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Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Programme Briefing

Thursday 28 October 2021 at 5.30pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Barry, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Barratt, Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Hislop, Cr Mitchell, Cr Rasheed, Cr Shaw, Cr Sutton (from 6.15pm)

Staff: Mr D Kerite, Head of Regulatory, Mr J Scherzer, Head of Climate and Solid Waste, Mr D Burt, Senior Advisor Climate and Sustainability, Mr R Shield, Senior Policy Advisor, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Mrs A Doornebosch, Democracy Advisor

Apologies / Absences

Elected Member Apologies: Cr Sutton for lateness

Elected Members Absent: Cr Milne

Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to update elected members on the Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP).

Discussion

Slide 2: Purpose – to update Council about the Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara developments since the last update, ahead of the public launch of process outputs on 9 November 2021.

Slide 3: Wellington Region Whaitua map

Slide 4: Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Process: National Policy Statement: Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) – in 2019 the Essential Freshwater paper – Action for Healthy Waterways was published. Subsequently in 2020 the NPS-FM was published to provide local authorities with updated direction on how to manage freshwater under the Resource Management Act.

Slides 5/6/7: The Whaitua Process – began in 2013 and the Committee first met in 2019. The process is to ensure water quality is maintained. Two reports were presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) in September 2021. The process was made on the basis of Te Mana o te Wai – ensuring the health of the water and the people. It described Mana Whenua values and established a Mana Whenua assessment framework.

Slide 8: Te Mahere Wai – Whaitua Implementation Programme

Slides 9/10: Whaitua Process Outputs – process resulted in 2 reports – the Whaitua WIP and Mana Whenua's WIP – Te Mahere Wai

Slide 11: WIP Actions

Slide 12: WIP Pathway to Healthy Water

Slides 13/14/15: WIP Recommendations – 111 recommendations. GWRC lead agency.

Slides 16/17/19: Impacts

Slide 18: WIP Timeline

Slides 20/21/22: Implementation – regulatory provisions would be included progressively into the RPS and NRP by way of plan changes to consider/give effect to Council's District Plan

Slides 23/24: Next Steps

Slide 25: Summary

Next Steps

An officer's group would be established. The two reports would need to be formally received by Council. Some recommendations would need to be considered in Council's District Plan review process. A combined public launch would take place on 9 November 2021. A WIP Implementation process would be developed.

Questions

Mr Shield advised all recommendations were written to apply to Wellington Water Limited or any other organisation who may take over the WIP process. He said the deadline for approximately half of the regulatory recommendations was 2024.

The Director Economy and Development advised that there would be increased costs associated with the Three Waters upgrades. He said Mana Whenua wanted to ensure there was no discharge of wastewater into water bodies. He noted this would need further consideration by the new Three Waters entity. He said GWRC were to deliver a work programme on how the recommendations would be implemented and this should provide direction on how funding would be sought. He said GWRC would need to liaise with the community on how they would fund and give effect to the Plan. He said work would be progressed on sites such as Waiwhetu Stream, including how long it would be until people would be able to fish and conduct baptisms and how to protect other sites that are used for this now.

Briefing Materials

The briefing closed at 6.20pm.

Attachment 1 – Powerpoint Presentation on the Whaitua Implementation Programme WIP Briefing