

Decision released from confidential session			
Recommendation from (agenda report)	Date of meeting	Recommendation to (decision-making meeting)	Date of meeting
Council	15Dec2022		
Report Title and number			
Appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members R27323			
Documents released			
Report (R27323) and the decision only			
Decision			
Resolved CL/2022/297			
<i>That the Council</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i><u>Receives</u> the report Appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members (R27323) and its attachments (789843239-1015 and 789843239-581); and</i> 2. <i><u>Notes</u> the establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Group and the Terms of Reference for the Group were originally approved by the Environment and Climate Committee on 11 August 2022; and</i> 3. <i><u>Approves</u> minor amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Advisory Group to reflect the new structure of Council as set out in Attachment 1 (789843239-1015); and</i> 4. <i><u>Approves</u> the appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members listed in Attachment 2 (789843239-581); and</i> 5. <i><u>Notes</u> that staff are meeting with iwi to further discuss the iwi representatives on the Climate Change Advisory Group; and</i> 6. <i><u>Agrees</u> that Report (R27323) and the decision only be made publicly available; and</i> 7. <i><u>Agrees</u> that Attachments (789843239-1015 and 789843239-581) remain confidential at this time</i> 			
<u>Carried</u>			

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Item 6: Appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members

Council



15 December 2022

REPORT R27323

Appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Council's approval to:

- 1.1.1 minor amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Advisory Group; and
- 1.1.2 the appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members.

2. Recommendation

That the Council

1. ***Receives*** the report ***Appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members (R27323)*** and its attachments (789843239-1015 and 789843239-581); and
2. ***Notes*** the establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Group and the Terms of Reference for the Group were originally approved by the Environment and Climate Committee on 11 August 2022; and
3. ***Approves*** minor amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Advisory Group to reflect the new structure of Council as set out in Attachment 1 (789843239-1015); and
4. ***Approves*** the appointment of Climate Change Advisory Group members listed in Attachment 2 (789843239-581); and

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5. ***Notes that staff are meeting with iwi to further discuss the iwi representatives on the Climate Change Advisory Group; and***
6. ***Agrees that Report (R27323) and the decision only be made publicly available; and***
7. ***Agrees that Attachments (789843239-1015 and 789843239-581) remain confidential at this time.***

3. Exclusion of the Public

3.1 This report has been placed in the confidential part of the agenda in accordance with section 48(1)(a) and section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The reason for withholding information in this report under this Act is to:

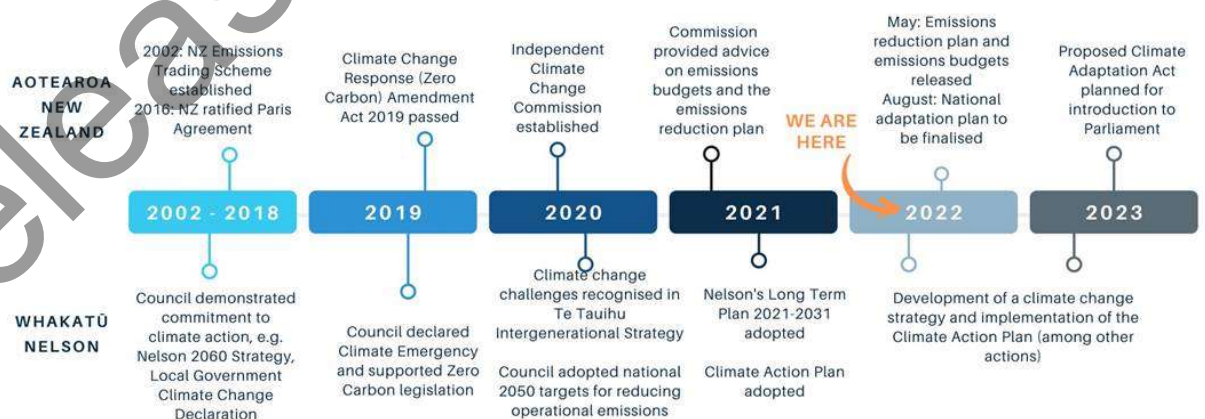
- Section 7(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Background

3.2 Climate change is the most challenging global issue of our time. Local government, alongside central government, businesses, iwi and communities, has a critical role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

3.3 Council has signalled a strong commitment to action on climate change through a series of actions, including through declaring a Climate Emergency and setting targets for reducing Council's operational emissions (as set out in figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Action on Climate Change in New Zealand and Nelson



3.4 On 17 November 2021 Council adopted *Te Mahere Mahi a te Āhuarangi Climate Action Plan* which sets out climate change projects Council is funding over the next ten years, as set out in the Long Term Plan 2021-2031. At that meeting, Council also established a Climate Change Governance Oversight Group made up of four elected members to

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oversee the development of a strategic framework for climate change (later renamed to the Nelson Climate Change Strategy), among other responsibilities.

Why a climate change strategy is needed

- 3.5 The workload on local government in relation to climate change is growing as a result of rapidly developing central government policy and community demand for action. However, local government's role in relation to climate change (mitigation and adaptation) is not clearly defined in legislation, and as such, it is left to individual councils to determine their climate change priorities.
- 3.6 Council is leading a number of projects (as set out in the Climate Action Plan) and is supporting other organisations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. However, the climate work programme has been built in an iterative fashion and lacks the coherence that a well-defined vision and long-term objective would bring.
- 3.7 There is a risk that previous actions, such as Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and the commitment to apply a "climate lens" to all work programmes, will be seen as ineffectual if these declarations are not supported by clear goals and actions which enable these goals to be met.
- 3.8 A Climate Change Strategy is needed to set long-term direction on climate change as well as short-term goals to guide priority areas for action and investment by the Council and community. The Strategy will enable Council to:
- 3.8.1 Define Council's role in addressing climate change and determine values and principles to guide climate action.
 - 3.8.2 Demonstrate leadership and be good ancestors by playing a part in global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 °C.
 - 3.8.3 Provide guidance to staff about how to prioritise climate change projects and spending for consideration by Council.
 - 3.8.4 Measure and evaluate progress against long-term aspirations and goals.
 - 3.8.5 Develop a holistic response which realises co-benefits and connections between climate change and other issues, and reflects te ao Māori, and community and mana whenua aspirations.
 - 3.8.6 Assist the Nelson community to thrive in a low carbon and climate resilient economy and to minimise the risk of harm to the community by preparing for climate impacts and a just and equitable transition.

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3.8.7 Empower community and individual action on climate change and build community support for Council action on climate change.

3.9 The development of the Climate Change Strategy does not require other work on climate change to be paused. Council staff intend to continue to implement the projects in the Climate Action Plan while the Strategy is being developed.

Establishing a Climate Change Advisory Group

3.10 On 16 June 2022, the Environment and Climate Committee resolved as follows:

Resolved EC/2022/038

That the Environment and Climate Committee

4. *Agrees that the Nelson climate change strategy should be a community strategy involving the entire community including Council, government agencies, iwi, business, community groups and individuals; and*
6. *Requests staff to bring a report to the August Environment & Climate Committee meeting with a proposal for an appropriate structure and membership of group(s) to support development of the Climate Change Strategy*

3.11 On 11 August 2022, the Environment and Climate Committee resolved as follows:

Resolved EC/2022/054

That the Environment and Climate Committee

2. *Approves the establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Group; and*
3. *Approves the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Advisory Group (789843239-48, attachment 1); and*
4. *Authorises the Climate Change Governance Oversight Group to develop a shortlist of potential Chair and members for the Advisory Group; and*
5. *Notes that a decision will be sought on the Chair and members of the Advisory Group at a subsequent Committee meeting; and*

3.12 The Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Advisory Group are included as attachment 1. As set out in the Terms of Reference, the purpose of the Advisory Group is to "provide community and expert input

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on the Nelson Climate Change Strategy". The group will provide advice and input on the Strategy to staff, who will reflect this input in reports to Council. No formal delegations are required for the Advisory Group. Participation on the Advisory Group is voluntary (unpaid).

- 3.13 The Group is to have no more than 11 members, including the Council Climate Change Manager and up to three representatives appointed by iwi. The appointment of members is to be guided by the following considerations (individual members and group as a whole):
- 3.13.1 Diversity of perspective and experience of the group as a whole
 - 3.13.2 Technical expertise – the group should have a wide range of expertise on key subject areas relevant to climate change
 - 3.13.3 Community outreach, including strong connections into a range of different communities in Whakatū
- 3.14 Individual members of the group should also be open-minded, innovative, strategic, and collaborative.
- 3.15 In addition to the considerations above, the Chair of the Advisory Group should have the following qualities:
- 3.15.1 Strong leadership and facilitation skills
 - 3.15.2 Highly organised
 - 3.15.3 Clear communicator, both verbal and written
 - 3.15.4 Mana and integrity, well-respected in the Nelson community
 - 3.15.5 Strong public profile.

4. Discussion

Minor amendments to the Terms of Reference

- 4.1 To reflect changes made to the structure of Council and Council committees following the local body elections, clauses 3, 4 and 13 of the Terms of Reference have been amended to replace 'the Environment and Climate Committee' with 'Council' as the body responsible for appointing members and the Chair and making amendments to the Terms of Reference.
- 4.2 In clause 15, the Advisory Group Chair and Climate Change Manager are given responsibility for appointing new members, as the Chair of the Environment and Climate Committee position no longer exists in Council's structure.
- 4.3 In addition, clause 3 has been amended to clarify that Council is responsible for appointing the original members of the Group, but not for replacing members (as explained above).

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Appointment of members

- 4.4 The Climate Change Governance Oversight Group (Councillors Rohan O'Neill-Stevens and Mel Courtney, former Councillors Kate Fulton and Brian McGurk) met on 14 September 2022 to discuss the potential members of the Climate Change Advisory Group (including the Chair). The list of recommended members is attached as Appendix 2 (789843239-581).
- 4.5 There are places for seven members (excluding the Climate Change Manager and up to three iwi representatives).
- 4.6 With the exception of two potential members (Astrid Sayer and David Ayre, whose names were put forward by the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum to be on the Panel), staff have not yet had conversations with the individuals to determine their capacity and interest in being on the Advisory Group. These conversations will take place after Council makes a decision on the preferred members. For this reason, seven candidates are listed as the preferred members, with alternative options listed for in case any of the seven decline the invitation.
- 4.7 Staff met with Te Ohu Taiao on 17 August and with Te Ohu Whakahaere on 15 September to seek recommendations on the iwi representatives to the Advisory Group. A decision has not yet been made on the iwi appointments. Staff will meet with iwi again ahead of the first meeting of the Advisory Group to further discuss the iwi representatives on the Advisory Group.
- 4.8 The Climate Change Governance Oversight Group considered diversity of perspective and experience when determining preferred members for the Advisory Group. The list in attachment 2 reflects a range of different ages and areas of expertise, however it is predominantly female and is not reflective of the multicultural nature of the Nelson community. This may be addressed, in part, with the appointment of iwi representatives.
- 4.9 However, this raises a broader consideration on the need to support communities who are often less represented in local government to build climate change capability. Throughout the development of the Strategy, staff will work with multicultural communities to support climate change capability building and facilitate their input into the Strategy. Consideration will also be given to addressing this deficit on the appointment of replacement members.

5. Options

- 5.1 The following options are put forward for Council's consideration:

Option 1: Approve the list of recommended Climate Change Advisory Group members in Appendix 2 (recommended)

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Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Group can be established quickly and work on the Climate Change Strategy can commence in early 2023
Risks and Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Option 2: Do not approve the list of recommended members	
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Risks and Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential delays in establishing the Group due to the need for further conversations on members

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 If the Council agrees to the proposed list of members in Appendix 2, the next steps are as follows:
- 6.1.1 The top seven members will be contacted and invited to be part of the Climate Change Advisory Group. If any of the top seven decline, staff will work down the list and invite the members listed as alternatives.
 - 6.1.2 Staff will meet with iwi to further discuss the iwi representatives on the Advisory Group
 - 6.1.3 The first meeting of the Advisory Group will be held in late January 2023.
- 6.2 The draft Nelson Climate Change Strategy will be presented to Council and approval sought for public consultation, likely in late 2023. Council approval will then be sought for the final Strategy.

Author: Rachel Pemberton, Manager Climate Change

Attachments

- Attachment 1: 789843239-1015 Terms of reference - Climate Change Advisory Group (amended)
- Attachment 2: 789843239-581 Recommended Climate Change Advisory Group members

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Important considerations for decision making

Fit with Purpose of Local Government

The recommendations in this report will support the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the community by assisting Nelson's transition to a low emissions and climate resilient future.

Consistency with Community Outcomes and Council Policy

The proposals in this report support the following community outcomes:

- Our Council provides leadership and fosters partnerships, a regional perspective, and community engagement
- Our unique natural environment is healthy and protected
- Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient
- Our infrastructure is efficient, cost effective and meets current and future needs.

Risk

It is highly likely that the Climate Change Strategy, if developed with support of the Climate Change Advisory Group, will achieve the goal of providing long-term direction on Council climate action. It is likely that this will then lead to greenhouse emissions reductions and strengthen Nelson's resilience to climate change impacts.

There is a risk that there is insufficient capacity within iwi to sit as members on the Climate Change Advisory Group, resulting in a risk that the strategy will insufficiently representing the interests of iwi and incorporate te ao Māori. Staff are appointing a Strategic Advisor with expertise in te ao Māori and strong relationships with iwi to mitigate this risk.

The Advisory Group may have divergent views resulting in delays developing the Climate Change Strategy. Effective chairing will help the group reach agreement on areas of dissension.

Financial impact

Budget will be required:

- To fund contract with the Strategic Advisor with expertise in te ao Māori (estimated at \$40,000)
- For communications and engagement activities (estimated at \$20,000).

This will be funded out of the existing budgets – no additional funding is required at this stage.

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<p>Degree of significance and level of engagement</p> <p>The decisions in this report are of low significance to the wider community as they are process issues.</p>
<p>Climate Impact</p> <p>Significant climate impact given the focus of the strategy is climate change.</p>
<p>Inclusion of Māori in the decision making process</p> <p>Staff met with Te Ohu Taiao on 17 August and with Te Ohu Whakahaere on 15 September to seek recommendations on the iwi representatives to the Advisory Group. Further discussions on iwi representation will be held with iwi. The Strategic Advisor (consultant) will also provide advice on weaving te ao Māori into the Strategy and working with iwi on the development of the Strategy (outside of the Advisory Group).</p>
<p>Delegations</p> <p>This is a matter for Council.</p>

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