Ngā Hui a te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take ā-Taiwhenua/Rural Advisory Panel

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Auckland Ballance Farm Environment Award 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. 2 August 2019 Rural Advisory Panel: Item 6 - Webber farm, video and presentation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Presentation by Hon Shane Jones, Minister of Forestry and Regional Economic Development and Julie Collins, Head of Te Uru Rakau &amp; Deputy Director-General Forestry New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. 2 August 2019 Rural Advisory Panel: Item 7 - Update of forestry and agriculture policy, presentation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Upcoming National Direction on Highly Productive Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. 2 August 2019 Rural Advisory Panel: Item 8 - Upcoming national direction on highly productive land, presentation</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Action Framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. 2 August 2019 Rural Advisory Panel: Item 9 - Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Change Action framework, presentation</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sector panels - review and end of term reporting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
Update on forestry and agriculture policy
Auckland Council Rural Advisory Panel

Julie Collins – Head of Te Uru Rākau

August 2019
Agenda

Overview of the Emissions Trading Scheme
Forestry in the ETS
Proposed changes to climate change policy
Native forests in Government policy
Overseas investment in forestry
Environmental regulations for forestry
Overview of the Emissions Trading Scheme

- ETS is NZs domestic carbon market – primary policy response to international climate change commitments

- The market works by:
  - Crown puts a price on emissions (NZ Unit)
  - Emitters must pay NZUs to the Crown for their emissions – they buy NZUs from the market
  - Sequesters earn NZUs from the Crown for storing carbon – they can sell those NZUs on the market

- Five sectors fully included in ETS (e.g. forestry) – agriculture reporting only
Overview of forestry in the ETS

- Forestry settings in the ETS closely aligned to what NZ accounts for internationally.
- Baseline date for net emissions in international agreements is 1 January 1990 – creates two forest types.
- Forests (exotic only) established before 1 January 1990 are ‘pre-1990’ forests – considered baseline.
- Forests established after 31 December 1989 are ‘post-1989’ forests – considered new carbon sinks.

**Diagram:**
- Pre-1990
  - Mandatory:
    - Don’t earn NZUs
    - Freely harvest and replant
    - Pay NZUs if deforested
  - Voluntary:
    - Earn NZUs as forest grows
    - Pay portion of NZUs after harvest
    - Pay NZUs if deforested

**Timeline:**
- 1 January 1990
Climate Change Response Act Amendment Bill

- Proposal to amend Climate Change Response Act (governs the ETS)
- Significant changes to forestry parts of the Act and introduction of agriculture into the ETS
- Select Committee later in 2019
- Expected to be enacted early 2020

- **Late 2018**
  Consultation on forestry changes

- **16 July 2019**
  Action on Agricultural Emissions consultation opens

- **13 August 2019**
  Action on Agricultural Emissions consultation closes

- **Late 2019**
  CCRAAB expected to be introduced

- **Late 2019**
  Select Committee expected to begin

- **Early 2020**
  CCRAAB enacted
Changes to forestry in the ETS

- Proposed changes aim to make the ETS more practical and simpler to participate in

- Key change 1: *Introduce averaging accounting for post-1989 forests first registered after 2021*

- Key change 2: *Create a new Permanent Post-1989 activity*

- Key change 3: *Range of operational improvements, for example:*
  - Offsetting for post-1989 forests – more flexible land use
  - Exemption for adverse events
Proposals for agriculture in the ETS

- Bring agriculture fully into the ETS by 2025 – 5% of emissions

- Implement interim measures to give certainty to the sector – two options:
  - Pricing emissions at processor level in the ETS from 2021 (proposed by ICCC)
  - Formal sector-government agreement (proposed by agriculture leaders)

- Investigate other opportunities:
  - Recognise and reward carbon removals from on-farm vegetation
  - Options to remove barriers created by other regulations
  - New markets for low-emissions agricultural products
Native forests in Government policy

- Government has a strong focus on encouraging permanent and commercial native forests
  - Longer-term climate change commitments
  - Biodiversity and habitat
  - Diversified land use / timber market

- Range of incentives
  - Direct Grants through One Billion Trees Fund
  - Proposed new Permanent Post-1989 activity in ETS
  - Planted Indigenous Forest Certificate (Forests Act) to harvest and mill commercial native timber

1BT Direct Grants

- Catchment ecological restoration – up to $6000/ha
- Native forest planting – up to $5000/ha
- Manuka / kānuka planting – up to $2300/ha
- Native reversion – up to $2000/ha
Overseas investment in forestry

- Overseas Investment Act changes in 2018 introduced simpler approval process for forestry investment – “special forestry test”
- Intent to provide more certainty for investors and speed up application process
- Data to date indicates bulk of overseas investment in existing forests – only a few cases of conversion from farmland

- Existing forest
  - ~53,000 ha

- Farm conversion
  - ~3,200 ha
Environmental effects from forestry activities

- Managed through the NES Plantation Forestry – national direction under the RMA
- Rules cover 8 forestry activities as well as other related activities – based on good forestry practices
- Risk-based approach with focus on managing environmental effects such as sediment loss, slash mobilisation, etc.
- Currently undergoing a planned review of implementation
Upcoming National Direction
Highly Productive Land

2 August 2019
Context

- Draft National Policy Statement to be released (late August)
- Ministry for Primary Industries with the Ministry for the Environment
- Public meetings and targeted consultation
- Council have provided information to MPI as they draft the NPS
- Council will lodge submission on the NPS
Pukekohe

Residential sites created: 1,302 (118ha)
Residential sites consented: 308 (33ha)

Total: 1,610 (151ha)
Urban zonings under the legacy Franklin District Plan

Pukekohe, Paerata, Buckland

969 ha
Pukekohe
Urban zonings under the Auckland Unitary Plan

2,583 ha
(including 1,262ha of Future Urban zone)
Future Urban zone across Auckland

(Auckland Unitary Plan)

10,095ha

66% contains Elite and Prime soils

(LUC 1-3)
Development pressures on Elite and Prime land

- Planned (zoned) urban and lifestyle development
- Resource consents in rural areas
- Private plan changes for urban expansions beyond the Rural Urban Boundary (or expansions to settlements) or new Countryside Living rezonings
Examples of consents granted on Elite land:

- Self-storage facility - Riverhead
- Rural freight transportation and service depot - Pukekohe
- Church/school – Kumeu
- Self-storage facility – Karaka
Likely NPS content

- Provide direction on Highly Productive Land for councils to:
  - recognise and provide for the full range of values and benefits associated with their use for primary production
  - maintain availability for primary production for future generations
  - protect from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
**Likely content of NPS**

- Will not apply to land with existing zoning of:
  - Urban
  - Future Urban
  - Countryside Living

- Not likely to be “avoid” full stop. Anticipated to have some flexibility for urban expansion
Likely content of NPS

- Will initially apply to LUC1-3 soil as a 'placeholder'.
- Regional councils to undertake an exercise over next few years to determine what 'Highly Productive Land' is for their area (subject to NPS criteria).
Questions for Rural Advisory Panel

- Is there support in principle from the panel for national direction on highly productive land?
- Is a National Policy Statement the best tool?
- Should any National Policy Statement apply to existing urban zoned land / Future Urban zoned land / Countryside Living zoned land?
- Is there support for some scope for the council to enable urban/lifestyle development on highly productive land or do you prefer an absolute protection of it?
Questions for Rural Advisory Panel

- Is there support for the process of Auckland Council identifying highly productive land for Auckland (based on criteria) or do you prefer the approach of using the interim LUC1-3 method being made permanent?
- What other areas outside LUC1-3 would you consider might be worthy of being covered by the National Policy Statement (i.e. what criteria would you use to define highly productive land)?
- What sort of buffers might be necessary around identified highly productive land?
Attachment A

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Action Framework
Run through

- The story so far:
  - What we have learnt
  - What we have heard

- How we have arrived at the Framework
  - Taking feedback on board
  - Our key moves

- What next:
  - Consultation questions
  - Role of Council
Auckland’s Climate Action Framework will set a path to **rapidly reduce** greenhouse gas emissions to keep within 1.5 degrees of warming while ensuring Auckland is **prepared for the impacts of climate change**.

*The Framework paves the way to help us address the climate crisis in ways that make us more connected and resilient, more prosperous and healthier.*
Attachment A

Item 9

Approach & Timeline

Insights
- Local Boards
- Youth
- Advisory Panels
- Environment & Community Cttee
- Mana Whenua
- Central Government
- Independent Advisory Group
- C40 Cities
- Working Group

Evidence
Including:
- Literature Review
- Global Cities Climate Action Review
- Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessment
- Modelling
- MWKF report on climate change and mana whenua

Initial Climate Plan Framework
Comprising:
- Outcomes
- Four Domains
- Levers
- Must Haves

Local Board Workshops
- Evaluate framework
- Identify gaps and priorities

Subject Matter Expert Workshops
- Unpacking actions and levers
- Establishing soft and aggressive targets

Prioritisation and Consolidation
- Discussion with technical insight groups, e.g. Working Group, Independent Advisory Group, Central Government, Modelling
- Māori subject matter experts

Climate Plan Key Focus Areas

Auckland Climate Symposium
Focussing on:
- Key Topics
- Idea Refinement
- Leadership & Organisational Engagement
- Benefits

Develop Draft Plan
- Consolidation of actions, symposium outputs, engagement activities and evidence
- Drafting of content
- Close working and drafting with mana whenua
- Committee workshop

Consultation Draft to Committee

ClimateAKL.co.nz online engagement platform

Feb 2018
Nov/Dec 2018
March 2019
June & July
Developing the plan with Mana Whenua

Mana Whenua have a specific body of mātauranga (or knowledge systems), practices and experience that can contribute to:
- reducing the impacts of climate change for the region.
- enabling intergenerational resilience with Māori communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Impacts on Māori
- Social, cultural, environmental and economic exposure and vulnerability especially in rural coastal communities.
- Risk, vulnerability and loss of whakapapa connections to place and people including our whānau of the Pacific.
What have we learnt?

Independent modelling of emissions reduction pathway to 2050

Figure ES1: C40 cities decarbonisation pathway wedge diagram

What is best practice? Learning from, and testing with, other cities
What have we learnt?

How will Auckland’s climate change?

**INCREASING TEMPERATURES**
The average annual temperature in Auckland has increased by about 1.8°C over the past century and is expected to increase through the 21st century.

**INCREASE IN EXTREME WEATHER**
Seasonal rainfall patterns will change with wetter autumns and drier springs. Increasing extreme rainfall intensity is likely because warmer air holds more moisture.

**INCREASING CHANCE OF DROUGHT**
Longer dry spells will mean increased potential for drought conditions. Moisture in our soil is expected to decline due to increased evaporation and changing rainfall patterns.

**SEA LEVEL RISE & OCEANIC CHANGE**
Sea levels around Auckland have risen. This is expected to continue and potentially accelerate.
What have we heard?

1. **Scoping stage:**
   Capturing views on priorities
   (March – June 2018)

2. **Early appraisal stage:**
   Testing initial actions and priorities
   (June – November 2019)

3. **Review stage:**
   Refining draft actions and scoping implementation
   (December 2018 – on-going)
What have we heard?

- Enhancing our unique environment for all its benefits
- Connected green infrastructure
- Long-term planning and on-going decision making for resilient, low impact communities
- Building community resilience, ensuring locally led
- Healthy, warm homes and buildings
- Education and awareness around urgency and benefits
- Public transport and increasing EVs
- Water: quality, too much and too little!
- Our coast and planning for change
- Supporting business transition and resilience
- Waste as a resource
- Food security
- Leadership and ownership, the need for bold action
- Collaboration is key
- Te Ao Māori as a foundation
- Must focus on those most vulnerable
- Need to be consistent across strategies and policies
- Enabling diverse voices to be heard and influencing
The Framework

11 KEY MOVES

What are the issues we need to address?
What is the future we want?
What do we need to do to deliver it?

- Keeping within 1.5 degrees
- Climate resilience
- A healthy environment
- Healthy, happy people
- Diversity of response
- Equity and a just transition
- Economic prosperity

Transition: 2019-2023
- Urgent actions
- Pilot actions
- Actions essential to unlock system change, better evidence and resourcing

Acceleration: 2023-2030
- Roll out of actions at scale and pace

Transformation: 2030-2050
- System change for a zero-emissions, climate resilient region
Proposed 11 key moves for climate action

1: Lay the foundation

We make decisions based on sound evidence. We have the capacity, resources and leadership to deliver by working together.

2: Enhance, restore and connect our natural environments

Oranga tāiao, oranga tāngata: a healthy connected natural environment that restores the mauri (life essence) of Tāmaki Makaurau and benefits every Aucklander.

3: Make development and infrastructure climate-compatible

All new development and infrastructure complies with our climate goals and encourages low impact lifestyles.

4: Transform existing buildings and places

Existing buildings and spaces are revitalised to be healthy, low impact and multi-functional.
Proposed 11 key moves for climate action

5: Deliver clean, safe and equitable transport options

Aucklanders have more options for getting around.

6: Move to a zero carbon, climate resilient economy

Auckland leads climate-smart innovation and a fair and just transition to a zero carbon, climate-resilient economy.

7: Help Aucklanders become more resilient and reduce their carbon footprint

We are all more resilient to climate change and lead Auckland’s transitions to net zero emissions.

8: Te puawaitanga o te tangata

Self-sustaining Māori communities and a lift in the well-being of Māori whānau (families) across Tāmaki Makaurau.
Proposed 11 key moves for climate action

9: Youth and intergenerational equity
As rangatahi, we bring our unique perspective on climate change. We are living in uncertain times with responsibilities of te taiao (the environment), our tūpuna (ancestors) and those who will follow.

10: Shift to decentralised renewable energy
Energy supply is clean and secure with benefits for every Aucklander.

11: Grow a low-carbon, resilient food system
A strong and resilient food economy provides all Aucklanders with access to low carbon, fresh and healthy food.
Who delivers the framework?

- Aucklanders
- Auckland Council and CCOs
- Central government
- Private sector
- Community groups
- Local boards
- Academia and research institutes
Consultation approach

- **Utilise council channels**, such as OurAuckland, to generate feedback from across Auckland’s diverse communities.

- **Attending markets** across the region to expand feedback reach.

- **Targeted engagement**, focussing around youth, Māori and Pasifika communities as suggested by the committee.

- **Utilise networks** developed through extensive stakeholder engagement to distribute the council efforts, including businesses, primary industries, community groups, youth, health sector and central government.

**Consultation period will open on Wednesday the 17th of July and close on Friday the 6th of September.**
Overview of consultation questions

1. Do you think the framework takes us in the right direction to act on climate change?

2. Do you think Auckland Council should facilitate action and bring together those who can deliver on the framework?

3. Do you think these are the right key moves for Auckland?

4. Do you think the key moves will drive business and organisational action?

5. Do you have any other ideas or comments to add?
Next steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public consultation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Processing public feedback</td>
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<td>Develop response to feedback/potential changes to framework</td>
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<td>Develop Auckland Council specific actions/costings for consideration in the 10 year budget</td>
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<td>ECC workshops</td>
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<td>Formal LB feedback</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalisation of plan</td>
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akhaveyoursay.nz
Rural Advisory Panel
02 August 2019

Attachment A

Item 10

Rural Advisory Panel Members

Survey Report

2 August 2019
What do you think has been the panel's biggest achievement this term (2016-2019)?

Summary of responses:

- Freshwater planning – both in Auckland and the National Freshwater Policy Statement
- The Auckland Plan refresh
- Ensuring the rural sectors views are taken into account at the appropriate time in the process
- Council's response to the challenges of climate change
- To provide the forum for exchange of information.
What would you like to see more of (e.g. specific topics, workshops with other groups)?

Summary of responses:

- Where Auckland's future aggregates and sand are going to come from
- Transport issues regarding rural roads (not just the state of them) but use by agricultural machinery and the issues that arise from them
- Biosecurity and pest control
- Auckland Unitary Plan implementation in rural areas
- Successes/ failures and state of the environment
- Food security given elite growing soils in Auckland are being buried under tarmac, concrete and buildings.
What would you like to see less of?

Summary of responses:

- Current mix/balance is good
- Less telling more asking by Council
- Was only one mishit where the entire by-law review was presented when only that applicable to rural area would have been appropriate.
In general, do you think the discussions in your meetings are at the right level?
Why do you say that

- The best discussions involved matters that were topical at the time they were being discussed
- Discussions tend to be well considered and from a common perspective of having the best interests of Auckland’s rural productive sector at heart
- Council staff are open and thorough in their presentations
- Collaborative approach within the panel and between the panel and Auckland Council staff
- Panel are encouraged to be open and frank in their discussion.
How could the panel assist the council to reach other stakeholders who would have an interest in its work?

- By circulating among its membership in the area
- I think the Panel is generally made up of key sector representatives and their respective communication/membership networks are probably the best reach mechanism
- Some panel members are involved with other groups, particularly environmental groups. They could feed back through those groups the work the Panel is doing, and thereby assist the Council involve those groups.
About meetings

Overall, how strongly do you agree or disagree that meetings

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Agree
4. Strongly agree

- iv - Help me better understand the operations of the council
- iii - Are productive
- ii - Are well organised and prepared for
- i - Are frequent enough
Your voice during meetings

During panel meetings do you feel your voice...

- 4 - Strongly agree
- 3 - Agree
- 2 - Disagree
- 1 - Strongly disagree

\[ \text{i} - \text{Is respected} \quad \text{ii} - \text{Is heard} \]
Do you have any comments about your ratings above?

- The meetings are chaired very efficiently and everyone gets a chance to ask questions and or be heard
- The Panel achieves its aims by working with the Council officials
- There is a great deal happening, frequency of meetings barely manages to keep up with all that is happening
- Still issue that while agendas are timely that not all presentation available until at meeting or after
- The fact that I have been unable to answer some questions indicates opportunities to sharpen up.
About support staff

How much you agree or disagree with the following:

1 - Strongly disagree
2 - Disagree
3 - Agree
4 - Strongly agree

- iii - Support staff are approachable and easy to work with
- ii - Support staff keep me well informed
- i - Support staff offer timely and useful advice

Attachment A Item 10
Staff presenting at panel meetings

Now we’d like to ask you about the staff who come to your meetings to seek advice and recommendations. How much you agree or disagree that these council staff...

- Attribute these recommendations to your panel in reports and plans
- Clearly explain follow-up processes
- Provide you with information in a timely fashion
- Provide quality material e.g. PowerPoint presentations
- Clearly explain in papers / reports what advice they want from the panel
How can council staff seeking your advice and recommendations better work with you?

- Staff are more than welcome to follow up with a phone call or email to get clarification or advise
- I would prefer to be able to see presentations prior to the meeting
- Maybe if we had a schedule / programme of work at the beginning of the year of matters that council want to discuss
- Many of us are representatives from larger organisations so may need considerable lead time to consult on policy issues
- Some matters have been referred to panel members, other than at RAP meetings which provided the opportunity to feed back into the council on matters that are important, but which may not engender widespread interest.
Do you have any other comments about your sector panel including any concerns or areas for improvement?

- A key part of the success of this panel and enjoyment of participating in meetings is down to the involvement of Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore, who does an outstanding job chairing this panel.

- The Panel has been functioning for eight years and has as far as I can establish provided a rural perspective for the council that would otherwise not have been available. Continuance of the Panel will become even more relevant as we face the climate change and associated issues that will confront the council.

- The rural farming community is facing an environmental challenge like never seen before. It is top of their worry list and the messages that come from the council are taken very seriously. I guess the main issue is that they are treated fairly in terms of fixing these environmental problems.
Questions and discussion