

Confirmed Public minutes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 31 October 2023

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.10am.

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair) (from 9.12am)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata (from 9.18am)
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Councillors Connelly, Duthie, Nash, Ropata, Staples and Woolf participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

Councillor Laban presided at the meeting in the absence of the Council Chair from 9.10am to 9.12am. Councillor Ponter assumed the Chair at 9.12am on his arrival.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Saw / Cr Lee

That Council accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Gaylor.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Council noted that Councillor Gaylor was absent on Council business.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2022/23 Annual Report – Report 23.533

Zofia Miliszewska, Head of Strategy and Performance, Ashwin Pai, Financial Controller, Clint Ramoo, Audit Director, Audit NZ, and Nosiviewe Tsotso, Audit Manager, Audit NZ, spoke to the report.

Mr Ramoo thanked Greater Wellington officers for their assistance to the audit. He advised that Audit NZ would be issuing a qualified audit report, with one matter of emphasis. The qualification relates to Greater Wellington's Carbon Emission measures regarding greenhouse gas emissions calculations; this is a technical issue facing all of local government in the carbon reporting space as the accounting standards are not currently able to sufficiently verify the full scope of reported emissions. The matter of emphasis pertains to the three waters reform and appears on all local government annual reports.

Mr Ramoo also advised that:

- Audit New Zealand is comfortable with the Council's decision of 26 October 2022 regarding the recently identified rates administration error, and that a contingency note that now been included in the Annual Report as an appropriate disclosure
- the accompanying representation letter to the Council Chair and Chief Executive pertains to the arrangements with Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Nash

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the qualification on Greater Wellington Regional Council's Annual Report is a result of Audit NZ being unable to verify the full set of emissions data included by Greater Wellington and invites Audit NZ to report back to Greater Wellington on progress made to improve accounting standards on emissions reductions.
- 2 Adopts Greater Wellington Regional Council's Annual Report (Attachment 1) and the Summary of the Annual Report (Attachment 2) for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- 3 Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor changes that may arise as part of finalising the audited Annual Report and Summary of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The motion was **carried**.

Councillor Ponter arrived at the meeting at 9.12am during the introduction of the above item. Councillor Laban vacated the chair on Councillor Ponter's arrival and Councillor Ponter assumed the Chair.

Councillor Ropata joined the meeting remotely at 9.18am via Microsoft Teams, during the introduction of the above item.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 9.50am.



Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: 7 December 2023

