

**Environmental Reference Group Meeting**  
**7 April 2008 Committee Room Two, Wellington City Council**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Councillor Celia Wade-Brown (Chair)	
Ralph Chapman	Mike Ennis
Debbie Firestone	Liz Hibbs
Ian Hunter	Dave Kettell
Tushara Kodikara	Ruth Paul
Ian Shearer	Tim Park (GWRC)
Waruna Padmasiri	Nigel Smith
Sea Rotmann	Hamish Allardice
Councillor Iona Pannett	

**WCC Officers:**

Ken Bowater (Policy)	Mike Mendonca (CitiOperations)
Maria Archer (Infrastructure Planning)	Nicky Karu (Treaty Relations)
Michael Oates (Open Space and Recreation Planning)	

**GWRC Officers:**

Andrew Samuel, Amanda Cox, Murray McLea

**Apologies:**

Kathryn Maxwell  
Graeme Hastilow  
Chris Horne  
Liz Mellish  
Zach Rissel (Policy)

**Pre-meeting Induction**

Councillor Wade Brown introduced new members to workings of the Council and the role of the ERG.

**Welcome**

New members were formally welcomed and all members gave brief introductions.

**Previous minutes**

Agreed as correct Ian Hunter/Tushara Kodikara

**Information-Sharing and Announcements**

ERG Calendar was circulated for updating Ken to update and circulate

**Matters arising**

- Councillor Wade-Brown passed thanks to the ERG for its members' submission to SPC.
- Mike Ennis agreed to defer discussion of e-day to the next meeting.
- The Ngauranga to Airport Strategic Transport Study consultation has now closed. A report back on the consultation is due to SPC on 8 May.
- Mike Oates briefly outlined the Northern Reserves Management Plan for new members and invited questions/discussion. Further input can be sent directly to Mike at [Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz), 803 8289.
- A members' contact list was circulated for correction and members invited to indicate if they were willing to have a phone number included on the Council website page for the ERG. Please inform Ken if any future changes are needed to the website information.

- A report to SPC on the review of the Council's reference groups is likely to be in June. The ERG has proposed minor changes to its Terms of Reference.

## Water

- **Regional Policy Statement** from Greater Wellington Regional Council –  
*Murray McLea and Tim Park*

Murray presented an overview of the various sections of the Statement and was able to respond to a number of questions from the floor. The Statement can be found at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/section1236.cfm>. Ralph also recommended recent conference papers on the Environmental Defence Society site <http://www.eds.org.nz/>.

### *Murray's response to Sea's questions regarding coastal impacts etc.:*

Sea asked about the policy that says "district plans shall encourage new subdivision use and development in the coastal environment to be located in areas where natural character has already been compromised. Our policy gives effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and is saying that it's better to concentrate subdivision and development at locations where they already occur rather than having it around the coast in a sprawling and sporadic way.

Sea also asked about how landscape, heritage etc. would be treated and specifically mentioned infill subdivision. While the specific policy indicates that development is preferred at locations that have already been modified, it's not a case of 'anything goes'. There are policies that provide for the protection of landscape, heritage and other values and these must all be considered. The mix of policies all have to be looked at.

The Regional Policy Statement does not include any rules but provides policy for integrated management of resources. Rules and decisions on subdivision, landscape, heritage etc. on land lie with city and district councils but their district plans have to give effect to policies in the Regional Policy Statement.

Please send any further comment or questions to Ken and he will collate and forward them to Murray and Tim.

- **Water conservation** - *Andrew Samuel, Amanda Cox*

Andrew presented the current thinking from GWRC on water demand, supply and conservation in the parts of the Wellington Region that they service. Written statements from Kathryn Maxwell, Dave Kettell and Ian Hamlin were distributed. Please send any further comment or questions to Ken and he will collate and forward them to Andrew and Andrea. If you know of any (central government?) research funding available (e.g. for dual flush toilet uptake), please let Ken know so he can share it too (the information, not the money). Cr Wade-Brown has suggested the ERG add to its forward programme consideration of what levers local councils, versus regional councils, have available (e.g. regulation, building guidelines).

- **Treatment Plant Resource Consents** update - *Maria Archer*

Due to time constraint, Maria offered to email a summary of progress with the resource consents for water treatment. Please send any further comment or questions to Ken and he will collate and forward them to Maria. The Water Conservation Plan will be presented to SPC on 12 June.

## Northern Reserves Management Plan (Mike Oates)

Considered under Matters Arising.

### **Recycling options (Mike Mendonca)**

Mike provided an overview of the city's current situation (challenges, options, costs, trends) regarding kerbside recycling (i.e. the green bins) and invited questions. Please note that this work has been ongoing for some time (so Mike has very strong information) but that the development of our next responses is in its early stages and proposals have yet to be put to Council for their consideration. Please send any further comment or questions to Ken and he will collate and forward them to Mike. A report on this is due to SPC on 12 June.

### **Other**

Waruna tabled an update report from the Youth Council.

Please note that suggestions for future meetings are welcome, and that these can be raised with Ken or Cr Wade-brown.

### **Next Meeting: 19 May (5.30 to 7.30 on the first Monday of every second month)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme / Key Items (proposed)</b>	<b>Location</b>
19 May (2 Jun is QB'day)	World Environment Day Environment Grants Allocations Levers for environmental improvement available to local (v's regional and central government) - e.g. rates remissions, grants, building code, pricing) E-day	Committee Room 1