

Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee

1 Purpose

To promote the sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources by overseeing the review and development of regional plans, changes and variations for the Wellington Region, as required under the Resource Management Act 1991.

2 Specific responsibilities

1. Review operative regional plans.
2. Prepare proposed regional plans.
3. Prepare any variations to proposed regional plans or plan changes.
4. Prepare any plan changes in relation to operative regional plans.
5. Recommend to the Council the proposed plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes that should proceed to public notification.
6. Review any provisions which the Council may refer back to the committee for further consideration.
7. Oversee consultation under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.
8. Appoint hearing committees or hearings panels, composed of accredited persons, to hear and decide upon submissions on proposed regional plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes. (Such hearing committees or panels may include members of the Committee and/or other persons chosen for their particular skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the hearing committee or panel.)
9. Monitor the development of proposals arising from the whitua process.

3 Membership

3.1 Six Councillors.

3.2 Six non-Councillor members, each appointed by Council for their skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the committee and including their knowledge of the rohe of the relevant iwi authority to which they belong. (In making such appointments Council will have regard to the recommendation of each of the six iwi authorities that are signatories to the Memorandum of Partnership between Te Tangata Whenua ki Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui and Wellington Regional Council Te Pane Matua Taiao.)

4. Chairperson

4.1 The committee will have two Co-Chairs:

- a Councillor member of the Committee, and
- a non-Councillor member of the Committee.

4.2 At the commencement of each triennium:

- the Council shall appoint the Councillor Co-Chair
- the Committee, at its first meeting of each triennium, on the recommendation of the non-Councillor members of the Committee, shall appoint the non-Councillor Co-Chair.

4.3 Each Co-Chair shall be the presiding member at meetings of the Committee on an alternate basis. If a Co-Chair is absent from a meeting of the Committee for which they are scheduled to be the presiding member, then the other Co-Chair shall preside at the meeting.

4.4 The Councillor Co-Chair of the Committee shall be the presiding member when the Committee is meeting to recommend to Council:

- the notification of proposed regional plans, proposed variations or proposed plan changes; or
- the commencement of the preparation of a variation of a proposed regional plan or proposed plan change, or
- the commencement of the preparation of proposed plans, or plan changes in relation to operative regional plans

4.5 The Councillor Co-Chair of the Committee shall be the presiding member when the Committee is meeting to appoint hearing committees or panels.

5 Voting entitlement

- 5.1 Members of the Committee have full speaking rights and voting entitlements.
- 5.2 A casting vote will only apply when the Committee is meeting to make a recommendation to Council relating to any of the matters set out in section 4.4, or making an appointment under section 4.5.

6 Quorum

- 6.1 Three Councillor and three non-Councillor members of the Committee.
- 6.2 All (six) Councillor members of the Committee must be present when the Committee is meeting to make a recommendation to Council relating to any of the matters set out in sections 4.4, or making an appointment under section 4.5.

7 Remuneration

The remuneration of the non-Councillor members of the Committee will be determined and approved by the Council.

8 Delegated powers

- 8.1 The Council delegates all the functions and powers of the Council that are capable of delegation under the Resource Management Act 1991 to Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee which are necessary for it to carry out the specific responsibilities listed above relating to the review and development of regional plans, changes and variations.
- 8.2 The Council delegates to any hearing committee or hearing panel appointed by Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee all necessary powers under the Resource Management Act 1991 to hear and decide submissions on proposed regional plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes.

9 Duration of the Committee

With reference to clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee is not discharged following the next triennial election.

10 Review of the Committee

A review of the Committee's terms of reference will be undertaken when the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region becomes operative or at any time at the Council's discretion.

11 Special terms of reference

- 11.1 A role of the Committee and all members of the Committee is to objectively oversee the development of proposed plans, variations and plan changes in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991. In particular the Committee must apply the purpose and principles of the Act and section 32 to its decision-making and recommendations.
- 11.2 The Committee may make recommendations to the full Council as to the readiness of plans, variations and plan changes for notification. The Committee must consider the matters raised by Council in respect of any document or parts of a document referred back to it for further consideration.
- 11.3 The Committee, when appointing hearings committees or panels, shall appoint members for their particular skills, attributes or knowledge relevant to the work of the Committee or panel and shall so far as possible ensure that none of the members is open to perceptions or allegations of bias or predetermination.
- 11.4 The role of the non-Councillor members is to apply their particular skills, attributes and knowledge of Māori relationships to land, water and taonga, including knowledge relating to their particular rohe, to assist the committee in carrying out its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 11.5 It is not the role of any member (elected or otherwise) to represent or advocate for any particular interest.
- 11.6 It is not intended that the participation of non-Councillor members on the Committee be a substitute for any consultation with iwi authorities required under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 11.7 The participation of Māori on the Committee is consistent with the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to facilitate participation in decision-making.