



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Notice of a meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) to be held at:

Waikato Regional Council

**On September 25, 2019, at 3:00pm**

<b>1</b>	<b>Karakia Timatanga</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Attendees</b> Andrew Sinclair Anna Casey-Cox Brian Habberfield Gwyneth Verkerk Kelvin Mouritson Kemble Pudney Leo Koppens Martin Wallace  <b>Apologies</b> Neville Williams Greg Hill Dell Hood
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> – August 2019
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Minutes</b>
<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable land use (Andrew)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The need for holistic measure</li><li>○ Emissions</li><li>○ Food kg</li><li>○ Water quality</li></ul></li><li>• Collaboration and promoting hubs (Andrew)</li><li>• Healthy Rivers submission (Anna)</li><li>• Conventional vs organic farming (Anna)</li><li>• Weeds workshop (Anna)</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Other Business</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Written reports</b> Prior to meeting please - members to identify topics of interest



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

<b>9</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> Wednesday the 23rd of October, 3pm at WRC Please note the change in meeting room location to The Council Meeting Room at 401 Grey Street
<b>10</b>	<b>Karakia Whakamutunga</b>



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Minutes of the  
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:  
Waikato Regional Council Hamilton – Waikato Room  
On September 25, 2019, at 3:00pm**

**1 Karakia Timatanga – Brian Habberfield**

**2 Attendees**

Anna Casey-Cox  
Andrew Sinclair  
Brian Habberfield  
Kemble Pudney  
Kelvin Mourtison  
Martin Wallace  
Leo Koppens

**Apologies**

Neville Williams (WRC)  
Dell Hood  
Greg Hill

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 2019**

Minutes accepted – moved by Anna, seconded by Martin.

**4 Matters Arising from Minutes**

Due to Shepherd Isaac's unexpected departure from ACRE at the August meeting, Brian moved to send a letter of appreciation to Shepherd with the purpose of thanking him for his service and to wish him well. The motion was carried and Brian is to prepare a letter.

**6 Sustainable land use**

Andrew proposed the idea of ACRE advocating for more sustainable land use by engaging with stakeholders to advertise the actual resources involved in food production.

If the focus is on per kilogram of food, or per square metre of soil, it could be advertised how much fossil fuel, water and soil is used in production. Information could also include what is involved in the packaging, storage and transportation of these items to market.

The aim is to create better public awareness of what is involved in the food we consume, and be a strong advocacy for people to grow their own vegetables. Information could also include education on organic and non-organic produce.

Leo noted that the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) have similar content available on their website.

Anna is to invite a guest speaker to a future ACRE meeting to discuss environmental plans and strategies in this area, potentially someone from the Ministry for the Environment.



## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the Waikato REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **Collaboration and promoting hubs**

It was identified at the August meeting that there are many land care groups operating in similar environmental spaces in the region, however there is no one overarching direction or facilitation for these groups. Each group follows their own strategies and guidelines.

Andrew noted that there are councils collaborating with land care groups in similar spaces throughout New Zealand, for example Cape to City in the Hawkes Bay, but nothing similar has been implemented in the Waikato to date.

ACRE ideally would like to see a strategy implemented for hubs being set up throughout the region. This would involve a staffed office facility with adequate resources where groups and people can actively connect. The hubs would also engage with the Biodiversity Forum.

Anna is to follow up with Judy van Rossem to enquire what the current status is in terms of collaboration and Biodiversity Forum hubs. Judy is currently working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the University of Waikato in this space, and submissions regarding biodiversity hubs have recently closed.

### **Weeds workshop**

Lucy from DOC operates workshops for communities and groups in relation to the education of weeds.

Anna is to ask Lucy to attend a future meeting to present on weed identification and plant knowledge.

It was also noted the Pest Management Plan is due to be updated. Anna to follow up progress with Darion Embling and Brett Bailey.

### **Healthy rivers**

ACRE has had a representative at three hearings regarding The Healthy Rivers Project. Anna was approached with regards to any knowledge ACRE may have on significant works taking place in wetlands.

Mentioned in submission at a hearing was the proposal for a number of dairy farms along the Waipa River be turned into organic farms. This would mean investors would have the opportunity to purchase these farms with the purpose of converting them into organic farms. The report was put through by the Waikato River Trust who claims that by carrying out these measures there will a 40% reduction of nitrogen. However, the Trust would not disclose the modelling behind their research and stated that only potential investors would be privy to this information.

### **Conventional vs organic farming**

Go Eco has carried out their own research in the field of conventional versus organic farming, in addition to incorporating existing findings, and is keen to further continue their research. Anna proposed the question if ACRE is interested in being kept abreast of the research and if whether the organic movement will produce the outcomes that Go Eco is chasing.

It was decided that ACRE does not require progress updates at this stage.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

**7 Other business**

**Piako wetlands**

Kemble advised of wetlands located at the Morrinsville end of Piako Road. This wetland has the possibility of being purchased collaboratively, which is being led by the Native Forest Restoration Trust. It is anticipated they may ask for ACRE's support with the venture and Kemble suggested that the Native Forest Restoration Trust present at a future ACRE meeting. Kemble is to follow up with Judy van Rossem at Waikato Regional Council (WRC) to investigate the extent of their involvement and what their plans may be.

**Hauraki windfarm**

Brian attended a meeting at Hauraki District Council on 25 September where discussions took place regarding a windfarm being established at the location of a discontinuing land fill site. The local iwi oppose the development due to the site being of sacred significance and would like the land restored after the land fill is closed. Further hearings are to take place.

**Kaiaua flooding**

Recent flooding events in Kaiaua has reinvigorated concerns regarding sea level rise and storms, as the land in this area is low-lying and muddy. Hauraki District Council have the Kaiaua Coast Community Planning Project underway to address the concerns.

**8 Written reports – these were circulated prior to the meeting**

**9 Next meeting**

Tuesday 22 October at WRC, 3:00pm.

Meeting has been rescheduled from 23 October due to meeting room facilities becoming unavailable on this date.

Please note the change in meeting room location to the WRC Council Chambers at 401 Grey Street.

Skype facilities will be available for attendees to join the meeting remotely if required.

**10 Karakia Whakamutunga - Brian Habberfield**

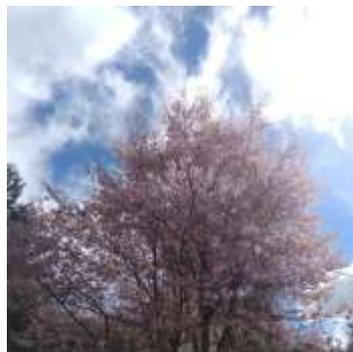
**MONTHLY REPORT**

Name	Details
<b>Anna Casey-Cox</b>	Interviewed David Whitehead on Earth Matters regarding soil health. Supported Alapan with interview of Organic Farms NZ. Facilitated Te Puna Kai o Waikato kai project networking day. Supported Alapan in his research and presentation. Attended Predator Free meeting at HCC. Healthy Rivers submission for ACRE & Go Eco.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

	<p>Helped organise and support the WRC Climate Summit.</p> <p>Organised and facilitated Hine e Hine for Conservation Week.</p> <p>Submission to NZ Biodiversity Strategy for Go Eco.</p>
<b>Dell Hood</b>	<p>Dune replanting at Nukuhkari, spinifex and pingao – pleasing outcome from earlier years' efforts.</p> <p>Great local walks both ends of Manawatu Gorge.</p> <p>Explored a little of Totara Regional Park, Horizons Regional Council.</p> <p>Brief visit to Paeangaroa Scenic Reserve, just N of Taihape, rare divaricating shrubs.</p> <p>Attended BotSoc evening lecture Dr Colin Geutz Manaki Whenua Chch on urban ecology.</p>
<b>Andrew Sinclair</b>	<p>Our Collaborative Predator Free Franklin / North Waikato picked up an award last week from the Mayor at the Auckland Council Conservation Awards.</p> <p>Stopping off at Turangi last week I went for a stroll along the river where there were many tui. On the enclosed cherry tree in blossom the total was more than 35. Good to see the benefits close to towns of people getting involved in pest control.</p> <p>Down at the Waikanae River where the local community have done a lot of plantings over the last few years in the Riparian margin. While much is in mixed natives at close density plantings of 1m<sup>2</sup> it was good to see this 10 year old planting of kahikatea at 2.5m spacings. It was at full canopy and easily suppressing all weeds including creepers. I expect it could easily have succeeded at 3 - 3.5m spacings. This results in a tenth of the plant numbers and could be of good use where there are problem creeper and brush weeds. At wider spacings it allows easier chemical weed control options over the first 2 - 3 years. This model does not fit so well with many funding options where they just look at the first year plant costs and do not factor in longer term maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Using Trap NZ now for both bait station and bird survey data entry. It provides a cool feature where your bait station turns from red to green if it is not checked within 90 days. Any interest can show tomorrow.</p>





**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**



**Kelvin  
Mouritsen**

This month I put out chew cards and opened up seven rat lines of Kamate traps and organised monitoring lines for a group of polytechnic students that we are hosting next week.