

**Date:** Wednesday 13 December 2017  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Meeting Room:** Room 1, Level 26  
**Venue:** 135 Albert Street  
Auckland

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## **Strategic Procurement Committee**

# **OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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## Waitemata Low Carbon Network Auckland Council Group Sustainable Procurement Framework

### Introduction

Thank you Mr Chair.

Kia ora koutou.

My name is Frances Palmer and I am here with Dr Grant Hewison.

We are members of the Waitemata Low Carbon Network.

The Waitemata Low Carbon Network is a diverse community of residents, groups and businesses passionate about making low carbon living, working and playing part of the distinct identity of central Auckland.

We are here this morning to speak to you about addressing our climate crisis as part of the Auckland Council Group Sustainable Procurement Framework - which is a key item on your public agenda today.

I would now like to hand over to Dr Hewison, as we understand we have only five minutes.

### Auckland Council Group Sustainable Procurement Framework

Thank you Frances.

On your Agenda today is a proposed Auckland Council Group Sustainable Procurement Framework for adoption by the Committee.

The Waitemata Low Carbon Network welcomes the Sustainable Procurement Framework.

We note at page 8 of the Framework that ISO20400 on Sustainable Procurement is a related document. In this regard, we note that ISO20400 goes further than the Framework.

Sustainable procurement is defined there as the process of making purchasing decisions that meet an organization's needs for goods and services in a way that benefits not only the organization but society as a whole, while minimizing its impact on the environment.

This is achieved by ensuring that the working conditions of its suppliers' employees are decent, the products or services purchased are sustainable, where possible, and that socio-economic issues, such as inequality and poverty, are addressed.

We will be interested in how the definition of sustainable procurement in the Auckland Framework will be applied in practice.

Here 'sustainable procurement' is defined as procurement that meets Auckland Council's organisational objectives while having the least negative and most positive impact on economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being.

The Framework definition doesn't seem to apply the same environmental bottom line as ISO20400.

### **Low Carbon Procurement**

You will be aware that Auckland Council made a submission to the New Zealand Productivity Commission Low-Emissions Economy Issues Paper in October this year.

That submission includes some very good points on procurement.

The submission said it is important to acknowledge and recognise that many business-as-usual decisions have a greenhouse emissions impact and reduction potential.

In particular, public spending wields enormous purchasing power to influence supply chains and to achieve multiple benefits through sustainable public procurement.

Paragraph 105 of the submission identifies Local Procurement opportunities, and mentions as an example, a move to near zero emissions for Auckland's fleet, including freight and rail, ferry and bus fleets. We agree.

Again at paragraph 216, the submission says that embedding emissions criteria within procurement decisions and processes can have a significant impact directly in terms of emissions intensity of the goods and services procured and indirectly in terms of signalling to suppliers the desirability of embedding lower emissions processes and systems within their operations. We agree.

We also note that the "Green growth action 7" of the *2014 Auckland Low Carbon Action Plan* sought to "Maximise opportunities to green Auckland Council's supply chain through procurement processes".

A further action from that Plan stated that "Council's procurement should create markets for recovered materials" by 2020.

In addition, Action 10 under '*Increasing waste minimisation*' stated that council procurement processes would: • support waste minimisation and waste-to-energy opportunities; • reduce associated emissions; and • ensure a level playing field for business, community, iwi/Māori and social enterprise organisations.

We suggest there needs to be an alignment made between these actions and the Sustainable Procurement Framework.

### **Action Plan and Monitoring**

We also support the Sustainable Procurement Working Group developing additional content to supplement the framework, as envisaged at paragraph 14 of the Agenda Report.

At the moment, this includes: • A training plan to improve capability and understanding of Sustainable Procurement; • A communications strategy; • Specific sustainable procurement tools; and • a Supplier engagement plan. We ask that these be reported back to the Committee for information.

In addition, we would like to see some specific actions identified focused on 'low hanging fruit' - with a specific emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and that these actions be monitored in terms of their implementation

We ask that an additional recommendation be considered by the Committee: "That a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan be prepared under the Framework, with specific actions focused on Council reducing greenhouse gas emissions through procurement processes, with the Draft Plan being reported back to the Committee for endorsement in June 2018."

**Thank you. Do you have any questions?**