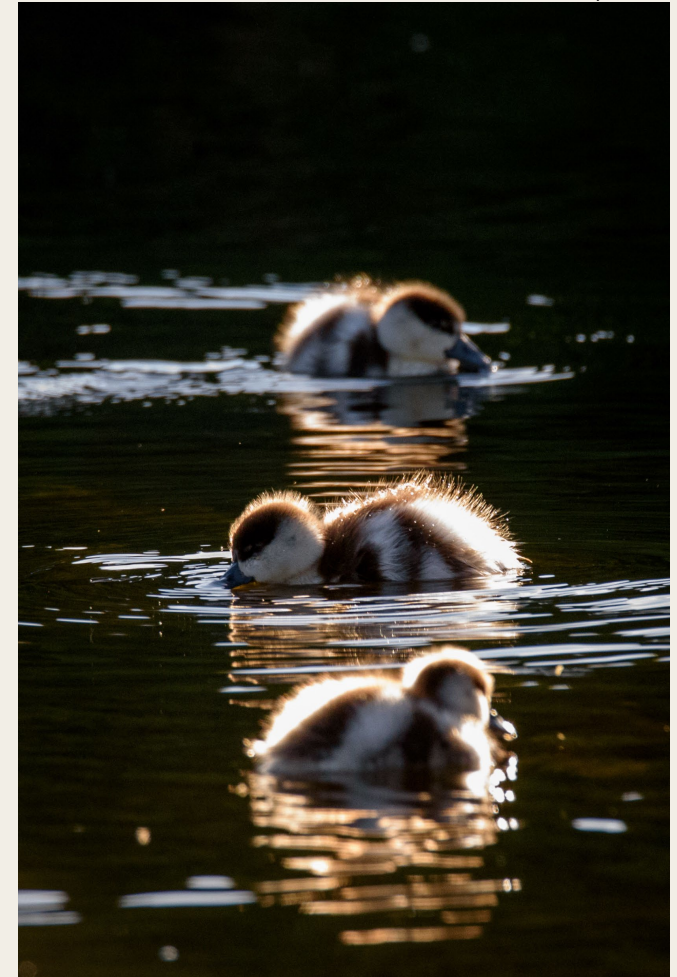


Photo credit: © Leon Berard, Pūtangitangi ducklings, Mana Island.

External implementation

- Ra Smith and Sharlene Maoate-Davis leading the kaupapa as Pou Ārahi. alongside project team.
- Focus on establishing Mauri Tūhono as an independent entity.
- Desktop research supports taiao hub needed in our region.
- Research wānanga held 12 August, findings due end of September.



Photo credit: © Mauri Tūhono, Te Pae Mahutonga, Tūranga whenu, in Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao whānui



Towards a regional taiao hub

**Video will be presented at
Environment Committee meeting**

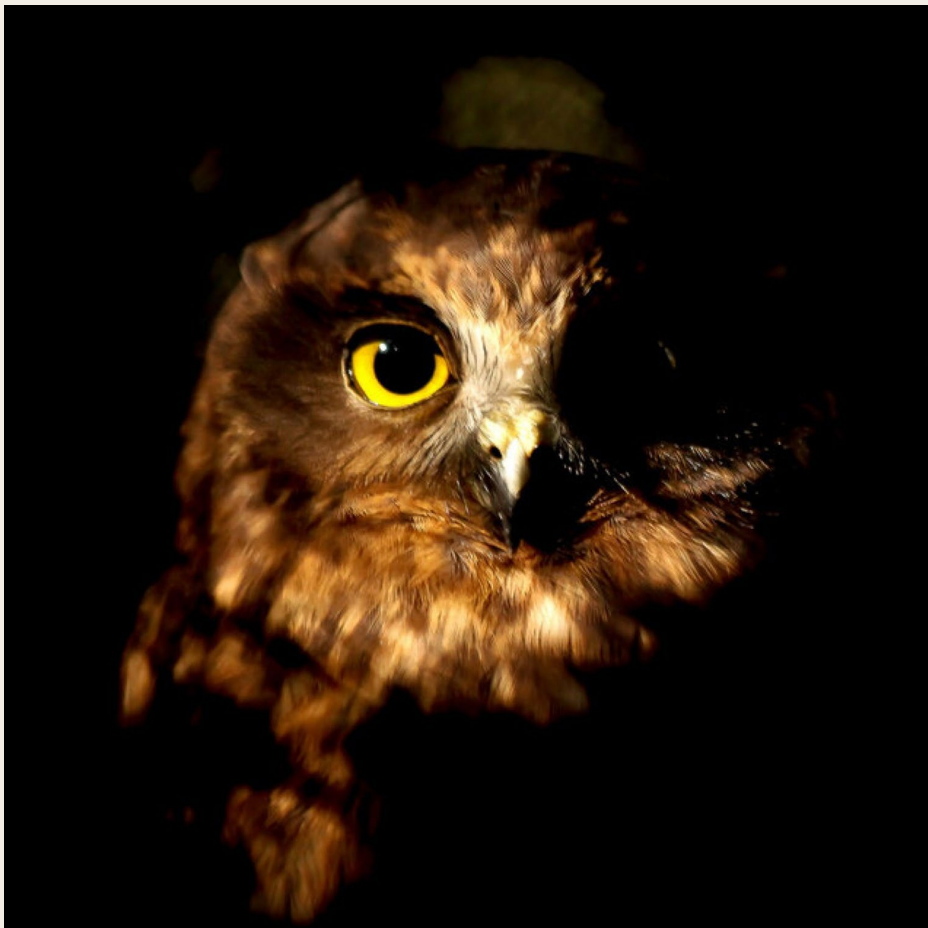


Photo credit: © Manaaki Barrett, Ruru, Kapiti Island.

Ka nui te mihi

Our main message is to thank you for your long-term support for this kaupapa via the Long-Term Plan.

We appreciate your faith and trust in this kaupapa and want to let you know that we are moving ahead with an evidence-based approach to help us create a sustainable and successful future for Mauri Tūhono, and a flourishing and thriving taiao.



Photo credit: © Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, Pekapeka nestled in tree hollow, Waikanae.

To note:

- We are progressing towards standing up an independent Mauri Tūhono entity.
- Our research wānanga held on 12 August brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to help guide our next steps.
 - Mana whenua
 - Hapū members
 - Community groups
 - Individuals working for and in te taiao
 - Environment organisations
 - Territorial authorities
- There is support to establish an independent entity.
- Research findings will help guide next steps for Mauri Tūhono.

Environment Committee
28 August 2025
Report 25.334



For Information

WAINUIOMATA / ŌRONGORONGO ZERO UNGULATE PROJECT UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide the Environment Committee (the Committee) with an update on the Wainuiomata-Ōrongorongo Water Collection Area (WCA) project.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. The WCA is one of the Wellington Region's main water supply catchments. It includes a special area of lowland native rainforest.
3. The WCA is 7,400 hectares of native forest in the headwaters of the two rivers. It has been managed as a public water supply catchment for over 100 years. It includes some of the best native rainforest in the North Island. The forest was never logged because it was set aside early as a public water supply. Most other lowland rainforest in the region was logged for timber and cleared for farming.
4. The WCA is closed to the public except for limited special events.
5. Greater Wellington manages the forest to protect drinking water quality and to protect the special values of the forest itself. Possums and introduced predators are controlled and the area is home to native birds including tītīpounamu/rifleman and kākārīki/yellow crowned parakeet. North Island brown kiwi live in the forest, having made their own way there from their release site in Remutaka Forest Park.
6. Despite being protected for water supply, the forest of the WCA has been suffering the impacts of feral deer, pigs and goats, which have been present for almost 200 years.
7. The plants that feral deer and goats like to eat are missing from the forest understory. The big trees in the canopy are healthy but beneath them the forest floor is almost bare, so there is less vegetation to slow runoff during storms. When a big tree dies and falls, the seedlings of trees that could fill the gap are eaten instead. Besides that, the plants that are missing are the kind that provide fruit and flowers for native wildlife.
8. Feral pigs turn over the ground as they search for grubs and worms. This stops native seedlings from growing and means that when it rains there is more sediment in the water. Pigs eat invertebrates and the eggs of ground-nesting birds, including

kiwi. Feral deer, pigs and goats also carry and spread giardia and other water-borne diseases that threaten human health.

9. Greater Wellington has controlled these species in the catchments for decades but has previously lacked the resources to attempt eradication. Because the area is surrounded by other forest land where control is limited, new animals are always moving into the area.
10. During the 2024-25 financial year a ten-year project plan and budget was prepared. A network of trail cameras to monitor animal distribution and densities was established and six months of baseline data has been collected and analysed. This data has influenced the design of the project.
11. Engagement has been carried out with mana whenua, Department of Conservation (DOC) and Wellington Water Ltd to ensure the successful implementation of the project. It has also been socialised with Forest & Bird, local deerstalkers/hunting groups and presented at the July national biosecurity conference.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

12. This project will allow the forest to return to its natural state, with a thick, healthy understory that includes all the plant species that should be present. Helping the forest to recover will help native birds and other wildlife to flourish. Water quality will improve, reducing risks to human health.
13. This project has two main components:
 - a The first will be a significant increase in hunting and trapping activity.
 - b The second component involves completing the catchment boundary fencing to prevent reinvasion from surrounding public conservation land where control is limited.

Hunting and trapping activity

14. This will involve a combination of ground hunting and helicopter hunting, all by highly experienced professional hunters.
15. The focus of work in first half of the current financial year is on establishing project infrastructure – backcountry accommodation for hunters and fence builders and cutting a network of new walking tracks. The hunters' base house beside the Wainuiomata ranger's house has been upgraded to ensure it is fit for purpose. Contracts will be established to enable hunting to begin in summer, following the stand-down period after the Wainuiomata/Ōrongorongo aerial 1080 operation.

Boundary fencing

16. The second component involves completing the catchment boundary fencing to prevent reinvasion from surrounding public conservation land where control is limited. An existing fence protects the western and northern boundaries. The new fence would follow the Remutaka Range crest, separating the water collection area from Remutaka Forest Park, and extend across the Ōrongorongo and Wainuiomata valleys. Designed to exclude feral deer, pigs, and goats, the fence would weave

between the trees to minimise its impact on the forest and would need regular inspection and maintenance.

17. The Pest Animals Project Planner has conducted site visits with a local specialist fencer to organise repairs to the existing ungulate fence, and plan for the construction of a 100-500m test section of a new ungulate fence, to be installed in the summer months.
18. Conversations are actively underway with DOC regarding co-operation along and across the shared boundary. An agreement is being prepared to cover co-operation over the control of ungulates on either side of the WCA/DOC boundary, and the construction of the fence along the crest of the Remutaka Range, which is partly on DOC land.
19. We have received a peer review of the project plan by an expert panel from DOC. We have prepared a step-by-step response to their comments, and we have incorporated some of their suggestions into the project plan.
20. The agreement with DOC around hunting across the boundary and construction of the sections of fence on DOC land will be finalised and signed. The draft has been reviewed and revised by Greater Wellington's legal team. The draft will next go to DOC for consideration. Work covered by the agreement is not expected to begin until the 2026 calendar year in the case of hunting, and summer 2026-27 in the case of fencing on the shared boundary.
21. A contract will also be established with an expert fencer to make good the existing deer fence on the western and northern boundaries, and to build a trial section of the new fence, to test practical and budgetary assumptions in the plan.

Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications

22. The project is currently funded through the LTP and the work planned for the 2025-26 financial year is within this budgeted figure, therefore there are no financial implications.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori Implications for Māori

23. The Wainuiomata catchment is known to mana whenua as Puketahā after the maunga of the same name on the ridgeline that separates the Wainuiomata and Ōrongorongo catchments. Puketahā dominates the skyline of the catchment when viewed from east or west. The general area has been the takiawā of many iwi over time and has significant cultural value to mana whenua as a connection between Whanganui-a-Tara and the Wairarapa. While the catchment was not settled, it has always been significant for hunting and foraging and has considerable history and whakapapa attached.
24. Four iwi in total have interests in the land between the Ōrongorongo River and the crest of the Remutaka range: Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu. The rohe of these iwi overlap in the area between

the river and the top of the range, particularly about the Waiorongomai Saddle. The bulk of the area is within the rohe of Taranaki Whānui.

25. Early discussions have been held with representatives from all four iwi, all of whom have expressed support for the project's objectives. Discussions have also been held with Taranaki Whānui representatives about helping the iwi build capacity to help with project delivery.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

26. Contracts will be established to enable hunting to begin in summer, following the stand-down period after the Wainuiomata/Ōrongorongo aerial 1080 operation.
27. A contract will also be established with an expert fencer to make good the existing deer fence on the western and northern boundaries, and to build a trial section of the new fence, to test practical and budgetary assumptions in the plan.
28. The agreement with DOC around hunting across the boundary and construction of the sections of fence on DOC land will be finalised and signed.
29. Officers will speak to [Attachment 1](#) – Wainuiomata/Ōrongorongo Zero Ungulate Project Update presentation at the Committee meeting.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Zero Ungulate Project Update presentation

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

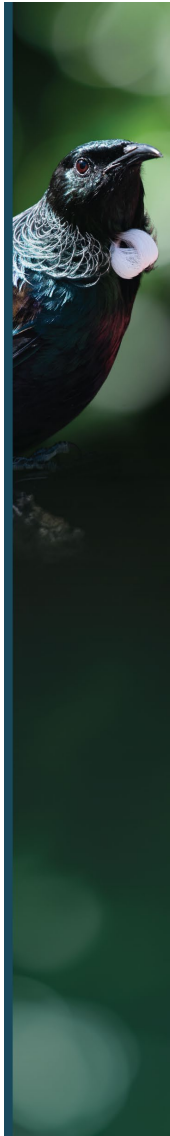
Writers	Chris Cosslett – Pest Control Project Planner
Approvers	Myfanwy Hill – Manager Environment Operations Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Group Manager Environment

<p style="text-align: center;">He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>This fits within the Committee's purpose of overseeing the development and implementation of programmes that protect biodiversity in our natural environment and building resilience through enhancement of forest health and erosion control.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>This programme delivers on the direction and funding of the Long-Term Plan.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>The draft plan and budget have had input from Te Hunga Whiriwhiri, Ecosystems & Community, Knowledge and Insights, Consents and Compliance, and Legal.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>The entire site is remote and difficult. Managing the health and safety of remote field workers is a major consideration of the project.</p> <p>Maintaining worker morale will be challenging, especially as the hunting progresses to the point that few animals are found, and in the case of fence builders working and living for extended periods in remote conditions.</p> <p>Damage to the fence, both natural and human-induced, will need to be monitored for in perpetuity. Fence breaches will likely lead to animal incursions.</p> <p>Animal incursions can be expected following construction of the fence. Monitoring for and responding to animal incursions will be needed in perpetuity. New technology currently in development is expected to assist in this regard.</p>

Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo

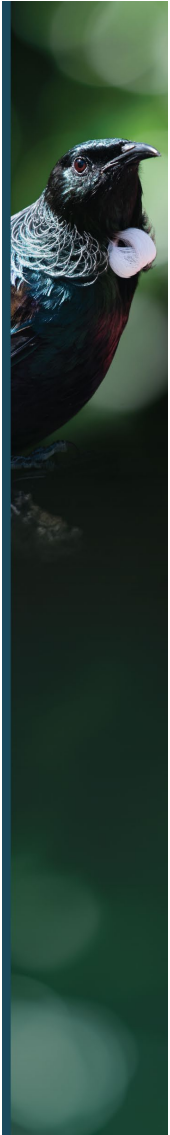
Forest Restoration (Zero Ungulates) Project



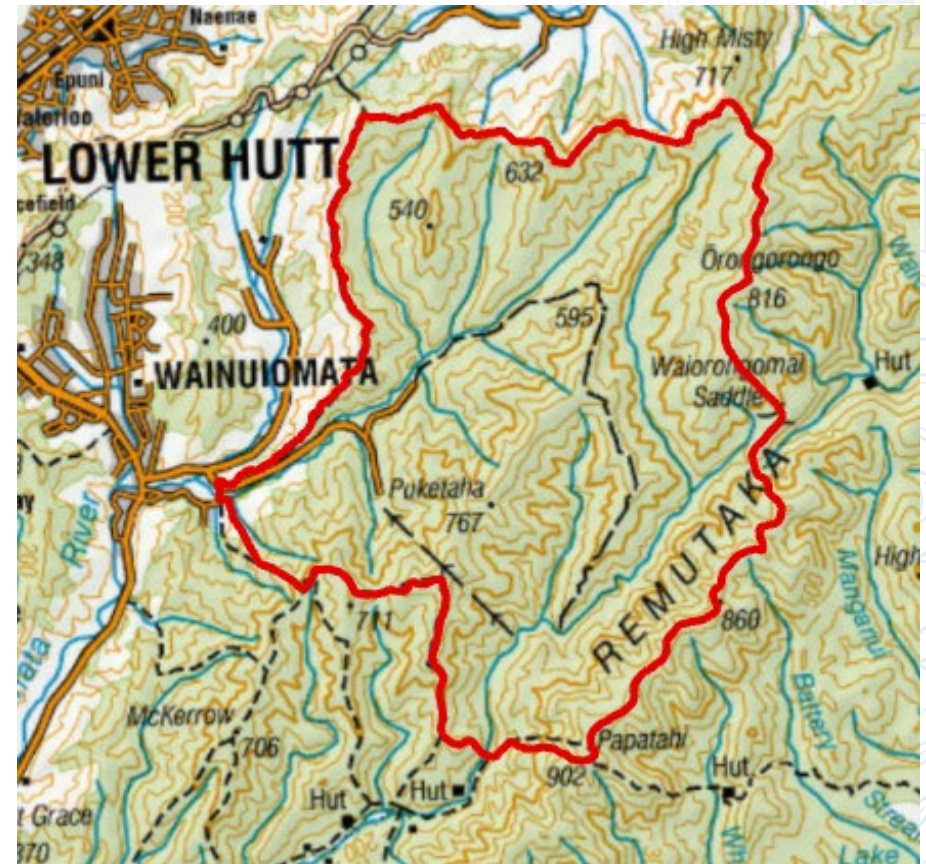


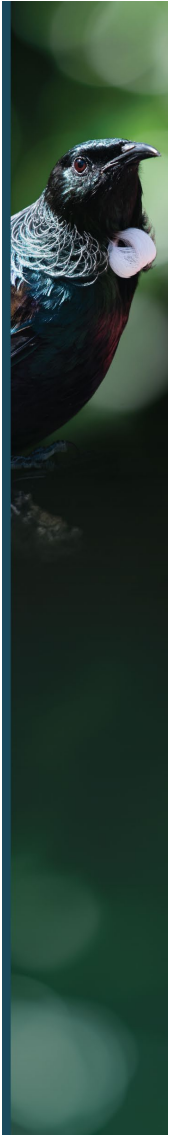
- Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo Water Collection Area lies between the Hutt Valley and Lake Wairarapa
- Private land to west and north; PCL (Forest Park) land to south and east





- 7,400 hectares
- Includes some of North Island's best lowland broadleaf/podocarp forest
- Managed by GW and Wellington Water as an urban water supply (since late 19th Century).





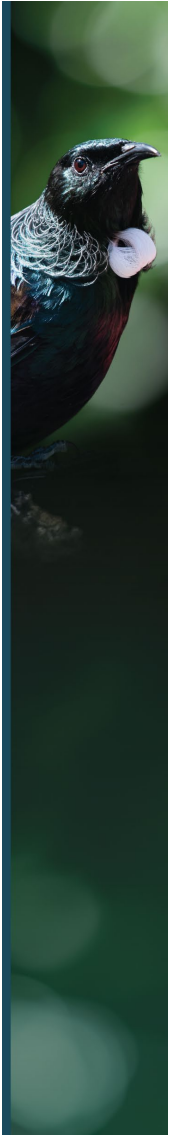
History of ungulates in the WCA

Attachment 1 to Report 25.334

- Goats and pigs present for at least 175 years
- Red deer present for 125 years
- Culling since the 1950s, by NZFS and then DOC
- Systematic control by DOC ceased in 2011
- GW started its own hunting programme in 2000
- High densities in surrounding areas – immigration is constant
- Ungulates continue to suppress regeneration of palatable plants.

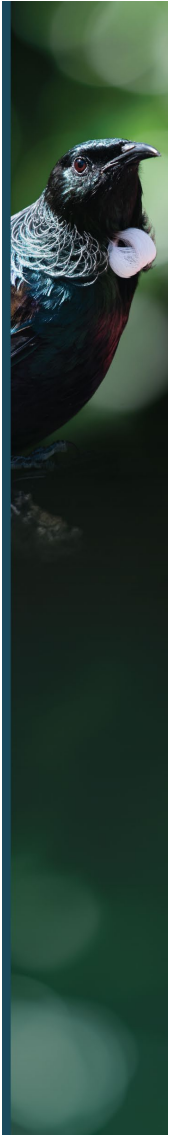
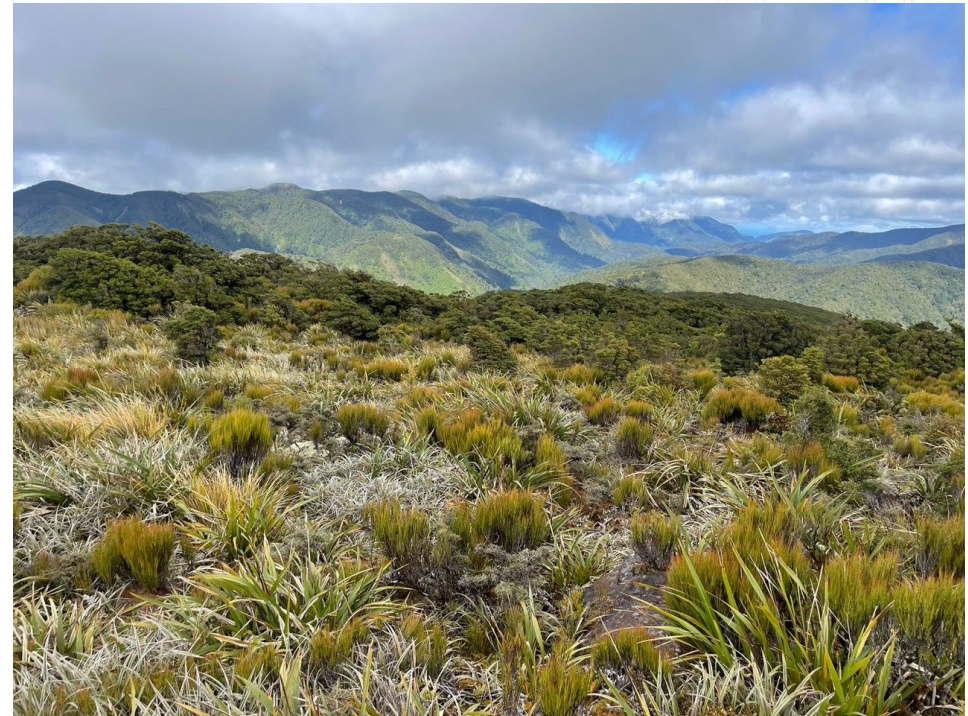
Enclosure plot under heavy canopy cover: 27 years

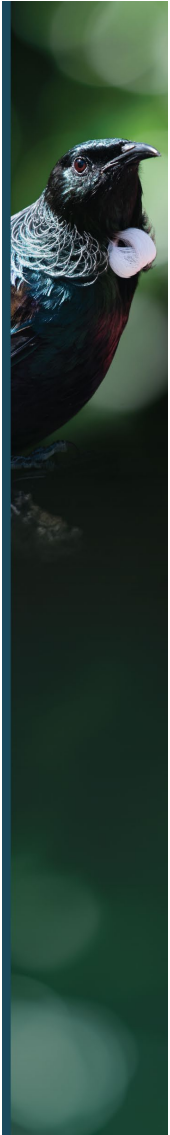
Attachment 1 to Report 25/234



The WOWCAZUP Project

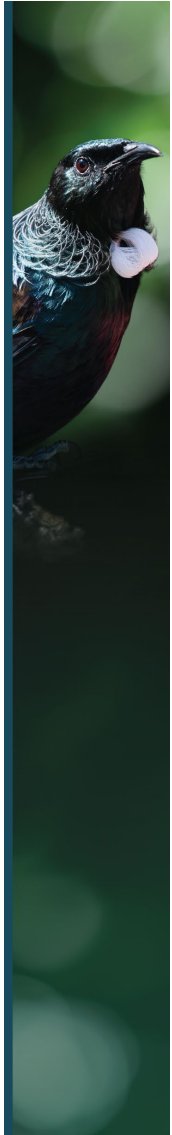
- GW has allocated funding for a ten-year eradication project
- All three species: deer, pigs and goats
- Objectives: protect and restore high value lowland rainforest and protect water quality





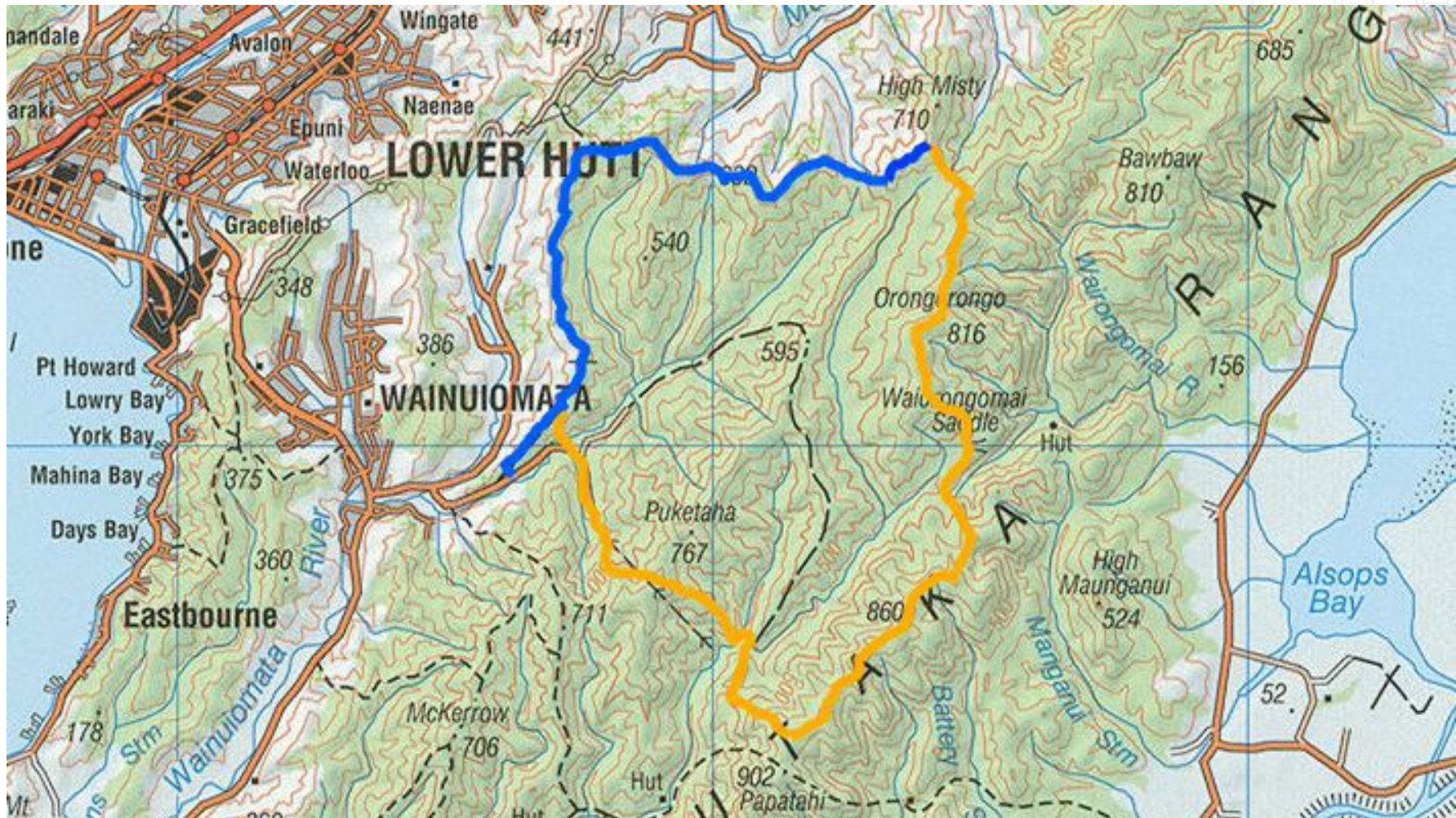
Project overview – 3 main components Attachment 1 to Report 25.334

- **Complete fencing** of the catchment boundary, along the crest of the Remutaka Range and across the valley floors
- **Much more control:** indicator dogs, bailing dogs, aerial shooting, thermal night shooting, Wall of Death, trapping, pig feeding, managed grass clearings, possibly toxins
- **Monitoring: vegetation monitoring** to track response to reduced browsing pressure. **Game cameras** to monitor changes in density and to help target hunting effort as project progresses.



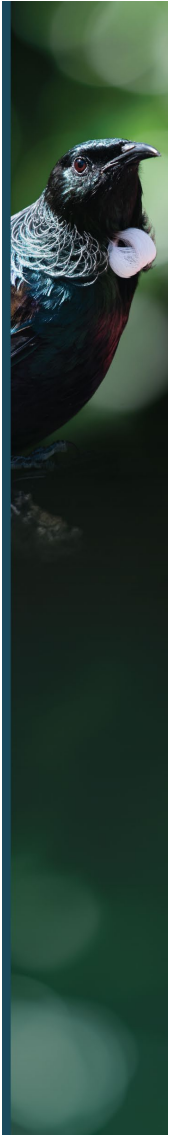
Fence alignment

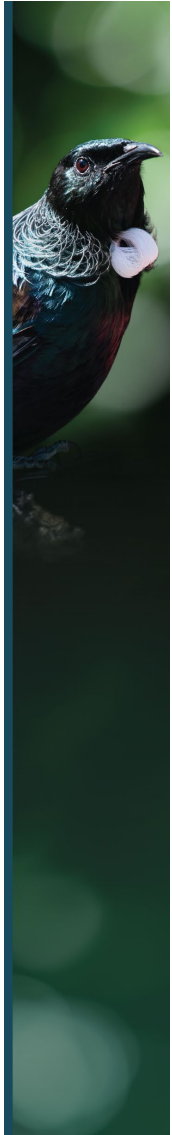
Attachment 1 to Report 25.334



Fence detail

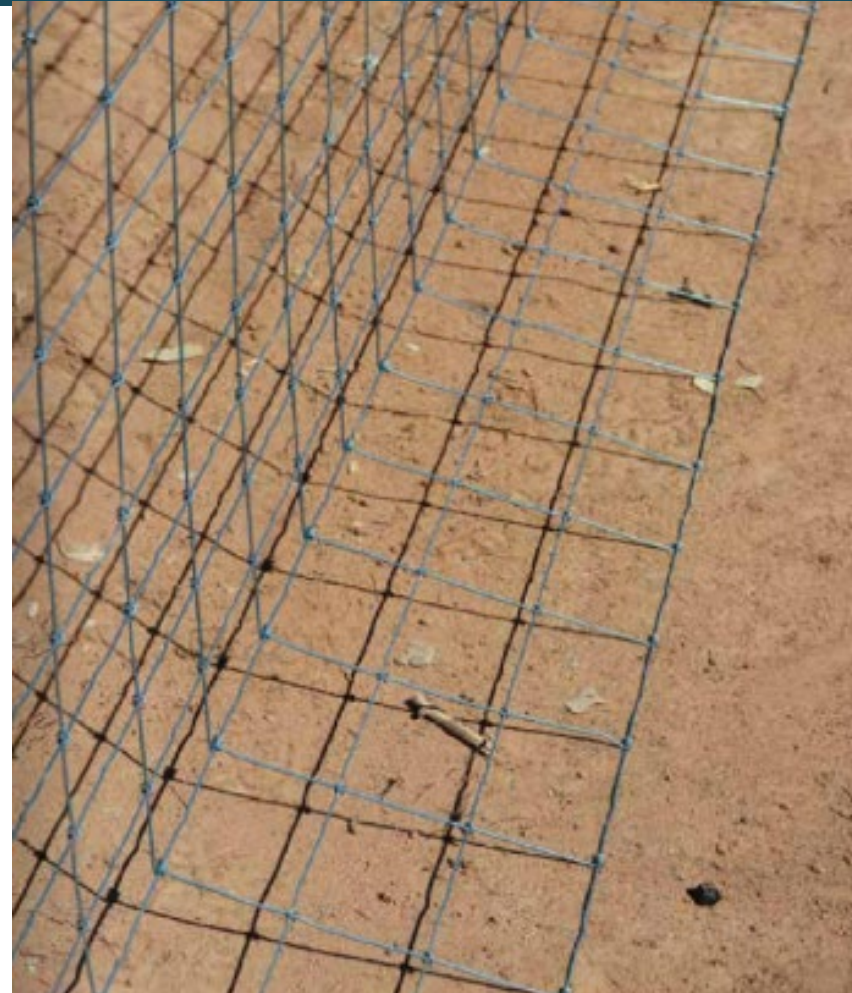
- Low impact
- All hand built
- Winding through trees, keeping canopy intact – no bulldozer
- Waratah kitset fence
- Netting with hinged apron on bottom to stop pigs and goats pushing under





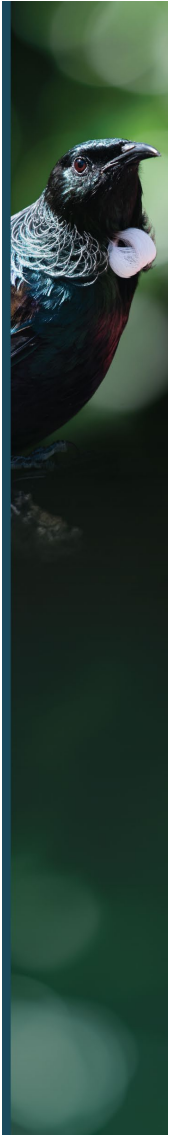
Hinged apron detail

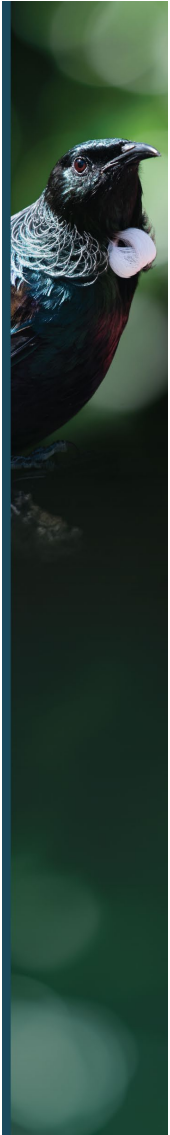
Attachment 1 to Report 25.334



DOC – GW collaboration

- High ungulate numbers on neighbouring PCL
- Buffer hunting needed until fence complete
- Control on PCL will reduce pressure on boundary and fence
- DOC-GW MOU

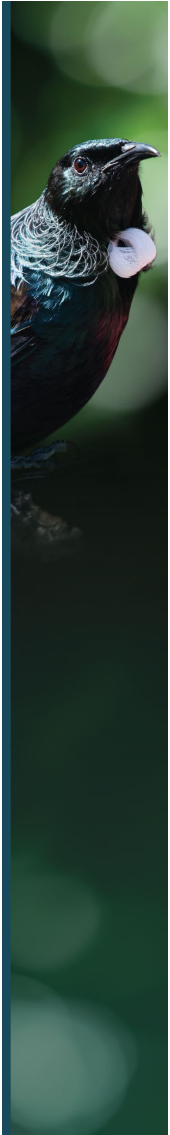




Progress so far

Attachment 1 to Report 25.334

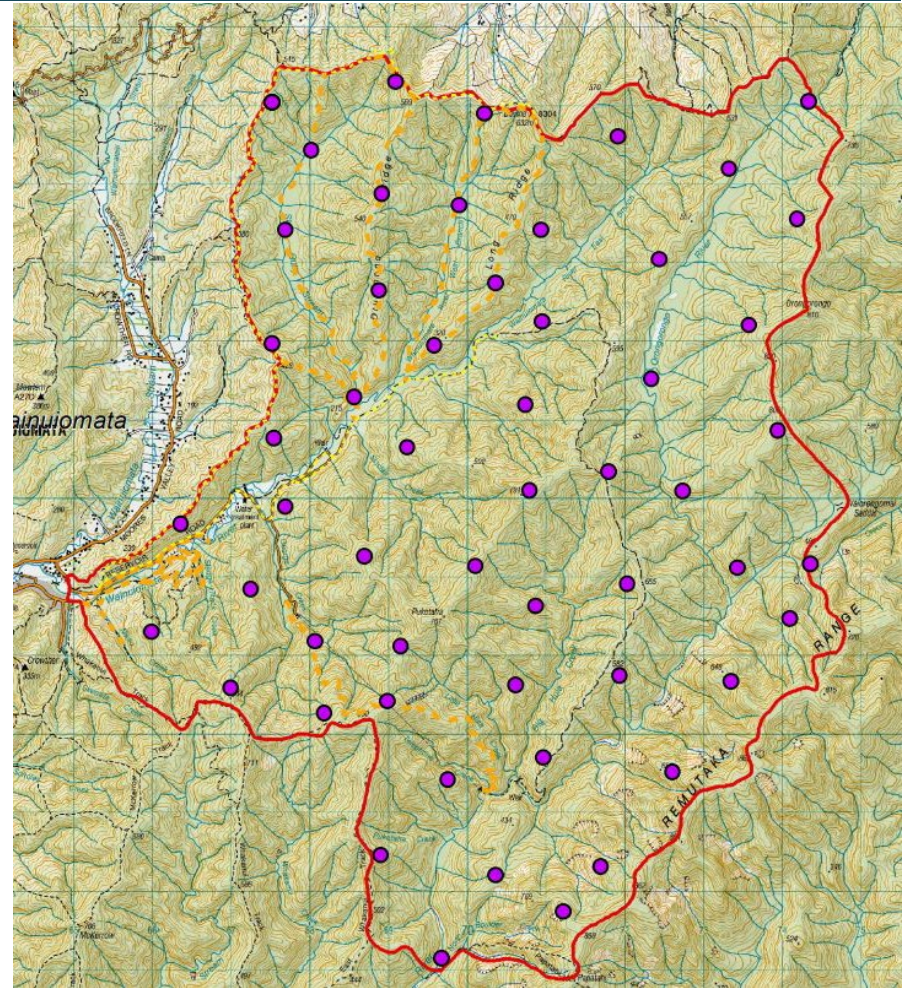
- Ten-year project plan and budget written
- Tracks, huts and camps planned
- Cameras installed
- First 6 months of camera data processed – baseline data
- Mana whenua discussions, including helping build contracting capacity
- Thermally assisted aerial hunting trials conducted
- Contractor panel capacity expanded.

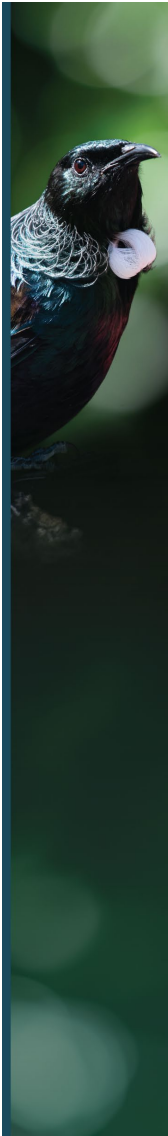


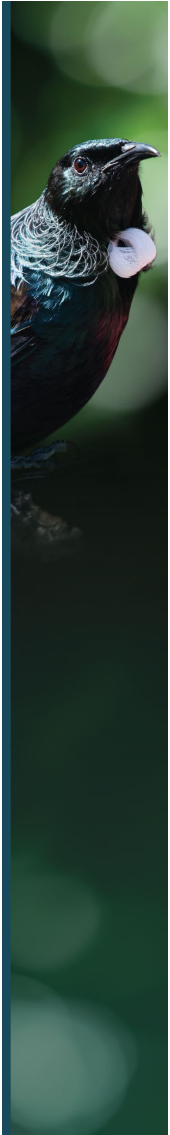
Game cameras

- Spacing based on home range sizes
- Main game trails – ridges, spurs, valleys
- Manually serviced – no transmission available
- Set up to record possums, predators and kiwi as well as ungulates

Attachment 1 to Report 25.334







Lessons from the first 6 months of camera data

Attachment 1 to Report 25/234

- Goats more widespread than hunting data suggests
- Some billy goats and pigs travel widely
- Stoats are everywhere
- Cats more numerous than we thought
- Every camera that recorded kiwi also recorded cats and stoats
- Deer appear to be getting a lot of their food as leaf fall
- Camera data may be useful for possum monitoring.



Environment Committee
28 August 2025
Report 25.353



For Information

YEAR 1 PROGRESS UPDATE: LONG TERM PLAN FOCUS AREAS FOR RŌPŪ TAIAO

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose**

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on progress in Year 1 (2024/25) of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) using new funding directed to five focus areas:

Te horopaki **Context**

2. The Committee wants to understand what has been achieved with new funding that came through the LTP for Rōpū Taiao. Officers have put together this paper to outline the achievements over the past year and what work is planned for the coming years. The paper also identifies how we worked with iwi partners, what challenges we faced and if there are financial implications anticipated with future work.
3. The following categories have been focussed on to provide the information.
 - a Enhancing our flood risk management from mountains to sea
 - b Protecting our most important places from pests
 - c Restoration in our parks
 - d Deliver catchment-scale environmental solutions through collaborative and integrated approach – Houghton Valley
 - e Future Natural Resources Plan (NRP) changes

Te tātaritanga **Analysis**

Enhancing our flood risk management from mountains to sea

4. The LTP funding increase for Year 1 was aimed at increasing the resources available to maintain our current levels of service for flood protection, accelerate the uptake of nature-based approaches and increase community engagement and participation in land use planning.

5. To effect this change, in 2024/25 we have used the additional funding to build capability and capacity in our Flood Operations and Consent Management teams to ensure that flood protection and control infrastructure is maintained, we remain compliant, and to work alongside mana whenua and with community.

Flood Operations

6. The Flood Operations team has been through a change process, restructuring and expanding the team to better resource and support:
 - Maintaining and improving the condition of our flood protection and control infrastructure.
 - Our partnership with mana whenua through co-design of all aspects of our work and delivery.
 - Working to our new Code of Practice for River Management activities (the Code) to ensure we remain compliant.
 - Stakeholder engagement and consultation so that the community can understand and be involved in our work.
7. The new team structure (implemented in December 2024) includes six newly created positions to better plan, schedule, and deliver of work. Additionally, there is now a Kāpiti River Ranger to support and work with our stakeholders and community on the Coast.
8. While positions have been spread across the region, this first injection of staff was predominantly focused in Kāpiti and Te Whanganui-a-Tara, which is reflected in Report 25.273, on the *Annual Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River Flood Asset Assessment*, which notes that the previous decline in asset condition appears to have stabilised, with some early indications of improvement.
9. Within the new structure, the team's initial focus has been focusing on establishing improved processes to plan, schedule and deliver maintenance work.
10. Flood Operations has increased its level of engagement on specific work with mana whenua at both iwi and hapu level and is working towards meeting with iwi regarding the 2025/26 annual work plans.
11. Flood Operations is also meeting monthly with Wellington Fish & Game to discuss upcoming work.
12. The Code guides all river management activities undertaken by Greater Wellington irrespective of funding, location or whether an activity requires resource consent, it is the go-to resource for Operational staff to ensure environmental compliance and describes how Greater Wellington does river management activities. This means it applies to permitted activities as well as those activities for which resource consent is required under the NRP.
13. It is based on a set of six interrelated principles that recognises that rivers systems constantly evolve. These are:
 - a Rivers are dynamic
 - b Work with rivers and not against them
 - c Rivers need room to move

- d River management requires knowledge
 - e Rivers are managed for a range of flood flows
 - f River management requires adaptability
14. The Flood Operations team structure change, adoption of the Code, subsequent training and increase in staff capacity is enabling Greater Wellington to realise the intended benefits of the new positions outlined in paragraph 6. This is evident in the increased quality of the annual work plans, which now identify, and plan work further in advance than was possible previously, and in our increased level of working with mana whenua and stakeholder engagement. It is also apparent on the ground, for example in the Waikanae River area where overdue river and track maintenance work has recently taken place.
 15. However there have been some challenges, notably in getting support from the River Advisory Committees in the Wairarapa and Friends groups in Kapiti for these changes and associated increased costs. In hindsight, engagement with the Advisory Committees and Friends groups ahead of the changes, and increased funding in the LTP would have been beneficial.
 16. Further positions are proposed for 2025/26. These will be predominantly field-based positions in the Wairarapa to deliver more maintenance and lift the condition of the assets.
 17. Since the 2024-34 LTP Year 1 funding approval there is now a proposed 2025/26 rates reduction for the Waiōhine River and Lower Ruamāhanga Scheme. This will not affect the increase in staff numbers in these areas.

Consenting and Planning

18. The Consents Management team was stood up in late 2024. It currently has three permanent Resource Management Advisors and one fixed term Advisor whose work program sits 80% with Riverlink and 20% with the Government funded Flood Protection Works projects.
19. The Consent Management team is responsible for promoting new ways of working in respect to legislation, ensuring that Delivery activities comply with legislation, and providing expert technical advice, education and training to achieve this. The team have begun preparing and leading a consenting strategy for Delivery, obtaining and implementing resource consents and notices of requirement¹, while managing existing resource consents/designations, including compliance, monitoring, and reporting. The team also has a policy lens in respect of the potential impact on Delivery activities.
20. A priority for the team is progressing the global river management consent applications for Ōtaki, Waikanae, Upper/Lower Ruamāhanga and the operation of the Barrage Gates. These consents enable us to undertake fundamental river management activities such as bed recontouring and gravel extraction. As

¹ A notice of requirement is a proposal for a designation. The notice of requirement has an interim effect, in that it protects the land for the designated purpose until the designation is confirmed and included in an operative district plan.

described in paras 12 and 13, the Code of Practice provides the framework for us to do this in a way which works with the river and supports holistic river management. The team have also been able to use their expertise to support Flood Operations to understand the regulatory environment in which they are operating in, which has enabled them to deliver their work more effectively.

21. A focus for the team is collating Delivery consents to ensure compliance with conditions and in anticipation of a new Consent Management System (CMS), which will be implemented in late 2025. The team is heavily involved in the selection and implementation of this system. By having all consents managed effectively in a centralised system, the CMS will reduce the risk of Delivery being non-compliant with resource management legislation. The CMS will ensure that Delivery is a responsible consent holder and understands what consents it has and any conditions that come with these consents.
22. The team play an integral part in building and fostering relationships with mana whenua, particularly within the regulatory process of resource consenting, ensuring effective and genuine engagement with mana whenua.
23. One recent example includes the team's work in leading the Waikanae Estuary bed recontouring work. Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai were engaged on the proposal and have continued to play an integral part in its implementation. The team facilitated mana whenua engagement in this process to assist with the linkage into other business units and functions across Greater Wellington (e.g. Catchment).
24. In terms of stakeholder engagement, the team also worked extensively alongside Wellington Fish & Game, Department of Conservation (DOC) and Kapiti Coast District Council on the proposal to resolve various permissions outside of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The involvement of the team enabled a complex process to be navigated and completed much quicker and to a timeframe that otherwise would not have been possible. The team also plans to be involved alongside Flood Operations in the scheduled monthly meetings with Fish & Game.
25. Another key piece of work for the team is supporting Flood Operations with the implementation of the Code. Ongoing work includes amending and updating the Code based on feedback, as well as the roll out of a mobile app which allows teams to conduct digital work planning on site.

Protecting our most important places from Pests

Developing marine biosecurity programme

26. In 2024/25 we carried out the first vessel hull fouling surveys as part of Greater Wellington's emerging marine biosecurity surveillance work under the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. Our findings now serve as a baseline of the level of fouling on stationary recreational vessels berthed in five marinas and will inform future biosecurity planning, engagement with vessel owners, and ongoing monitoring efforts to reduce and prevent the spread of marine pests.
27. Greater Wellington has joined the Marine Vessel Portal (MVP) to capture and report on marine biosecurity surveillance and support us in assessing marine biosecurity risks regionally and nationally.

28. We have increased awareness around marine biosecurity in partnership with Biosecurity New Zealand by replacing old signage at Wellington marinas, distributed educational pamphlets, increased engagement through events and connecting with boat users.
29. A marine scientist and a senior environmental monitoring officer have been appointed to provide support to the delivery of the marine and coastal water quality and ecology work programme. We have also mapped out the work programme for the biosecurity officer which will come on board in 2025/26.
30. In 2025/26 we will implement the Marine Biosecurity programme. Operational expenditure for the programme includes funding our Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, carrying out increased education, advocacy, advice and monitoring initiatives through the region.
31. To date there has not been mana whenua involvement, although through the Regional Pest Management Plan review process in coming years, engagement with mana whenua will be critical towards supporting future marine biosecurity rules setting and work within the region.
32. Our partnership with Top of the South has reduced our requirement to generate new communications material and ensured that our messaging is consistent across the Cook Strait with the support of Biosecurity New Zealand.

Community pest initiatives outside of Wellington City

33. The Council allocated \$100,000 through the last LTP towards supporting community pest control groups outside of the Wellington City area.
34. In 2024/25 we purchased traps, bait stations, bait and associated equipment for 14 different community pest animal control groups in Kāpiti and Te Awakairangi/ Hutt Valley, many of which work on land owned or managed by Greater Wellington. Ten percent of the funding was allocated to purchasing pest plant control equipment and was provided to three community projects, acknowledging the efforts by these groups in Kāpiti and Te Awakairangi/Hutt Valley.
35. In the Wairarapa, the funding was allocated to three catchment groups, Tinui Whareama, Homewood and Wainuioru. We provided further support to the Wairarapa Catchment Collective to progress pest animal outcomes within their Catchment Plans by acquiring hardware, bait, and monitoring equipment.
36. Although the funding was only for the 2024/25 financial year, the support to these community groups will ensure that they are able to continue their efforts for years to come. Greater Wellington continues to support these groups through its contestable funding programmes and subject matter advice.

Protecting large scale planting, Predator control infrastructure and Capital Kiwi

Wairarapa Moana

37. The Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board endorsed the 2025/26 work programme for the Wairarapa Moana Project for new funding through Greater Wellington's LTP. Some new sites have been added to receive predator control especially where

bittern are frequenting, with a plan to connect sites across the landscape through collaboration with other work programmes.

38. Bittern numbers continue to increase in areas that receive predator control in the Wairarapa Moana project. The area is becoming a stronghold for breeding bittern and ongoing control is providing benefits to a range of other native bird species.
39. The work that Greater Wellington contributed into the collaborative working group changed with the end of the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) funded work in June 2025. Greater Wellington's work going forward is now rates funded and transitioning into ongoing operational programmes rather than the MfE funded project.

Pūkaha

40. In 2024/25 we worked with Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre to continue to maintain rabbits at low levels. We drafted a funding agreement with Pūkaha to support coordination of the rabbit alliance and committed \$115,000 to in-kind support. Operations have been streamlined to improve landowner interactions and improve efficiency in delivering a more coordinated work programme. Our efforts thus far have seen slower immigration rates of predators, which ensure longer periods of time for native biodiversity to bounce back and thrive.
41. In the coming years, we will be continuing pest control work in the Pūkaha buffer, focusing on rabbit suppression, possum and other predator control.
42. A challenge for effective long-term work programmes is the high dependency that external trust entities have on funding grants. Lack of certainty of whether projects can continue puts strain on our planning processes and the long-term success of control efforts.

Capital Kiwi

43. We have signed a funding agreement with Capital Kiwi in 2024/25, committing to 230,000 annually for pest animal control, dependent on meeting outcomes and reporting.
44. The funding commitment will start in 2025/26, and a detailed operational plan will be prepared which will cover how the project will integrate with the Regional Predator Control Programme and Predator Free Wellington.

Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Area Zero Ungulates Project (WOWCAZUP)

45. The ten-year project plan and budget for the WOWCAZUP was prepared in 2024/25. Early discussions were held with mana whenua and a monitoring network was established to collect baseline data. There is in depth report (Wainuiomata Orongorongo Zero Ungulate Project Report – 25.334) on the agenda for this meeting.
46. In 2025/26 the project will focus on establishing back country accommodation, a network of new access tracks, trapping, and hunting. Hunting will then increase from 2026/27 onwards.

47. Early discussions have been held with representatives from all four iwi with mana whenua status. They have expressed support for the project's objectives. Discussions have also been held with Taranaki Whānui representatives about helping the iwi build capacity to take an active role in project delivery. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DOC is being worked on for working along and across boundaries.
48. Taking the time to build a comprehensive project plan, conduct initial monitoring, testing control methods and tools and engaging with partners and stakeholders ensures that we have a more collective approach and that we deliver the project more efficiently in the coming years.

Restoration in our Parks

Hiwinui Park Planning and Opening

49. With our parks planner leaving in 2024/25, we shifted delivery of the parks planning activities to an external contractor familiar with Toitū te Whenua. We have added all Wairarapa forests to Toitū te Whenua as an update of the network plan.
50. Park development planning scheduled for 2025/26 includes access and user amenities like carparks, toilets and security. Implementation of these features is expected to enable gates opening to the public in 2026/27.
51. We are working through capacity constraints with our Wairarapa Iwi partners to allow them to participate in the process, including resourcing this required capacity. Our intention is to move forward with the work but leave room to participate or signal future park involvement in this plan update.
52. The Toitū te Whenua update follows the Reserves Act process and will need consultation with the public. Initial stakeholder consultation regarding the plan draft development will commence on the 2025/26 financial year for Hiwinui.
53. Although the park will be open on 2026/27, it will remain an active forestry block, limiting access during forestry operations time. This factor as well as high fire risk in the area may cause challenges around access and public safety.
54. We have identified a range of recreational activities for the park which would require further exploration and scope with the previous risk factors in mind.

Planting Activity and Planning Roles

55. Winter planting is underway, with approx. 150,000 plants projected to be planted during this planting season (winter 2024/25). This is a reduction in plants in the ground from previous years due to the need for balancing funding, increased maintenance costs and accommodating the transition to a different delivery model. Once the new delivery model is established, we anticipate increased efficiency and effectiveness in terms of plant survival.
56. Restoration planning alongside mana whenua is underway for both Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP) and Baring Head. The Environment Committee has approved a restoration strategy for Belmont Regional Park.
57. In 2025/26 we need significant planning work and engagement towards delivering restoration efforts for Belmont Regional Park. Mana whenua representatives have

been involved in establishing the strategy for Belmont Regional Park and there is enthusiasm for co-governance and co-delivery going forward. We also have a wānanga planned for September to work through restoration priorities for QEP with mana whenua.

58. The scale of Recloaking Papatūānuku and its planting operations is beyond anything that Greater Wellington has undertaken before. We have identified areas where project management protocols can be improved from our learnings in the establishment phase and we are working to better identify resource needs. Although it has taken some time for us to understand the complexity of this work, we have been able to build good relationships along the way which sets us up to deliver better collectively.
59. Funding for restoration efforts will remain one of the primary challenges toward delivering this work. Additional funding may be required as the restoration work gets underway in Belmont Regional Park to mitigate potential risks.

Peatland Restoration at Queen Elizabeth Park

60. Two wetland restoration projects are underway at QEP. These are the northern peat re-wetting and the southern wetlands. The southern wetlands scheme has been consented and the next steps for design work are being planned. It is likely that this work will be staged, with some work happening in 2025/26.
61. The peat re-wetting work is highly complex and costly with monitoring and modelling hydrology still underway. This element has been de-prioritised to allow for restoration, planning and planting work to commence in other areas of the park.

Deliver catchment-scale environmental solutions through collaborative and integrated approach – Houghton Valley

62. In response to submissions from the community, Council agreed to allocate \$50,000 to investigating an environmental solution for Houghton Valley buried landfill pollution issues in partnership with Wellington City Council (WCC) and Wellington Water Limited (WWL), and to seek how lessons from this work could be applied to other catchments facing similar issues.
63. During 2024/25, a collaborative relationship was established with community reps, WCC and WWL, to determine the most appropriate use of the funding available. An agreement was reached that a report with a design for the community's holistic catchment solution vision which draws from existing technical evidence and expert advice will be developed. We have reached out and procurement processes are underway with an independent provider to facilitate and deliver this mahi.
64. This outcome of this work will support further decision-making about feasibility, funding approaches and potential phasing of any work. This report will be completed in Quarter two of the 2025/26 financial year.
65. The collective approach has seen community representatives taking a lead role alongside a representative from Taranaki Whānui to confirm use of the funding. We have also arranged a site visit to include the wider community in informing future direction. The 2024/25 LTP funding of \$50,000 is available in 2025/26.

Future Natural Resources Plan changes

66. The Council committed to delivering additional plan changes over the next 10 years through the current LTP. However, the RMA was amended in October 2024 to prohibit any future plan changes until after the the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM 2020) was reviewed. Therefore, the Council deferred the budget and resource required for additional plan changes to the 2027/2028 financial year through the 2025/26 annual planning process.
67. In the meantime, the Council was focused on progressing Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resource Plan (NRP Plan Change 1). In 2024/25, three hearings were held for NRP Plan Change 1. On 26 June 2025, the Council made a decision to pause the remaining two hearings streams (hearings streams 4 and 5) until 2026. This decision was due to the impacts of the national direction consultation documents released on 29 May 2025 including proposed changes to the NPS-FM 2020. The NRP Plan Change 1 implements the NPS-FM 2020. There are potentially significant changes to the NPS-FM 2020 which were signaled in the consultation documents, and which will have implications for the NRP Plan Change 1. We expect to assess the restarting of the NRP Plan Change 1 in early 2026.
68. The NRP Plan Change 1 notified provisions will remain in place. A variation to Plan Change 1 is required and seeks to delay the implementation date for financial contributions and hydrological controls provisions. This will be for sites under 1,000m², which are proving difficult to implement via consents in their current form.
69. Mana whenua have been a significant partner in the Whaitua process and have been pivotal to shaping the NRP Plan Change 1. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui were invited to the Council meeting in June and supported the pause of the NRP Plan Change 1, with some conditions. We continued to build on our partnership and transparency to navigate reforms and the impacts on the environment.
70. Stakeholders are aware of the decision and the implications the pause of the NRP Plan Change 1 has for them. We are currently working with mana whenua on a co-design of the Variation to the NRP Plan Change 1.
71. There is a high level of uncertainty regarding national direction while undertaking a significant plan change. This has impacts and flow on effects on team wellbeing as well as the wider work programme. Furthermore, it remains a challenge to navigate such significant national direction changes that impact on the integrity of the NRP Plan Change 1 and our commitment to deliver on the whaitua process, communities and mana whenua expectations.
72. We know the health of our wai is important to our mana whenua, tangata whenua, our communities and future generations. We will focus on working together on the non-regulatory activities in the meantime to continue momentum in this space.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Henk Louw – Principal Advisor Ecosystems Rob Deakin – Principal Advisor Flood and Resilience
Approvers	Jack Mace – Director Delivery Fathima Iftikar – Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation Nicola Patrick – Director Catchment Lian Butcher – Group Manager Environment

<p style="text-align: center;">He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>This report fits within the Committees purpose of overseeing the development and implementation of programmes that protect biodiversity, increase resilience for our communities and connects people with the environment.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>This report provides and update on year 1 spending of the Long-Term Plan.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>All teams within Rōpu Taiao have been consulted to construct the paper, including, Delivery, Catchment, Knowledge and Insight and Strategy, Policy and Regulation</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>The report outlines future consideration in relation to health and safety risks to park access, and operational challenges due to funding constraints and decisions made in relation to legal direction from central government. Additionally, the report shares impacts and opportunities for Iwi and communities.</p>

Environment Committee
28 August 2025
Report 25.398



For Information

TE RŌPŪ TAI AO | ENVIRONMENT UPDATE – AUGUST 2025

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the strategic direction and priorities of the Environment Group, including the work underway across the Wellington Region and within each catchment.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Progress on action items from previous Committee meetings is outlined in [Attachment 1](#).

Strategic Direction

Linking our work to our strategic direction

3. In response to Councillors' request to see how our strategic direction leads to tangible results, we have identified how the items covered in this report link to the 10-year outcomes of the Rōpū Taiao Strategic Framework. The icons represent each of the overarching 10-year statements. They are



Safeguarding and restoring ecosystems and natural environments across our rohe

Air, land, ecosystems, freshwater bodies, the coastal marine area and the indigenous species that life in these environments through catchments are enabled to thrive in an integrated and connected way.



Fostering connection to nature, recreation and safe harbour navigation

Mana whenua and communities across the region are connected to te Taiao and know the stories of their home. Everyone can safely access and connect to nature across our regional parks network, river corridors and harbours.



Strengthening regional resilience and supporting our communities

Mana whenua and communities are becoming more resilient to the effects of drought, flooding and sea level risk in ways that support a thriving environment. Net greenhouse gas emissions in the Wellington region are reduced.

Preparing for the 2026/27 Annual Plan

4. We are developing options for finding savings within the Environment Group budget ahead of the next Annual Plan. This is in line with current fiscal constraints, ongoing cost-of-living pressures and the signalled focus on councils delivering their core services well.
5. In doing this we are prioritising savings options to minimise the impact on the long-term outcomes we are working towards. This means, for example, ensuring our core environment protection role is strong to maintain ecosystem health in the region, and keeping people and property safe from the risk of flooding. We will also maintain our Te Tiriti partnership commitments and support the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki within their rohe.

Regional Overview

Regional Policy Statement Change 1



6. Regional Policy Statement Change 1 (RPS Change 1) is now in the appeals phase and mediation has taken place on all topics.
 - a Some issues have been resolved, and consent orders have been issued by the Environment Court. These are nature-based solutions, forestry on erosion prone land, encouraging mode shift in transport, and travel choice plans.
 - b Most issues have not yet been fully agreed and resolved, including indigenous ecosystems, natural hazards, and some climate change topics. In most cases this is because parties are seeking agreement on a whole topic before signing off their agreement.
7. Mediation on some topics that were not fully resolved will be reconvened on 19 and 20 August 2025 for natural hazards and indigenous ecosystems respectively. An additional mediation date will also be needed for transport, with the date yet to be confirmed but likely to be in late August 2025.
8. At this point it seems feasible to resolve appeals and make RPS Change 1 operative later in 2025.

Natural Resources Plan Change 1



9. At the time of the previous update, Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (PC1) was at the hearings stage, with Hearing Stream 3 being completed in May 2025.
10. The Government released a new national direction package on 29 May 2025¹. This included a consultation document on freshwater matters, which looked at options to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) to 'better reflect the interests of all water users'. Amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry Regulations 2017 (NES-CF) were also proposed. The

¹ Greater Wellington made a submission on the national direction package before consultation closed on 27 July 2025.

proposed changes to freshwater and forestry regulation in this consultation document were likely to significantly affect PC1 provisions.

11. Following the national direction package announcement, Council decided on 26 June 2025 to pause PC1 until it has enough confidence to proceed with PC1. This will likely be after the new NPS-FM is gazetted in early 2026, or in the case of any delays with gazettal, when Council determines it has sufficient information to proceed. The PC1 provisions as notified still have legal effect during this time.
12. Council was required to make decisions on PC1 by October 2025 under the current NPS-FM and Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) timeframes. Greater Wellington is currently in the process of seeking an extension of decision timeframes from the Freshwater Commissioner and Minister for the Environment to enable PC1 to resume in early 2026.
13. As part of the decision to pause PC1, Council delegated power to the Chief Executive to initiate a variation to PC1 to delay the effective implementation date of financial contributions and hydrological controls for sites under 1,000m². The Environmental Regulation team is having difficulty implementing these two rules via consents in their current forms. Work is currently underway to co-design this variation with mana whenua.
14. We will provide the final variation wording to Council for review once this has been agreed with mana whenua.

Fast Track Consenting



15. We are yet to receive any substantive applications through the fast-track approvals process. The table below summarises pre-application activity associated with proposed fast-track consenting projects within the Region:

Pre-application consultation on fast-track projects in the Wellington Region		
Project	Type	Update
Belmont Quarry Development, Lower Hutt – Winstone Aggregates (Schedule 2 Listed Project)	Quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winstone Aggregates is consulting with the Department of Conservation on the land exchange component of the application. Anticipated lodgement of substantive application: end of 2025.
Mount Welcome, Pukerua Bay, Porirua – Pukerua Property Group Limited Partnership	Housing and urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant will brief Greater Wellington and our experts on the proposed application in early August. The applicant has indicated that they are consulting with mana whenua. Anticipated lodgement of substantive application: October 2025.

(Schedule 2 Listed Project)		
Wellington International Airport Southern Seawall Renewal – Wellington International Airport Limited (Schedule 2 Listed Project)	Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington International Airport Limited (WIAL) is providing Greater Wellington with draft technical assessments and consent conditions to comment on. Greater Wellington has provided feedback on a first tranche of assessments, with a second tranche of assessments to be provided by WIAL in early August. The applicant has indicated that they are consulting with mana whenua. Anticipated lodgement of substantive application: August to September 2025.
New Central Park (77 to 109 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu) – The Wellington Company Limited (Schedule 2 Listed Project)	Housing and urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has briefed Greater Wellington on the application and a site visit has been undertaken. The applicant has indicated that they are consulting with mana whenua. Greater Wellington has issued a notice to the applicant under section 30 of the Fast Tract Approvals Act 2020 (FTAA) confirming that there are no existing resource consents that would conflict with the fast-track application. Anticipated lodgement of substantive application: August to September 2025.
Waikanae North Development (169-171 Peka Peka Road, Kāpiti) – Waikanae North Developments Limited (Schedule 2 Listed Project)	Housing and urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has briefed Greater Wellington on the application, and a site has been undertaken. The applicant has indicated that they are consulting with mana whenua. Greater Wellington has issued a notice to the applicant under section 30 of the FTAA confirming that there are no existing resource consents that would conflict with the fast-track application.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated lodgement of substantive application: August to September 2025.
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Further information on fast-track projects can be found on the government website²

Biosecurity



16. Pest Animals, Pest Plants, and Environment Restoration staff presented at the National Education and Training Seminar national biosecurity conference about key aspects of our work.
17. Annual rook control operations have begun. Signage has been erected, and the communication campaign has begun to identify nesting sites prior to the aerial survey scheduled for mid-September 2025.
18. Annual rabbit night counts were completed with minimal movements in rabbit numbers.

Planting



19. Planting Operations to date this winter has supplied and planted over 200,000 seedlings for environmental restoration programmes and approximately 17,200 poplar and willow poles throughout the region, along with supporting the delivery of Recloaking Papatūānuku.
20. Phase 2 planting at Te Uru O Tane (Daleton) Nursery, including approximately 16,000 poplar and willow stakes and 300 shelterbelt trees has been successfully completed.

Recreational boating



21. For a number of years we have received funding from the Fuel Excise Duty via Maritime New Zealand. This has enabled us to better support our summer education and enforcement work through a media campaign and safety collateral.
22. This year the process was delayed and Maritime NZ has changed the focus and process. As a result, our previously funded media and handout materials do not qualify for support. We are currently reviewing the process and application and will look at what we might be able to apply for in terms of funding for this summer.

Community Environment Fund Updates



23. Wairarapa Moana and Porirua: *Applications Open*: Both Community Environment Fund (CEF) rounds are now open, providing funding opportunities for projects that support environmental restoration and community-led initiatives.
24. Kāpiti and Te Awa Kairangi: Mana whenua partnerships are actively involved in the CEF roll-out. Their involvement has strengthened decision-making, ensured alignment with community priorities, and supported co-delivery of activities.

² <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects>

Te Awarua-o-Porirua

Catchment Planning



25. The first of several workshops for developing a Catchment Plan for Te Awarua o Porirua was held in early August 2025. Co-designed, hosted and facilitated by the various Accord agencies, the Sediment Workshop involved subject matter experts from multiple agencies working to prioritise actions around reducing sediment.
26. Further Accord workshops on pollution sources and restoring habitats will round out the three key focus areas. Then a prioritisation workshop in October will seek to focus on the most effective and feasible actions, with a draft Catchment Action Plan prepared prior to Christmas.



Figure 1: Sediment workshop for the Porirua Harbour Catchment Plan

Friends of Taupo Swamp Committee

27. Friends of Taupo Swamp Committee (FOTSC) has raised concerns with Greater Wellington regarding a forestry operation in close proximity to Taupo Swamp, after being notified by the operators that harvesting will soon commence. The forest operation is being carried out as a permitted activity under the National Environmental Standard - Commercial Forestry (NES-CF), and to-date is complying with the correct procedures set out under the NES-CF. A Compliance Monitoring Officer has been assigned and is in direct communication with representative of FOTSC to address any concerns. The Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Officer will carry out site visit(s) to the forestry operation to check ongoing compliance with the NES-CF requirements.

Recreational boating



28. Towards the end of last summer, we met with a representative of the Paremata Residents Association who expressed concern about some boating behaviour in the Pauatahanui Inlet. The Guardians of the Inlet expressed a similar concern to the Environment Committee on 19 June 2025, which was referred to Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting on 19 August 2025.
29. We will improve signage at two launching locations on the inlet and add two more '5 knot area' marker buoys to Browns Bay for summer. The area is already one that we monitor over summer.

Community engagement

30. Pauatahanui Inlet Cockle Count 2025 planning is underway. The event is scheduled for November 2025, in partnership with community groups and other organisations.

Wairarapa Coast

Eastern Hills early Flood Warning Upgrade



31. The cableway has been successfully installed and commissioned for use. It is now ready to support operation of the Hornet flow measurement equipment.
32. This marks a significant step forward in our flood monitoring capabilities. The cableway will allow us to safely measure high-flow conditions during major flood events, without exposing staff to unnecessary risk. These measurements will provide critical data to improve the accuracy of our flood models, enhancing our ability to issue timely and reliable flood warnings.
33. Ultimately, this will strengthen our flood preparedness and provide greater protection for the community.
34. Below is the true left bank showing the cableway with Matt Rowland MWR who played a huge part in bringing this all together!



Figure 2: Cableway with Matt Rowland MWR

Pest Animals



35. Predator traps have begun to be serviced in the new predator control networks implemented at Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) sites at Owahanga, Mataikona, Homewood Coast and Te Kawakawa, providing some great catch results in their first services.
36. Regional Predator Control Programme (RPCP) Tinui possum operation was completed in July with no issues. There are plans to re-service the infrastructure later in the year when the weather and access is more favourable for these remote locations.

New and improved pest animal networks at coastal Wairarapa KNE sites:

37. To better match management actions to the biodiversity values present on site, a number of pest animal networks were created or expanded at KNE sites on the Wairarapa coast. Three new pest animal control networks were established at the Te Kawakawa-Black Rocks, Mataikona and Owahanga KNE sites and the control networks at the White Rock-Opouawe, Homewood, and Riversdale sites were expanded.
38. Significant native biodiversity along the Wairarapa coast includes nesting shorebirds, such as the pohowera/banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) and threatened native lizard populations like the northern spotted skink (*Oligosoma kokowai*). The new and expanded networks were designed to target ferrets, stoats,

rats, pest cats and hedgehogs, as these animals represent the greatest threat to the native fauna we are working to protect.

39. The Environment Restoration team worked with private landowners (including iwi trusts), territorial authorities, community groups and internal teams to plan, coordinate, deploy, schedule service and sign post the new trap networks. 622 traps were deployed over 412 new sites. A total of 35 kilometres of beach and coastal scrub has been added under these expansions, with monthly maintenance and service starting in July of this year.

Wairarapa Forests

40. Work is progressing to deliver the Toitū te whenua - Parks Network Plan update for the Greater Wellington owned Wairarapa forests.
41. The plan update will largely focus on Hiwinui forest development as a regional park but explore opportunities for permitted access to Stoney Creek and Tauanui Forests.
42. A draft will be presented to Council later this year before formal public consultation begins.

Recreational boating

43. Harbours staff met with a range of Castlepoint representatives in Masterton in June to discuss any water safety concerns relating to Castlepoint. We are working with them and Masterton District Council to have improved signage and flyers in place for the summer season.
44. The Maritime New Zealand funding may assist with staff time for compliance work over peak times at Castlepoint.

Ruamāhanga

Publicly notified consent application

45. A hearing for South Wairarapa District Council's (SWDC) resource consent application (WAR230290) to continue the discharge of treated wastewater into Donalds Creek and the discharge of contaminants to air from the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant was held in Masterton on 21 to 23 July. The recommendation from Greater Wellington is for the resource consent to be granted subject to conditions of consent. The hearing has been adjourned pending the receipt of further information, and SWDC's closing legal submissions.

Waipoua Nature Based Solutions

46. Through funding from the Ministry for the Environment, Greater Wellington has recently (July 2025) completed a study which investigated the feasibility of using nature-based solutions to manage flood risk to Masterton, from the Waipoua River.
47. The study assessed four nature-based solutions: land retirement and afforestation, floodplain re-engagement, small-scale distributed storage and channel realignment/making more room for the river.
48. To assess the feasibility, the study included various technical assessments, including the potential influence of the nature-based solutions on groundwater

recharge and river baseflows, geomorphological effectiveness, flood risk reduction and other wider benefits. An assessment of indigenous plant species within the catchment was also completed.

49. In addition to these technical assessments, estimates of the land area required, high-level cost estimates and the identification of risks and constraints for implementing nature-based solutions were also undertaken.
50. The findings of the study are intended to inform the next stage of the Major Project Response on the Waipoua Urban Reach from the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan (Te Kāuru).

Featherston flood hazard mapping



51. Greater Wellington is in the process of developing flood hazard maps for Donald's and Abbots Creeks, which pass through the Featherston township.
52. This process has been undertaken in alignment with Greater Wellington's Flood Hazard Modelling Standard (FHMS). The FHMS outlines protocols to be followed by any person working on Greater Wellington flood hazard modelling projects, to ensure they are undertaken in a robust and consistent way that is in line with accepted industry practice.
53. The final hazard maps were presented to the local community between from 14 - 31 July 2025. As well as information being available online, a series of drop-in sessions at the Featherston Farmers Market were held. During the events, approximately 97 people stopped to talk to Greater Wellington staff and discuss the maps.
54. The flood maps are currently going through the final stages of the FHMS. An independent audit is currently being undertaken by Haskoning and is due for completion in September 2025.

Flood Resilience Tranche 1



55. The Government has allocated \$1.2 billion for the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF), administered by Kānoa, to invest in regional infrastructure, boost productivity, and improve resilience. Included in this is \$200 million for flood infrastructure, based on a 60:40 Crown: Council funding split.
56. Greater Wellington has 16 out of the 42 nationally approved projects, which include different types of flood protection and management infrastructure such as stopbanks, riparian planting, groynes and culverts. Table 1 provides a summary of progress on these projects to date. With one exception, these sites are all in the Wairarapa.

Table 1 – Summary of progress on the Tranche 1 projects

Site 1 - River Rd - Stage 2 - Wairarapa	Site completed.
Site 2 - River Rd - Stage 3 - Wairarapa	Site completed.

Site 3 - Waipoua SH2 Left Bank - Wairarapa	Site completed.
Site 4 - Waipoua Industrial Site - Akura Road - Wairarapa	Site completed.
Site 5 - Fullers Bend - Wairarapa	The main works have commenced and are scheduled to be completed by mid-October. The scope includes the installation of nine rock groynes and an extended rock revetment at Fullers Bend. Additional rock deliveries required to complete these works are currently underway.
Site 6 - Awaroa Sill - Wairarapa	Enabling works have been completed.
Site 7 - Masterton Raw Water Supply - Wairarapa	One 815 tonne rock groyne has been implemented/completed within the Waingawa River.
Site 8 - Hood Aerodrome - Wairarapa	Site completed.
Site 9 - Otaki Cliffs - Otaki	Rock deliveries have been completed.
Site 10 - Tawaha Sill - Wairarapa	Enabling works have been completed.
Site 11 - Pukio East Stopbank - Wairarapa	Site completed.
Site 12 - Flood Gates - Fish Passage- Wairarapa	103 tonnes of ridge rocks have been delivered to date.
Site 13 - South Masterton Stopbank - Wairarapa	Enabling and investigation works have been completed.
Site 14 - Homebush Wastewater Treatment Plant Resilience works - Wairarapa	Enabling works have been completed.
Site 15 - Upper Ruamāhanga Buffer Establishment - Wairarapa	<p>Contractor procurement for the 2025 planting season has been successfully completed, and a comprehensive pest management plan is now being implemented. Pest control activities are scheduled to begin shortly, alongside site preparation for the upcoming planting.</p> <p>Work has also commenced on identifying potential planting sites for the 2026 season. In parallel,</p>

	Broader Outcome initiatives are being developed in collaboration with the Ahu Collective to support both community engagement and environmental objectives.
Site 16 - Whakawhiriwhiri stream - Wairarapa	Enabling works have been completed.



Figure 3: Site 2 – River Road (Stage 3 – Ruamāhanga River) – Seven rock groynes completed



Figure 4: Site 3 – Waipoua SH2 Left Bank – 45m rock revetment completed



Figure 5: Site 4 – Waipoua Industrial Site (Akura Road) – five rock groynes and a 15m rock revetment completed



Figure 6: Site 7 – Masterton Raw Water Supply (Waingawa River) – one rock groyne completed



Figure 7: Site 8 – Hood Aerodrome (Waingawa River) – four rock groyne completed

Crack Willow Blockage Removal Project



57. As was communicated on 6 October 2023 in a public announcement, we successfully obtained \$3.5 million from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) from the Recovery and Flooding Resilience fund for the crack willow blockage removal in the eastern rivers in the Wairarapa. Our contribution was \$250,000 worth of project management time.
58. The project has been successfully completed on time (30 June 2025) and within the allocated budget. A total of 968 blockages have been removed, and approximately 130km of river channel has been cleared. To date, the total expenditure stands at \$3,496,697.



Figure 8: Taueru River – Pre blockage removal



Figure 9: Taueru River – During blockage removal

New dung beetle species released in the Ruamāhanga catchment



59. A new dung beetle species, *Bubas bison*, has been released into the Ruamāhanga catchment. This winter-active beetle was introduced on two properties in low rainfall areas of the Wairarapa, one near Carterton and one near Martinborough. The release supports year-round dung breakdown and soil health improvements. There have now been 200 colonies released in the Ruamāhanga and another 100 colonies across the rest of the region. There have now been seven different species released in the region.

Joint erosion control project with Carterton District Council



60. This initiative focused on erosion control planting on private land as a cost-effective method of protecting rural road infrastructure. The project began after Cyclone Gabrielle, when slips caused the closure of East Coast Road to Glenburn and Flatpoint.
61. In response, Carterton District Council (CDC) and Greater Wellington, through the Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI), funded the planting of 800 poles along the affected road. Again, this year, CDC was approached to support pole planting along Te Wharau Road. They agreed to fund planting on farmland adjacent to the road, and the initiative was subsequently extended to Te Awa Awa Road and Millars Road. This partnership between WRECI and local councils is one we aim to strengthen and expand in future erosion control efforts.

Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy



62. A draft 2025-26 work programme under this strategy is being developed by partners including all three Wairarapa territorial authorities, mana whenua, and Greater Wellington. The programme will include specific projects that sit under five

workstreams – natural attenuation, water allocation, water efficiency, land use adaptation and water capture.

63. Greater Wellington's SkyTEM project sits under the Water Allocation workstream of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRs). SkyTEM has used airborne electromagnetic survey technology to map the underground geology of the Ruamāhanga Valley and develop a model of 'aquifer potential.' The SkyTEM model was released on 23 July. We are now shifting into the next "investigations" phase of SkyTEM which is to verify whether areas modelled as being potential aquifers are water bearing layers.

Garden Fiesta Wairarapa



64. Greater Wellington Pest Plant team attended Wairarapa Garden Fiesta on 16 August 2025 to connect with the community and promote pest plants and the Regional Pest Management Plan. A lot of the enquires were about general weed control and recommended methods of control.



Figure 10: Greater Wellington's stand at the Wairarapa Garden Fiesta on 16 August 2025

Pest Animals



65. The implementation of Regional Predator Control Plan (RPCP) for Upper Ruamāhanga Predator Control has been set up with the first servicing providing some great results, targeting predators travelling along the Ruamāhanga River between Masterton and Pukaha. The team has also begun the South Wairarapa Plains operation, targeting possums in an area of just under 30,000ha, located between Lake Wairarapa and the Ruamāhanga River.
66. Rabbit control within the Pukaha buffer, which is funded in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP), has begun to decrease/maintain the lower population density that was achieved through the Jobs For Nature funding, which came to an end in June 2025. Maintaining this lower population density will help deter predators from migrating towards Pukaha Mt Bruce due to a depleted food source. On the same site, the

Pukaha Buffer Predator Control programme has been taken back inhouse after being contracted out for the last few years. This is to increase efficiencies with the ongoing possum control within the buffer and better supports the maintenance of important relationships with affected landowners given the extensive access required to undertake this work.

67. RPCP Carterton-Taratahi possum operation is nearing completion. Under the new revised programme the approach is more targeted; using the availability of food sources as a key indicator of when and where to undertake the control to increase impact and efficiency.
68. Planning for the LTP funded Wairarapa Moana predator control has been undertaken, with Tairoa Farm predator control infrastructure set to be laid next month (September) to bolster predator control around Lake Wairarapa and slow down immigrating predators.

Kāpiti

Silversands Quarry Operations



69. An abatement notice was served on a landowner in Te Horo to cease unauthorised earthworks relating to a sand quarry that has been in operation since the 1980s but was unknown to Greater Wellington prior to this year. The abatement notice was appealed and an application for a stay was made in the Environment Court by the landowner. A stay was granted, and conditions were imposed by the Environment Court while the landowner applied for a resource consent.
70. Kōiwi were discovered during topsoil stripping (as part of quarrying activities) and Greater Wellington urgently applied to the Environment Court to inform it given the pending stay. Further conditions were imposed and then subsequently breached by the landowner. Greater Wellington went back to the Court under urgency – resulting in additional conditions being imposed.
71. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki has expressed gratitude for the ‘fantastic support’ received from Greater Wellington on the matter. There may still be an appeal to be heard in the Environment Court relating to the abatement notice but this is currently unclear – no timetabling on this currently.
72. The consenting process continues but Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki has withdrawn its written approval for the proposed activities meaning the consenting process may be ‘limited notified’. An Archaeological Authority is required from Heritage NZ to progress with the topsoil stripping/quarrying longer term. The resource consent is unlikely to be progressed until the matters relating to the Archaeological Authority have been addressed.

Publicly notified consent application



73. Kāpiti Coast District Council’s (KCDC) resource consent application (WGN220191) to continue the discharge of treated wastewater into the Mazengarb Stream and the discharge of contaminants to air was publicly notified in October last year. KCDC’s engagement with submitters is ongoing and KCDC has advised they need more time to engage with submitter Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust to clarify their position. KCDC and Ātiawa will discuss this application at Te Whakaminenga

o Kapiti's (TWOK's) next committee meeting in early September. Greater Wellington expects that the application can be progressed following that meeting. It is unlikely that Taumata Arowai's wastewater standards, due to be released this month, would apply to this waste water treatment plant, due to the low dilution ratio.

Waikanae Estuary bed recontouring



74. River works to remediate erosion caused by gravel buildup within the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve were completed between 7 and 11 July 2025. Contractors undertook the works under Greater Wellington's 'global' operations and maintenance resource consents. Greater Wellington also gained approval for the works from the Department of Conservation (DOC) under the Reserves Act 1977.
75. Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Taiao Komiti provided their support for these one-off works, based on Greater Wellington's commitment to progressing the longer-term management of gravel in the awa once the replacement global river management consents are obtained. These replacement consents, along with the similar suite of consents for the Ōtaki River, are a priority for 2025/26 financial year.
76. Wellington Fish & Game confirmed their support for the works occurring in July during trout spawning season, after an officer found no evidence of trout spawning in the estuary.
77. During the works, no gravel was extracted from the river; the gravel island was relocated towards the banks via bed recontouring with bulldozers. Ātiawa Matua Les Mullen was onsite during the works as kaitiaki and Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust kaimahi assisted with the fish salvage exercise.
78. The fish salvage exercise, to de-fish sections of impacted channel before the works proceeded, rescued almost 1700 fish of around 15 species. Of these, piharau/lamprey is a threatened and nationally vulnerable species and three are considered "at risk – declining", the longfin eel, torrentfish, and inanga. Giant Bullies (biggest at 230mm long) are considered "at risk – naturally uncommon". Many more species are considered threatened or declining at a regional level e.g. common smelt and flounder.
79. Overall, this highlights that the Waikanae River supports a diverse range of fish species and is an important catchment for "at risk" species.
80. The KCDC walking track on the north bank was reinstated on 14 July. Planting of the disturbed areas of bank is currently being organised.



Figure 11: Stantec, GW and TĀKW kaimahi counting fish during the salvage exercise



Figure 12: Jeff Angus (GW Flood Ops) and Matua Les Mullen (Te Ātiawa) during the pre-start karakia.



Figure 13: Creating the new central channel through the gravel build up in the Waikanae estuary.



Figure 14: Central channel opened, fish rescue in the true right channel and cross-blading gravel on the true left bank.

Te Wā o Te Taiao (formally known as Restoration Day)



81. Summer Snorkel Events planning is underway with *Mountains to Sea*. The project serves as a transitional kaupapa from Restoration Day, ensuring continuity of momentum. Several confirmed restoration events are planned in September. These include the AWE teacher workshop at Wharemauku Awa exploring local pūrakau and curriculum links; the Waikanae Planting Day at Edgewater Park and the Ōtaki Wetland Planting Day at Southbank, both open-invite planting and community gatherings; a Dune Planting Event at Waitohu Stream focused on estuary and dune restoration; and the Mangaone Catchment Day, a tour showcasing restoration projects and collaboration opportunities.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara

District Planning - Wellington City Council



82. On 12 November 2024, Greater Wellington, Kiwi Rail and Wellington City Council (WCC) attended court facilitated mediation in relation to KiwiRail's appeal point on rail setback areas in the Proposed Wellington District Plan.
83. Greater Wellington attended the appeal as a section 274 party, (Resource Management Act 1991) in support of KiwiRail who sought a larger setback distance between property boundaries or structures and the rail corridor boundary to enable safe maintenance works.
84. All parties have agreed to a satisfactory amendment to the Rail Setback Area. This will reflect a setback of 3 metres from the rail corridor designation boundary in the Mixed-Use Zone and General Industrial Zone, and 4 metres from the rail corridor designation boundary in the Large Lot Residential Zone, with a setback from certain parts of the rail corridor designation excluded. All parties signed the joint memorandum on 28 July 2025 in support of the consent order to settle the appeal.

District Planning – Hutt City Council



85. On 24 July 2025, Greater Wellington officers lodged a further submission on Hutt City Council's Proposed District Plan. The further submission expands on Greater Wellington's original submission by seeking relief in response to the original submissions of other submitters.
86. The further submission focuses on provisions relating to natural hazards, infrastructure, and earthworks. It seeks alignment with the Natural Resources Plan and Regional Policy Statement and relief to support Metlink's operational requirements. It also supported relief sought by the original submissions of Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners.
87. Hutt City's district plan may come under the Plan-Stop legislation (Amendment Paper for the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Bill, being introduced in Parliament the week of August 11, 2025).

Te Awa Kairangi discharge



88. On 6 August 2025, there was a discharge of untreated wastewater to the Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River near the new Silverstream pipe bridge. This occurred between 10:30am to 12:40pm and discharged at a rate of 150 L/s. Sampling results indicate the wastewater had flushed through relatively quickly. Compliance officers

attended to investigate the incident, and a subsequent explanation request was sent to Wellington Water on 11 August 2025. This is an ongoing investigation.

Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Aerial 1080 Operation



89. On 15 August 2025, Greater Wellington successfully applied Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) baits by helicopter within the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area. The application of baits went smoothly, with all compliance tasks completed within timeframe of our statutory approvals.
90. A post operation possum monitor is scheduled in the catchment from 8 September 2025 onwards, to provide insight into the effectiveness of the operation.

Recreational boating



91. Following on from the successful '2nd life' Lifejacket collection bin at Seaview marina, we have obtained another bin (ex-clothing bins) that will soon be painted and sign written to receive old or unwanted lifejackets at Evans Bay boat ramp.
92. Any jackets put in the bin get checked and assessed by staff, old or damage jackets are safely disposed of and any in good condition have a fitting and use instruction tag attached, and are redistributed either by staff in patrols or the Free-for-all shop as required.

East Harbour regional park



93. A small dawn blessing was undertaken with Taranaki Whānui and Hapū to formally open the Lighthouse Keepers Cottage at Baring head Orua Pounaui. This marks the completion of major restoration of at the lighthouse keepers complex, which has been achieved through community time and grants and partnership with hapū. Public bookings will open in late August.

Translocation of toitoi to Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne:



94. Between 2023 and 2025, toitoi – common Bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) from Lake Kohangapiripiri (Parangarahu Lakes) were translocated to Zealandia. This was a partnership between Zealandia's Conservation Team and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Ūpoko o Te Ika, and was approved by Rōpū Tiaki, the co-management team for the Parangarahu Lakes.
95. This initiative is part of the 100-year vision, Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara - Sanctuary to Sea, which aims to strengthen the connection between Zealandia's freshwater ecosystems and the wider landscape. A key goal is to support the natural movement of ika (fish) and manu (birds) across the catchment, enhancing ecological resilience and biodiversity. An important example is the reintroduction of threatened taonga species such as toitoi, which play a vital role in the dispersal of juvenile kākahi (freshwater mussels). Establishing a thriving toitoi population in the upper catchment water bodies of Zealandia is a critical step towards restoring these interconnected freshwater systems. Continued monitoring using mātauranga Māori methods (i.e., whakaweku) and community engagement will be key to ensuring the long-term success of this initiative. Since the first release into Zealandia in 2023, toitoi have been observed in Roto Kawau (Lower Reservoir) and as far downstream the catchment as Birdwood Reserve. These sightings are a promising sign of a successful translocation.



Figure 15 and 16: toitoi – common Bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) translocated from Lake Kohangapiripiri (Parangarahu Lakes) to Zealandia.

The ecological state of lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera:



96. In 2025, Greater Wellington commissioned NIWA to undertake a Lake Submerged Plant Indicators (LakeSPI) assessment at Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera. These lakes are part of the Parangarahu Lakes KNE site and are highly valued for their indigenous flora and fauna. LakeSPI is a biomonitoring method that uses aquatic vegetation to assess the ecological condition of lakes in New Zealand. High scores are associated with diverse and extensive native submerged vegetation, while low scores reflect the presence and impact of invasive submerged ecological weeds.
97. Previous assessments were conducted in 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019. The latest results show no significant changes in LakeSPI indices for either lake, although Lake Kohangapiripiri's ecological condition showed an improvement compared to the 2016 and 2019 surveys. Based on the 2025 assessments, both lakes were classified as 'excellent' and ranked together at 15th out of the 313 lakes assessed using LakeSPI. Under the national environmental indicators for freshwater, both lakes received an 'A' grade for the Native Condition Index, reflecting a high percentage of native vegetation within each lake. They also achieved a 'B' grade for the Invasive Impact Index, which measures the extent of invasive weed presence. The 'B' grade is attributed to the occurrence of invasive weed species in both lakes, although their coverage is relatively low. At Lake Kohangapiripiri, buttercup (*Ranunculus trichophyllus*) and purple-backed duckweed (*Landoltia punctata*) were observed, while Lake Kohangatera contained elodea (*Elodea canadensis*) and egeria (*Egeria densa*).

Predator Free Wellington:



98. A significant incursion of rats back into our phase 1 area (Miramar peninsular) was successfully controlled allowing eradication operations to resume in our phase 2 area (Island Bay to CBD).
99. We have reassessed our biosecurity network on the Miramar peninsular to improve our ability to detect incursions quickly and reduce the required scale of future response measures.

Ngā āpitihanga
Attachments

Number	Title
1	Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories

Approver	Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment
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<p style="text-align: center;">He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation of the work programmes of Greater Wellington’s Environment Group</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>Development and implementation of related work programmes fall under the core activities of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington’s Environment Group</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>The report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial and health safety and wellbeing risks and associated implications.</p>

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Date	Action item	Status and comment
8 August 2024	<p>Te Rōpū Taiao Environment Group Update – August 2024 – Report 24.375 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: Officers to include more graphs and diagrams in future update reports, particularly showing trends over time in environmental regulation.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>Comment: Regarding trends in Regulation, we are currently looking into a format and product to supply this information, linking in with the timing we are required to provide such information through national monitoring systems and internal reporting. In the meantime, it would be helpful to understand from the Committee if there are any particular regulation related trends that they want to be regularly informed on.</p>
15 May 2025	<p>Regional Predator Control Programme Change – Report 25.204 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested an analysis of trends in predator numbers and the associated effects on trends in biodiversity.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>Comment: This information is being compiled and will be included in the upcoming biodiversity series of papers, which will be presented to the Environment Committee in the next triennium</p>
15 May 2025	<p>Te Rōpū Taiao Environment Update – May 2025 – Report 25.205 [For Information]</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested an update on the development and mana whenua endorsement of place names and storytelling within our Regional Parks. Names and stories should support mana whenua partners in revealing their stories and connections to whenua as per Toitū te Whenua.</p>	<p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>Comment: The process for Park names and place names within Parks has been in place for a few years, and seeks to reflect mana whenua's desires, use accurate te reo Māori, and is underpinned by a continuous improvement culture around using te reo Māori whilst improving our signage in public spaces.</p>

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

		<p>In Q4 2024/25 officers agreed with Taranaki Whānui on the appointment of a translator to advise on signage and placename changes for places/areas with known Te Reō names.</p> <p>Greater Wellington is working with both Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa to tell their stories at Parangarahu lakes, Belmont, Akatarawa, Battle hill and Wainuiomata, which will involve some place-name changes.</p> <p>Officers will report on future name change progress with Toitu te Whenua implementation updates to Council.</p>
19 June 2025	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested that the issue of recreational water crafts speeding in the Pāuatahanui Inlet be referred to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee.</p>	<p>Status: Complete</p> <p>Comment: Raised at Finance Risk and Assurance Committee 19 August 2025</p>