

Auckland Council SeaChange Political Reference Group RECORD OF MEETING

Record of meeting held in Reception Lounge, level 2 Auckland Town Hall, 24 July 2019 at 9.50 am.

PRESENT

Chair, Environment and Community Committee	Cr Penny Hulse
Deputy Chair, Environment and Community Committee	Cr Alf Filipaina
Chair, Planning Committee	Cr Chris Darby
Deputy Mayor	Cr Bill Cashmore
Mainland local board members adjoining Hauraki Gulf coast (Franklin, Rodney, Hibiscus & Bays, central isthmus)	Angela Fulljames Beth Houlbrooke Christina Bettany

APOLOGIES

Liane Ngamane
John Meeuwsen
Wayne Walker

Independent Maori Statutory Board
Islands Local Board member
Councillor

ABSENT

Graeme Easte

Mainland Local Board member

Welcome and apologies

Meeting opened at 9:50 am. Cr Penny Hulse welcomed all. Noted apologies and/or absences of members.

Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded of the need to declare any conflict that may arise between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have, at any time during the meeting.

Lead Support Officer Dave Allen noted that Liane Ngamane had recently been appointed (announcement of 2 July 2019) as a member to the Central Government's Ministerial Advisory Committee to offer advice on developing the Government Response Strategy on Sea Change.

Recap, overview and context of progress and issues since last meeting

As discussed at the last meeting of this group in April 2019, Lead Support Officer Dave Allen provided an overview of the purpose of this meeting, to consolidate understanding and provide oversight of council group activity since the September 2017 Environment and Community Committee, to:

- a) articulate a consolidated understanding of relevant Hauraki Gulf activity by Auckland Council group to the Hauraki Gulf Forum on 19 August 2019;
- b) report to Environment and Community Committee on 10 September 2019 on the progress that has been made on shared objectives for the Hauraki Gulf, within council's mandate.

Member comments

Deputy Mayor Cashmore noted that the Hauraki Gulf Forum members often held divergent views, particularly regarding Sea Change. Cr Hulse emphasised that the clarity of the Auckland Council message is key and the importance of presenting a unified council vision, that everything we are doing here aims to better the outcomes for the Hauraki Gulf, which is the broadest aim of respectively, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Auckland Council, and the Sea Change Plan. Cr Filipaina raised concerns over the difficulty of getting consistent views among Auckland Council members on the Hauraki Gulf Forum, and how that may differ from the Auckland Council view. Cr Hulse, who also requested Cr Filipaina to accompany her, and as supported by Dave Allen, would attend the Hauraki Gulf Forum to provide the Auckland Council presentation.

Sietse Bouma (Natural Environment Strategy) noted that the Hauraki Gulf Forum Technical Officers Group had identified in recent months the need for an induction for new members on the Hauraki Gulf Forum, to highlight the Forum's mandate and to ensure that members consider their agency's views.

Inter-relationship between central and local government

Dave Allen presented a figure of the various inter-relationships between central and local government as it relates to the Hauraki Gulf, highlighting that the Hauraki Gulf Forum is just one of many fora that enables local and central government staff and elected members to collaborate. The figure also highlights the different roles and responsibilities of the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group (ACSCPRG) and the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee to develop the government response strategy, the latter being a sounding board to

assist in shaping central government departmental advice to the Ministers of Conservation and Fisheries on their statutory responsibilities.

Member comments

Cr Hulse clarified that the figure demonstrated the intended message, in particular that the ACSPRG does not report to either the Hauraki Gulf Forum or the Ministerial Advisory Committee, but rather reports to the Environment and Community Committee of Auckland Council.

Beth Houlbrooke raised the question of where iwi sits within this framework. Dave Allen responded that the purpose of the figure is largely to illustrate the range and inter-relationships of central and local government fora that contribute to discussing matters of relevance to the Hauraki Gulf, and the different purposes under which they specifically met. For Auckland Council, Maori representation is generally embedded within each committee and/or workstream (the figure does not go to this level), and in other project structures and relationship fora throughout the council group. Cr Filipaina mentioned the responsibility for the iwi representatives on these groups to report back to their respective wider constituency.

Proposed Hauraki Gulf Forum presentation, 19 August 2019

Dave Allen ran through the proposed presentation to take to the Hauraki Gulf Forum on 19 August 2019, while taking feedback from members on the way through. This presentation covers:

- a) the history of how Auckland Council assessed the Sea Change Plan (released December 2016) and embedded new initiatives that advance shared Sea Change outcomes into council work programmes;
- b) the history of the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group;
- c) staff communications between council and other groups interested in Hauraki Gulf outcomes;
- d) progress against the 2017 agreed work programme, including a significant range of activity in common with Sea Change objectives undertaken by council departments and Council Controlled Organisations;
- e) next steps for the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group.

The 10-page table of Auckland Council implementation of shared objectives with the Sea Change Plan, through existing and new work programmes (updated draft of 19 July 2019), was tabled at the meeting. The main purpose of producing this updated table is for reporting back purposes to the Environment and Community Committee on 10 September 2019.

Member Comments

Agreement among members that the table of Auckland Council's progress in advancing activities in common with Sea Change objectives should be provided to the Hauraki Gulf Forum, to highlight the significant amount of work the Auckland Council group has undertaken.

Members mentioned several activities being undertaken within and alongside the Hauraki Gulf that are not included in this table. Beth Houlbrooke mentioned the sustainable living among Hauraki Gulf Island communities, including self-sustaining behaviours in terms of resource uses, and managing the impacts of visitors, which aligns with the Hauraki Gulf community objective. Chris Bettany also highlighted waste minimisation and renewable energy projects being undertaken on Great Barrier Island, and Cr Hulse confirmed council involvement in these projects.

Dave Allen confirmed that the table of the council group work programme was identified based on themes and objectives identified through the Sea Change Plan, and consequently, this does not cover the full suite of council activities that contribute to Hauraki Gulf outcomes. Cr Hulse mentioned the predominant environmental focus of the Sea Change Plan, and that it may not have fully considered economic and social outcomes for the Hauraki Gulf. Dave Allen concurred it will be important to represent that there are a range of other relevant programmes and projects associated with the Hauraki Gulf that were not covered by Sea Change that should be highlighted to the Environment and Community Committee on 10 September 2019.

Renaming the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group to the Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group were discussed as something going forward, in acknowledging that Sea Change was one of many initiatives being undertaken within the Auckland Council area of jurisdiction within and adjoining the Hauraki Gulf, and that a broader platform for encompassing a wider range of Auckland related initiatives would be useful. Cr Hulse highlighted that this should be discussed initially among the wider Auckland Council Environment and Community Committee before being noted externally, including the Hauraki Gulf Forum. Dave Allen confirmed this will be removed from the proposed Hauraki Gulf Forum presentation. Cr Darby also mentioned that the committees may be renamed following the upcoming election, so the proposed membership and reporting lines to Governing Body committees could be changed slightly.

Report back to Environment and Community Committee, 10 September 2019

Dave Allen presented the proposed themes to be encompassed in a report back to the Environment and Community Committee on 10 September 2019. This included:

- a) progress the Auckland Council group has made against the 2017 agreed work programme to advance Sea Change outcomes, through presenting the 2019 progress table;
- b) how the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group has provided oversight over the past two years;
- c) areas for future potential focus for the Auckland Council Sea Change Political Reference Group;
- d) next steps for the Sea Change Political Reference Group, including further actions to integrate environmental, planning, regulatory and financial elements of business process of consequence to the Hauraki Gulf.

Member Comments

Members were generally supportive of the proposed membership of the future proposed Auckland Council Hauraki Gulf Political Reference Group. Beth Houlbrooke indicated that she would like to retain membership on the Group, even if she was not standing for Chair of the Local Board. Dave Allen indicated that he hoped existing membership would be largely retained, and if any members were not standing, replacement processes could be undertaken. Members highlighted that there was no guarantee they would be re-elected so may need to be replaced on the group in that case.

Dave Allen also highlighted that the wider representation (Finance and Regulatory Chairs or Deputy's) on the proposed Political Reference Group would enable a wider range of council functional issues to be considered and reflected back into council business processes etc. Having other committee functionary areas in attendance should help discussions at the relevant

committee (i.e. Environment and Community (principle reporting line), Planning, Finance or Regulatory Committee as appropriate.

In response to a query from Dave Allen, Angela Fulljames mentioned that the best way to get messages from the Political Reference Group out to other Local Boards not represented would be through the Local Board Chairs Forum, with the responsibility then lying with the Chairs to relay messages to other Local Board members.

Members discussed how the other harbours (Manukau and Kaipara) are considered and how a collective picture of council activity could be collated for those areas, indicating that many of the issues, objectives and work programmes highlighted in the 2019 progress table for the Hauraki Gulf would apply similarly to those harbours. Some activities also relate to specific locations.

Wrap – up, actions noted, meeting close

Cr Hulse thanked members for their attendance and staff who had contributed to the meeting's success.

Cr Darby supported Cr Hulse's observations, including recognition of Dave Allen's lead support officer work in synthesising and providing valuable insights on how the council group was progressing Hauraki Gulf outcomes, and how this could be viewed given expectations from a political lens.

The meeting closed at 10:50 am.