



PAPAIOEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

9:00 AM, WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR
CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

Brent Barrett (Chair)
Kaydee Zabelin (Deputy Chair)
Grant Smith (The Mayor)

Roly Fitzgerald	Lorna Johnson
Patrick Handcock (ONZM)	Debi Marshall-Lobb
Leonie Hapeta	Karen Naylor

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett

Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Te Marae o Hine | 32 The Square
Private Bag 11034 | Palmerston North 4442 | New Zealand
pncc.govt.nz

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SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

19 February 2025

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Karakia Timatanga

2. Apologies

3. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

4. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.

5. Public Comment

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this Agenda or, if time permits, on other Committee matters.

(NOTE: If the Committee wishes to consider or discuss any issue raised that is not specified on the Agenda, other than to receive the comment made or refer it to the Chief Executive, then a resolution will need to be made.)

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Page 7

That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 4 December 2024 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

7. Deliberations report on Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food security and resilience policy

Page 13

Report, presented by Julie Macdonald, Strategy and Policy Manager.

8. Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls: Quarterly Update

Page 45

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Manager Three Waters.

9. Committee Work Schedule

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10. Karakia Whakamutunga

11. Exclusion of Public

To be moved:

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this
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	each matter	resolution

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Also that the persons listed below be permitted to remain after the public has been excluded for the reasons stated.

[Add Third Parties], because of their knowledge and ability to assist the meeting in speaking to their report/s [or other matters as specified] and answering questions, noting that such person/s will be present at the meeting only for the items that relate to their respective report/s [or matters as specified].

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 04 December 2024, commencing at 9.00am

Members Present: Councillor Kaydee Zabelin (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson and Karen Naylor.

Non Members: Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

Apologies: Councillor Brent Barrett; Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb (absent on Council business).

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin opened the meeting with karakia.

43-24 Apologies

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Karen Naylor.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Committee receive the apologies.

Clause 43-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

44-24 Hearing of Submissions: Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive the submissions and hear submissions from presenters who indicated their wish to be heard in support of their submission.

2. That the Committee note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the procedure sheet.

Clause 44-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

The Committee considered submissions on the Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024 with supporting oral statements including additional tabled material.

The following persons appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submission and replied to questions from Elected Members.

Sally Darragh (Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, Community and whanau wellbeing team, National Public Health Service) (39)

Sally spoke to their submission and made the following additional comment:

- This policy is something that ensures the health and wellbeing of the community, and food security is a human right, so it's good for Council to be involved in working in this space to improve the health of the community.
- It is important to Health New Zealand that there are other external partners involved in public health.

Josephine Gutry (Cancer Society Manawatū) (29)

Josephine spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- This policy provides pathways for Council to initiate change in our food environment. It's important action is taken to lessen the burden on the environment and our health system.
- With 15-20% of New Zealand's population facing food insecurity and almost 500,000 people reaching out to food banks monthly, while hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food is wasted each year, there is no better reason to have a policy that will help support the community to reach food security and decrease environmental strain.
- Palmerston North City Council could follow the example of other major cities in New Zealand and make their mark in achieving a policy that prioritises health and the environment.

Dana Kunaiti (Niuvaka Trust) (48)

Dana spoke to their submission, including a PowerPoint presentation (appended to these Minutes). She made the following additional comment:

- Links to all four goals – this is needed in the community. It's about valuing and supporting the aspirations of communities, providing opportunities across all of the Council's goals/outcomes.

Daniel Morrimire (Environment Network Manawatū and Ora Konnect)

(50)

Daniel spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- He was fortunate enough to grow up in an environment where his family had the opportunity to grow and harvest their own food which supported them financially. Many people these days do not have that ability. Environment Network Manawatū supports a number of community garden initiatives.
- Food security and food resilience is really important; food is one of the four main things humans need to live (food, water, air, housing) and is a fundamental human right.
- This is an overarching policy that they hope will affect and influence Council's decisions in other areas relating to localised food production. Local government has an important role to play in ensuring that local spaces and communities are supported to get involved in food resilience, and removing barriers to this happening.

Leana Hamlin (35)

Leana spoke to her submission including a PowerPoint presentation (appended to these Minutes). She made the following additional comments:

- The greatest investment we can make is to protect and work alongside our land, our home and our earth. We all have a duty to protect, nourish and cherish these kaupapa. Too often profit over people seems to prevail. Here in Aotearoa every human has the right to adequate food and Council must ensure that this policy will uphold the strong tikanga surrounding that, regardless of age, ethnicity, monetary wealth or status.
- We need to start advocating and actioning sustainable and organic practices that respect nature and ensure our food is as pure as it was made to be. The future of food starts with conscious choices today. Our country exports fruit, vegetables and meat costing less overseas, yet we have to pay almost triple the prices just to eat our own kai on our own whenua. This needs to be addressed for our region with a stronger, louder voice.
- Hands in the soil is not just about gardening, it's about connection – with ourselves, our food and our earth, and it helps individuals to slow down from this fast paced rat race we call life. Council needs to be able to remove barriers in place that make it too hard for these things to occur.
- Funding to support community initiatives in the sector and collaboration needs to be more supported and spread more across the board. Barriers need to be removed in regards to accessing funding.
- The policy states that outcomes will be evident through wellbeing indicators, monitoring and annual reporting – this is where whakawhanaungatanga comes in – watching what people do,

not what they say or write. Data reporting with funding in this policy needs to be kept under own initiatives. Transparency is key; misappropriation of funding and reporting needs to be monitored. When funding is received the reporting needs to be more in depth.

Rebecca Culver (Just Zilch) (38)

Rebecca spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- We want to make sure Palmerston North is a friendly place, known for its kindness – this policy is one thing we can do towards this. We have the opportunity to really make a difference for the public and local businesses.
- Recommended data collation and analysis by Council, and sharing this information – if food is going to waste, how many kilos and can we rescue that food? If it's food that's being utilized by the public, is there data we can collect around that? Just Zilch collects this information currently but it would be good to have a central collation point for all community organisations and for this to be facilitated by Council.
- Preferred method for achieving an implementation plan and tracking of policy implementation for progress – a report would be great as people wider than just the organisations involved could read it.

45-24

Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024 - Summary of Submissions

Memorandum, presented by Julie Macdonald, Manager Strategy and Policy.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the summary of submissions for the Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024, presented to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.

Clause 45-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

46-24

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 16 October 2024 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct

record.

Clause 46-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

2. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 16 October 2024 Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 46-24 above was carried 8 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

Abstained:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

The meeting adjourned at 10.19am.

The meeting resumed at 10.41am.

47-24

Community Gardens - simplified process

Report, presented by Aaron Phillips, Activities Manager Parks and Amy Viles, Manager Community Development.

After discussion Elected Members moved that the proposed simplified process be made a Council policy rather than an interim measure.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Karen Naylor.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That Council approve the Palmy Community Garden Guide 2024 (Attachment 1).
2. That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive to issue permits to community gardens.

Clause 47-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

48-24

Nature Calls Quarterly Update

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Manager Three Waters.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Karen Naylor.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Nature Calls Quarterly Update', presented to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.

Clause 48-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

49-24 Committee Work Schedule

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated December 2024.

Clause 49-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 11.34am.

Confirmed 19 February 2025

Chair

REPORT

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 19 February 2025

TITLE: Deliberations report on Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food security and resilience policy

PRESENTED BY: Julie Macdonald, Strategy and Policy Manager

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, General Manager Strategic Planning

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. That the Committee recommend Council adopt *Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai* Food security and resilience Policy, Attachment 2 of this memorandum.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS ANALYSIS

Problem or Opportunity	Council has consulted with the community on a draft <i>Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai</i> Food security and resilience policy [the Policy]. The Committee can deliberate on the submissions made and then recommend that Council either adopt the Policy (as recommended in Attachment 2) or not adopt the Policy and bring this work to a close.
OPTION 1:	Recommend Council adopt the Policy
Community Views	Views on a proposed Policy were sought through a research and engagement phase, and then a formal submissions process. Most submitters were in support of the proposed policy, and Option 1 responds to that support.
Benefits	Council has made various commitments to support food security outcomes through funding and expressions of support for a policy. Formal commitment to a policy would provide certainty for the community about Council's intentions and provide direction for implementation of actions in support for food security and resilience.
Risks	Food security and resilience are broad topics and there is a wide range of activities that would progress desired outcomes. A risk of formalising a policy is to increase expectations for further Council action.
Financial	There are no financial issues associated with this option, beyond those which may emerge from future work to implement an adopted policy.
OPTION 2:	Not recommend Council adopt the Policy
Community Views	Views on a proposed policy were sought through a research and engagement phase, and then a formal submissions process. Most submitters were in support of the proposed policy. Option 2 responds to the views of those submitters who did not support the proposed policy.
Benefits	Declining to commit to a policy at this stage would provide certainty for the community about Council's intentions in response to food security and resilience issues.
Risks	There has been significant research, engagement, and consultation in the development of this work to date. There is a risk that relationships with community partners will be harmed if Council declines to progress work that it has consistently

	signalled it will support.
Financial	There are no financial issues associated with this option.

RATIONALE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY

- 1.1 Council has consulted with the community on its draft *Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food security and resilience policy* [the Policy]. Submitters wishing to speak to their submissions were heard by the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.
- 1.2 This memorandum provides advice to inform deliberations of the Committee in response to submissions received on the proposal (Attachment 1).
- 1.3 This memorandum recommends that the *Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food security and resilience policy* is adopted with amendments as marked (Attachment 2).

2. BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 2.1 The policy development process began in October 2023, following an earlier presentation from Environment Network Manawatū and the Manawatū Food Action Network. The presenters advocated for Council to take a leadership role in developing a policy to support city wellbeing.
- 2.2 The research and engagement stage of the policy process identified areas where direction provided through a Council policy could support city food security and resilience in accordance with the newly adopted strategic direction. This research report is published on [Council's website](#).
- 2.3 During the policy development process, Council resolved to fund Environment Network Manawatū (through the Sector Lead Partnership Agreement for the Environmental Initiatives Fund) an additional \$30,000 per annum to support food security projects ([reference 94-24 2F\(2\)](#)).
- 2.4 At its meeting on 21 August 2024 the Sustainability Committee approved for consultation the draft Policy.
- 2.5 The draft Policy summarised the proposed objectives as:

 'We want to be a city where every resident has access to nutritious and affordable food, and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges. We also want to be part of building a sustainable and inclusive food system that enhances the wellbeing of all residents. The purpose of this policy is to inform and guide Council's actions in support of food security and resilience in our community'.

2.6 The background to the development of the draft Policy is described in more detail in the [report](#) to the Sustainability Committee of 21 August 2024.

3. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT POLICY

3.1 Consultation on the draft Policy was open from 7 October to 8 November 2024. A [summary of submissions](#) was presented to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024, alongside the hearing of those wishing to speak in support of their submissions.

3.2 Most submitters were positive about the proposed Policy, highlighting support for:

- The significance of food security issues
- The importance of collaboration and support for current initiatives and services
- The appropriateness of Council providing leadership in this area
- food security as a core concern of local government

3.3 Submitters who did not support some or all of the proposed policy highlighted:

- Affordability issues for ratepayers
- The inappropriateness of Council's involvement in this area
- That this policy is a waste of resources
- That resources would be better spent on core Council activities

3.4 Rangitāne o Manawatū provided a statement in response to the proposed policy, noting potential for alignment with the Rangitāne o Manawatū Iwi Environmental Management Plan 2021.

4. DESCRIPTION OF OPTIONS

4.1 The Committee has two options:

Option 1: Recommend Council adopt the Policy

Option 2: Not recommend Council adopt the Policy

Advice on each of these options is in section 5 of this report. More detailed discussion and response to issues raised by submitters is provided in Attachment 1.

5. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1: Recommend Council adopt the Policy

- 5.1 Council has consulted the community on its proposed [policy](#). This consultation confirmed Council's stated support (through earlier discussions at Committee) for a formal commitment to food security and resilience.
- 5.2 Attachment 1 provides a detailed analysis of the submissions made, staff response to those submissions, and recommendations for further changes to the proposed policy.
- 5.3 Submitters raised a variety of arguments in favour of amendments to the proposed policy.
- 5.4 Staff recommend the following changes to the Policy:

- Addition of 'food rescue' to the list of current responses by the community to food security issues in the 'Introduction and purpose' section.
- Amendment of the introduction to the 'Objectives' section (with changes shown in red and by strikethrough):

We want to be a city where every resident has access to **healthy and nutritious** ~~and affordable~~ food, and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges. We also want to be part of building a sustainable and inclusive food system that enhances the wellbeing of all residents. The purpose of this policy is to inform and guide Council's actions in support of food security and resilience in our community.

- Amendment of the proposed Objectives (with changes shown in red) to read:
 1. **Equitable** access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food.
 2. A resilient community with reliable access to food.
 3. Local food systems that are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.
 4. Public spaces that support food production alongside other community use.
 5. **Communities and** organisations that are supported to deliver food security and resilience **services and** initiatives.
 6. Community-led educational opportunities that enable individuals, **whānau, and communities** to enhance their knowledge and skills.
 7. Less food is wasted.
 8. An engaged and connected community working together.
- Change of the principle 'Partnership' to 'Relationships' to better reflect the intention and to respond to Rangitāne o Manawatū

concern that use of 'Partnership' here as a principle could diminish the status of the Council-iwi partnership:

~~Partnership~~–**Relationships** – We will be relationship-centred in our actions, in recognition that many others also work to improve community wellbeing.

- 5.5 Council has now made a longstanding commitment to policy-making in this area, and the community can reasonably expect to see an implementation plan and action.
- 5.6 The risk of proceeding to adopt the recommended Policy is that expectations for Council action may exceed the level of commitment shown by Council to implement a policy. This risk can be mitigated by prompt attention to the development of an implementation plan, with clear expectations for action.

Recommendation

There are notable benefits of proceeding with Option 1; Option 1 is therefore recommended.

Option 2: Not recommend Council adopt the Policy

- 5.7 Given that there is no current adopted policy addressing food security and resilience policy, there will not be a decrease in the current commitment by Council if the policy process is discontinued.
- 5.8 The risk of this option is for damage to Council relationships with community partners and interested parties who have participated in the project to date. There will not be an agreed framework for future discussions with the community on potential Council actions to support food security and resilience outcomes.
- 5.9 A further risk is that opportunities to address food security and resilience identified through the policy process will not be addressed. These include, for example, opportunities for changed Council civil defence or parks practices.

Recommendation

- 5.10 *The benefits of proceeding with Option 1 outweigh the benefits of Option 2; Option 2 is therefore not recommended.*

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Council consulted with the community on a proposed *Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food Security and Resilience Policy*. The community response to the proposal was generally supportive, with a range of views expressed by submitters. Many responses were primarily focused on actions Council could take to implement the Policy.
- 6.2 Several amendments to the draft Policy are proposed and shown in Attachment 2.

6.3 The report recommends that the Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy is adopted (Attachment 2).

7. NEXT ACTIONS

7.1 If adopted, the community will be notified and provided with information about any amendments made to the draft proposed for consultation. The Policy will be published to the Council's website.

7.2 If Council adopts the Policy, staff will proceed with the next phases of the policy – to develop an implementation plan and request Senior Leadership Team approval of this plan.

8. OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

8.1 Consultation on the draft Policy was open from 7 October to 8 November 2024. Notification of the consultation was made through public notices, posters around the city, a social media campaign, and media release. A primary method for sharing information about the proposed policy was the distribution of material by Environment Network Manawatū and other community networks (including Te Pū Harakeke Flax Pānui).

8.2 Consultation material was posted on the Council's website along with an online submission form. We also co-ordinated with Environment Network Manawatū to run a drop-in session at the Central Library at the beginning of the consultation period. Printed copies of the consultation document and submission form were made available at the Customer Service Centre, Central Library, and all other community libraries.



8.3 There was early engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū through Te Whiri Kōkō. A formal response from the Kairaukaha Taiao was provided to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024 alongside the 53 submissions. Six of these submitters were heard at that this Committee meeting.

9. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	No
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these objectives?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to: Whāinga 1: He tāone auaha, he tāone tiputipu	

<p>Whāinga 3: He hapori tūhonohono, he hapori haumarū Goal 3: A connected and safe community</p> <p>Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city</p>	
<p>The recommendations contribute to this plan:</p> <p>7. Mahere tautāwhi hapori 7. Community Support Plan</p> <p>AND</p> <p>9. Mahere haumarū hapori, hauora hapori 9. Community Safety and Health Plan</p> <p>AND</p> <p>12. Mahere taumanu para 12. Resource Recovery Plan</p>	
<p>Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being</p>	<p>The recommendations contribute to our objectives for our community to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to services and facilities that are inclusive and appropriate for their needs • the support they want to live healthy lives • community social service groups and facilities that are well supported and invested in • a circular economy with more resource recovery and less waste • a healthy, thriving, ecosystem, including native biodiversity and food security • access to relevant information and education to support more sustainable choices • natural environment-focused community groups and facilities that are well supported and invested in.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Analysis of submissions [↓](#) 
2. Draft Policy for adoption [↓](#) 

Analysis of submissions on the Draft Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai Food security and resilience policy

Purpose of this document

This document provides a detailed analysis of the issues raised by submitters in response to the draft Policy. This analysis should be read in conjunction with both the draft Policy and the full text of each submission. These documents are included in the [agenda](#) of the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.

Overview of the proposal made by Council

The draft Policy proposed that:

“We want to be a city where every resident has access to nutritious and affordable food, and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges. We also want to be part of building a sustainable and inclusive food system that enhances the wellbeing of all residents. The purpose of this policy is to inform and guide Council’s actions in support of food security and resilience in our community”.

Through the submission form, submitters were asked to provide feedback on each section of the proposed policy:

- Objectives
- Principles
- Guidelines

This summary of submissions is structured in these sections, although there is significant overlap in the nature of the additional comments made by submitters on each section.

Summary of consultation response

The draft Policy was adopted for consultation by the Sustainability Committee in August 2024. Consultation on the draft Policy was open from 7 October until 8 November 2024.

The Summary of submissions presented at the 4 December Sustainability Committee summarised the submissions by general theme. In this more detailed analysis, staff respond to the issues raised. Any recommended changes to the draft policy are described, and otherwise NA (Not Applicable) is noted.

Objectives of the proposed policy:

Theme	Submitter's comments	Submission number/s	Staff response	Recommended change
Appreciation for current community efforts	Support and appreciate the efforts and initiatives of volunteers, community gardens, and community organisations and initiatives	5, 43, 49, 51	Noted	NA
Support for policy direction	These are significant issues; great to see Council active	24	Noted	NA
	Support the Council's approach	43, 44, 47, 48, 52		
	Keen to see this initiative implemented	18		
	The approach aligns with Council's strategic direction (e.g. impacts of climate change)	15		
	PNCC is kaitiaki of our community and should support whānau to have enough kai to be part of society	41		
	The approach is comprehensive	15, 40		
	Fruit trees and community gardens have positive outcomes	18, 41, 51		
	Endorse support for community gardens	38		
Importance of knowledge	We need to learn from history and bring back the old ways	6		
Importance of food security and resilience	Food resilience and security are critical to community wellbeing	44		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
Non-GMO seed	Access to quality heritage, non-GMO seeds is important to kai sovereignty	42	Noted	NA
Funding	Funding should be more transparently allocated and accounted for	35	Noted	NA
	More support needed for 'boots on the ground' initiatives	35	The proposed policy is not the mechanism through which Council sets the level of financial support for community initiatives Noted	NA
Focus on education	Prefer focus on education and connection to services, rather than provision of direct services	28, 36	Support for community-led educational opportunities is objective 6 Noted	NA
Council land and resources	Prefer focus on making council-owned land and public space available	36	Noted	NA
	Support using Council resources (e.g. meeting spaces) for these objectives	43		
	PNCC is the largest city landholder and should open up green space to enable food growing and sharing	41		
Culturally-appropriate food	Don't appreciate the term 'culturally appropriate food'/ don't think this is an issue	12, 22	Noted	NA
	Support the inclusion of 'culturally appropriate food'	15		
Nutrition	Support inclusion of nutrition	38	Noted	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
Suggestions for action	Suggest foodbanks at multiple locations	18	These suggestions are for specific actions in implementation of an adopted policy	NA These suggestions will be considered during the implementation-planning phase following policy adoption
	Would like noticeboards and website information to share information about gardening, resources, and events	43		
	'Community' should be a whole of city response	33		
	There is great need for pātaka kai and need support, especially on the Eastern side of the city	47	Each of these is potentially within scope of implementation	
	Council could provide technical gardening advice and support	43		
	Suggest (as amendments to objectives) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local food systems where consumers are directly connected to food growers A system of sustainably dealing with food waste that is both local and centred around seeing it as a resource Facilitate secure land access for community groups and members of the community who want to be involved in food security and resilience activities A food sovereignty "Hub" that operates as the centre of community based food security and resilience activities in our city 	47, 48, 50	Noted	
	Just Zilch needs new premises and Council could support this	5		
	Public land should be renamed as 'commons' for growing food	51		
	Consider how produce grown could benefit schools	51		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Consider how food production in the region could contribute to policy outcomes (e.g. use of high class soils)	38		
	Support long-term funding to build long-term resilience	38		
Affordability	The objectives do not reference affordability – this should be remedied	28	Affordability is currently referenced in the introduction and purpose of the policy, included as part of the definition of food security. See comment immediately below	NA
	Suggest removing 'affordable' from the objectives, as this presumes food is purely a commodity. Suggest alternative wording for the introduction section: "We want to be a city where every resident has access to healthy and nutritious food through a variety of sources , and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges"	47, 48, 50	The point is noted – while affordability of food is a defining factor of food security, the intention is not to only frame food as a commodity. The appropriate emphasis is on equity and access.	Recommend amendment to introduction of objectives: "We want to be a city where every resident has access to healthy and nutritious and affordable food, and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges"

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
				No change recommended to the definition of food security in the introduction section
Attention to monitoring progress	Good measures and monitoring over time are needed	15, 29, 40	Noted	NA
Consideration of other materials	Suggest use of the Local Government Food Environmental Policy Initiatives Tool (Local Food-EPI)	29	This international tool used to assess progress by governments, has now been adapted for local government use in Australia. The scope of the local government tool (in draft) is somewhat broader than this proposed policy (e.g., some areas are in other Council direction-setting documents, such as the District Plan and the proposed Health Promotion Policy). The tool will provide a useful resource for the development of an implementation and monitoring plan	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Review the outcome of the Dunedin City Council's Food Resilience Policy and research	51	Noted	NA
Framing of issues	Suggest a broader look at the whole food system to identify actions to address food insecurity	40	The policy currently frames policy objectives as contributing primarily to Goal 3 and 4 outcomes. Noted	NA
Equity	Suggest amendment: Support equity, and suggest 'equitable access' is added to objective one [not in objective 3]	38	This proposed amendment reinforces the objective of equity access for communities, and is not in contradiction with objective 3 (which focuses on food systems)	Add 'equitable' to objective 1
	Suggest amendment: 1. Equitable access to healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods	47, 48, 50		
Food production	Suggest amendment: 4. Public spaces that support community based food production alongside other community use.	47, 48, 50	The inclusion of 'community-based' food production is already implicit in objective 4, however this addition would exclude other food production (such as by Council itself)	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Suggest addition: 9. Local food systems where consumers are directly connected to food growers	47, 48, 50	Objective 8 is “An engaged and connected community working together”.	NA
	Suggest a new objective: 'Local policy and planning support local production of low emissions, healthy food'	37	The proposed objective captures the connection between Council activities and food security. However, the Objectives are what Council wants to achieve – the Guidelines suggest that all activities of Council (including planning) will reflect the objectives, and especially objective 3 (which directly addresses environmental sustainability of food systems)	NA
Support for communities	Suggest amendment: 5. Communities and organisations that are supported to deliver food security and resilience initiatives.	47, 48, 50	This wording better captures the intent of this objective	Recommend amending objective 5: “Communities and organisations”

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
Food waste	Suggest addition: 7. Minimisation of food waste through community education and support of food rescue services.	47, 48, 50	This suggestion is for a specific actions in implementation of an adopted policy This is potentially within scope of implementation Noted	NA
	Suggest addition: 10. A system of sustainably dealing with food waste that is both local and centred around seeing it as a resource.	47, 48, 50	Objective 7 is "Less food is wasted" and captures this intent.	NA
	Addressing food waste is important	15, 18, 38	Noted	
Scope of policy and Council role	Suggest Council support expanded to 'services' and not only 'initiatives'	38	Noted	For clarity, recommend addition to objective 5: "...food security and resilience services and initiatives "
	Suggest objective six refers to communities and whānau (not only individuals)	38	Noted	Recommend addition to objective 6: 'individuals, whanau, and communities '
	This is a racist agenda and should stop	17	Noted	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Not sure we need greater food security	22		
	Concern that objectives could lead to over-reach by Council	22		
	There is plenty of information available on the internet	24		
	This is a waste of ratepayer's money/ not the Council's role	8, 10, 12, 13, 17		
	Food waste is a national problem and should be addressed nationally	36		
	Better to focus on core council activities	7, 10, 12, 13, 27, 36		
	Multiple other organisations are already doing these things	10, 36		

Principles of the proposed policy:

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
Partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū	This principle is vital to ensure the outcomes are achieved	44	Noted	NA
	Support the wording here	47, 48, 50	Noted	NA
Equity	There are no inequitable opportunities and outcomes	10	Noted	NA
	Helpful to identify and make commitments to marginalised groups	15		
	Support equity lens within each aspect of implementation	29		
	Need more clarification about what this means	35	'Equity' is explained in the Principles section	NA
Partnership	City-wide partnerships are essential	33	Noted	NA
	Helpful to explain how these partnerships will be supported	15	How the policy will demonstrate the principles will be addressed in the implementation plan	NA
Collaboration	General support for collaboration	29, 38, 47, 48, 50, 53	Noted	NA
	Collaboration means jointly together not 'you pay and we collaborate'	12		
	Helpful to explain how this collaboration will be supported	15	How the policy will demonstrate the principles will be addressed in the implementation plan	NA
Don't support the principles	Disagree with resources going to this issue	12, 22, 27	Noted	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	This is not Council's role	13, 27		
	There are charities to do this work	13		
	This policy is racist	17		
General	The important thing is implementation	28		

Guidelines of the proposed policy:

Theme	Submitter's comments	Submission number/s	Staff response	Recommended change
General support for Council's proposed role	Local bodies should respond to government initiatives	43	Noted	NA
	Embedding these objectives and activities into Council will result in the greatest gains	44		
	Council can provide leadership on food action	15, 29, 39, 47, 48, 50		
	Access to adequate food is a human right and this policy addresses a core role of Council	47, 48, 50		
	Food is connected to many other facets of life, and to many areas of Council operation	44, 47, 48, 50		
	Importance of guidelines being implemented	28		
	Support food resilience as a core part of emergency management	15		
Do not support Council's proposed role	These are central government responsibilities	10	Noted	NA
	There are charities to do this work	10, 13		
	Information is available elsewhere	27		
	This is a waste of ratepayer's money/ not the Council's role	10, 12, 13, 27		
Proposed amendments and requests for action	Emphasise 'healthy' food	29,32	Noted	NA
	Support consulting with local suburbs to see what they want in terms of guidelines	33		
	PNCC could lead the way with herb and vegetables gardens throughout the city	33	These suggestions are for a specific actions in implementation of an adopted policy	NA
	There could be food banks at libraries, schools and other locations	18		
	Funding should be more transparently allocated and accounted for	35		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Cultural mapping of locations of current initiatives	15	They are potentially within scope of implementation. Noted	
	Incentivise sustainable practices by local businesses	15		
	Include 'resource management planning' in guideline 1	37	All activities of Council are within scope of Guideline 1	NA
	Add 'including about prioritising food production for domestic supply' to guideline 2	37	As written, Guideline 2 includes advocacy on the objectives of the policy; Objective 3 is relevant here	NA

General comments

Theme	Submitter's comments	Submission number/s	Staff response	Recommended change
General support for the Draft Policy	Welcome guidance and advice, as well as opportunities to work with like-minded people	20	Noted	NA
	Support community-led and existing solutions and initiatives	15, 29		
	Commend Council for this policy and encourage support for it	15, 30, 32, 37, 39, 44, 47, 48, 50, 52		
	The policy aligns with the CAJC's Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Action Plan	30		
	Many people experience food security issues, and these are often related to insecure housing, mobility issues, disability, low incomes, and poor access to a variety of food.	53		
Do not support the Draft Policy	Unaffordability for ratepayers is a major issue	10, 28	Noted	NA
	This is not the Council's role	12, 27		
	This is Government's responsibility	12		
	There are more important priorities for Council	13, 22, 27		
Proposed amendments, comments, and requests for action	Ensure productive land is protected	25	Noted	NA
	Just Zilch is a great initiative and should focus on healthy food	26		
	Suggest greater emphasis on nutrition, public health and sustainability	29		
	Support community funding and support for food security and resilience initiatives	32, 33, 38, 39, 47, 53		
	The policy seems very general	28		
	Keen to see implementation plan and monitoring	38		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Interested in participating in discussions on food waste monitoring (to ensure repurposing)	38		
	Suggest permission and co-ordination for non-formal initiatives	33	A simplified process for community gardens was supported by Council in December 2024 Noted	NA
	Important to look at tensions between various Council policies	28	Point taken. This is something elected members have the opportunity to consider through all direction-setting processes	NA
	Many volunteers lack access to facilities and space to encourage food sharing	33	Noted	NA
	Suggest a register of current activities and recognition for these	33	These suggestions are for a specific actions in implementation of an adopted policy	NA
	Proposed potential initiatives to follow from the policy in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive environment for breastfeeding • Retail outlets and retail environments • Food production and supply chain 	40		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste • Support for communities • Leadership and governance • Monitoring • Funding 		They are potentially within scope of implementation Noted	
	Support Council funding Pasifika-led initiatives and those cultural values and practices	15	Noted	NA
	Greater acknowledgement is needed of the significance of food insecurity on children and young people	34	The research report underpinning this analysis has a focus on children and young people. The proposed policy deliberately references individuals, family, whānau, and communities to be inclusive, rather than specific demographic groups	NA
	Involvement of young people in initiatives can help make long-term change	15	Noted	NA
	Helpful to prioritise areas of action, including actions in response to climate risk	15		

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
	Suggest the addition of 'food rescue' to introduction	38	Noted	Recommend adding 'food rescue to the introductory text: "These include community development, food rescue , education, food markets, direct support, māra kai, and social enterprise."
	Suggest adding other key areas of Council's roles where this policy could be influential [in introduction] (e.g. advocacy, data collection, analysis and information sharing, facilitation of collaboration/ support for groups doing community development)	38	The list of functions of Council mentioned in the introduction is not intended to be an exhaustive one	NA
Education	Support education initiatives, and ask for more detail here	15	More detail will emerge once an implementation plan has been considered	NA
Local food	Encourage greater focus on local food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 'selling and retailing food' • Add 'sustainable food production and access to local food' 	37	The term 'distributing food' is inclusive of selling and retailing	NA

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
			Noted	
Purpose and strategic direction	<p>Support linking the policy to all four strategic goals (because):</p> <p>Whaingā 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security as a community aspiration • Food production is an important component of our business sector • Sustainable production is linked to climate change response and food security outcomes • Linked to resilient low carbon economy <p>Whaingā 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food resilience is linked to community and cultural facilities • There are opportunities to celebrate our cultures • Food security activities are linked to events, activities, and places for communities 	47, 48, 50	<p>While food is certainly connected in some ways to Goal 1 and Goal 2 outcomes, the links to food security and resilience seem more tenuous than would warrant strategic alignment in the way suggested. CEDA's Manawatū Food Strategy appears to be alignment to Goal 1 outcomes, where Food production is identified as a regional strength, but not necessarily for food security reasons. There is potential for an adopted Food</p>	

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Submitter's comments</i>	<i>Submission number/s</i>	<i>Staff response</i>	<i>Recommended change</i>
			security policy to be referenced in a future Statement of Expectations for CEDA	

Rangitāne o Manawatū position on the draft Policy

The position of Rangitāne o Manawatū on the draft policy was provided to the Sustainability Committee alongside the submissions discussed above. The statement is overall in support of the proposed policy. Some specific responses to points made are below, and should be read in conjunction with the statement itself.

1. The statement draws attention to the Rangitāne o Manawatū Iwi Environmental Management Plan 2021, which identifies the seven outcome areas of the Whānau Ora Framework.
2. Some suggestions are made to align the implementation of an adopted policy with the outcomes identified in the Environmental Management Plan.
Staff comment: The examples noted in response to the Objectives section are within scope of implementation. In particular, the focus on increasing food supply (and traditional food sources) through public land is aligned with the proposed objectives 2, 3, 4, and 6.
3. The statement recommends that the principle of 'Partnership' be amended to 'Relationships'.
Staff comment: We note that the explanatory text under the 'partnership' principle describes being 'relationship-centred', and so support this recommendation.
4. The statement notes the significant work of Ora Konnect and the 4412 Kai Resilience Strategy, and the importance of integration between this work and an adopted policy.
5. The statement also welcomes opportunities to partner with PNCC in the implementation of an adopted policy.

Te kaupapahere mō te tūwhita me te manawaroa o te kai

Food security and resilience policy

Te kupu whakataki me te pūtake

Introduction and purpose

Food security is a fundamental part of community wellbeing. It means having reliable access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. Food security includes not only the availability of food but also affordability, accessibility, and the ability and opportunity to prepare and store food.

A food system's capacity to provide food security, even during shocks and disruptions, is referred to as 'food resilience'¹. Achieving food resilience is crucial for ensuring long-term food security, especially during times of instability.

Despite New Zealand's agricultural abundance, food insecurity persists, particularly for individuals and families on low incomes.² In Palmerston North, community organisations have identified a range of strategies to provide an effective response to food insecurity. These include community development, **food rescue**, education, food markets, direct support, māra kai, and social enterprise. Our Council's roles, including funding and support, civil defence responsibilities, and guidance for the use of public space, can also have an impact on our city's food security and resilience.

Community leaders working to improve food security and resilience outcomes for whānau have advocated for Council to develop a policy in response to food insecurity, and to take a leadership role in supporting wellbeing in the city. The purpose of this policy is to guide Council's actions and activities in support of city food security and resilience.

Te horopaki o te rautaki

Strategic context

Our vision for our city is He iti rā, he iti pounamu - Small city benefits, big city ambition. Council seeks to fulfil this vision through four goals:

Whāinga 1: He tāone auaha, he tāone tiputipu

Goal 1: An innovative and growing city

Whāinga 2: He tāone whakaihiihi, tapatapahi ana

Goal 2: A creative and exciting city

Whāinga 3: He hapori tūhonohono, he hapori haumarū

Goal 3: A connected and safe community

Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa

Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city

This policy contributes to *Whāinga 3: He hapori tūhonohono, he hapori haumarū* Goal 3: A connected and safe community, and to the outcomes we want for our communities:

¹ A food system is defined as a network of activities and organisations involved in growing, processing, manufacturing, transporting, storing, distributing, and consuming food.

² [Food security report | Palmerston North City Council \(pncc.govt.nz\)](https://pncc.govt.nz)

- access to services and facilities that are inclusive and appropriate for their needs
- the support they want to live healthy lives
- community social service groups and facilities that are well supported and invested in

This policy also contributes to *Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city*, and to the outcomes we want for our community:

- a circular economy with more resource recovery and less waste
- a healthy, thriving, ecosystem, including native biodiversity and food security
- access to relevant information and education to support more sustainable choices
- natural environment-focused community groups and facilities that are well supported and invested in

Ngā whāinga

Objectives

We want to be a city where every resident has access to **healthy and nutritious and affordable** food, and where the community is resilient in the face of food-related challenges. We also want to be part of building a sustainable and inclusive food system that enhances the wellbeing of all residents. The purpose of this policy is to inform and guide Council's actions in support of food security and resilience in our community.

Our objectives are to have:

1. **Equitable** access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food.
2. A resilient community with reliable access to food.
3. Local food systems that are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.
4. Public spaces that support food production alongside other community use.
5. **Communities and** organisations that are supported to deliver food security and resilience **services and** initiatives.
6. Community-led educational opportunities that enable individuals, **whānau, and communities** to enhance their knowledge and skills.
7. Less food is wasted.
8. An engaged and connected community working together.

Ngā mātāpono

Principles

Partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū – we will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū on projects and initiatives of agreed priority and embed a Whānau Ora approach in our work.³

Equity – We acknowledge the inequitable opportunities and outcomes experienced by communities and will work to ensure access and opportunity for everyone.

³ [Oranga Papaioea City Strategy](#).

~~Partnership Relationships~~ – We will be relationship-centred in our actions, in recognition that many others also work to improve community wellbeing.

Collaboration – We will work alongside others towards our shared goals.

Ngā aratohu

Guidelines

The Council will:

1. Embed the objectives of this policy in decision-making and implementation of activities including community support and funding, resource recovery, housing, emergency management, and the use of public space.
2. Advocate for food security and resilience to national and local decision-makers.
3. Support initiatives that promote food security and resilience.

Te aroturuki me te arotake

Monitoring and review

This policy provides a mandate for Council's involvement in actions that support food security and resilience. We will develop an implementation plan to guide us and to keep track of our progress.

The outcomes of this policy will be evident in high-level and slow-moving community wellbeing indicators. Our community wellbeing monitoring (see the [City Dashboards](#)) will track this high-level progress. The activities driven by the policy will also be publicly reported every year through the Council Committee.

A review of the policy will be considered after five years, or earlier if requested by Council.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 19 February 2025

TITLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls: Quarterly Update

PRESENTED BY: Mike Monaghan, Manager Three Waters

APPROVED BY: Chris Dyhrberg, General Manager Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant – Nature Calls: Quarterly Update' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 19 February 2025.
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Nature Calls Project Team completed the concept design and development of the resource consent application to Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) in late 2022. This was the culmination of four years of work developing the Best Practicable Option (BPO), which comprises highly treated wastewater being discharged to the Manawatū River or to land.
- 1.2 Quarterly updates for the project were requested by Council. This report provides an update on the project for the period from October to December 2024.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Nature Calls project continues to solidify the project planning as we wait for the release of the National Wastewater standards first draft. This is to ensure that only no regrets work is completed before we can get more certainty on the direction provided by the proposed standards. The standards currently being developed by Taumata Arowai will provide discharge standards for wastewater operators across New Zealand. The Nature Calls project will need to consider these standards when assessing discharge options.
- 2.2 The project team have mapped out different scenarios for our approach post the draft standard release considering best and worst-case consenting circumstances and potential programmes associated with each.
- 2.3 Engagement with iwi has also been a focus, with a regular meeting with the project delivery team now being established.

3. BEST PRACTICABLE OPTION (BPO) UPDATE

- 3.1 The project has progressed through Step 1 of the BPO, the review of the long list. The Step 2 draft short list was prepared for a workshop with Elected Members in December; this workshop has been deferred to February 2025 to work through these options in further detail.
- 3.2 The project team are awaiting the release of the draft National Wastewater standards prior to progressing further work.
- 3.3 The project team have identified two potential pathways post draft-standards for the purposes of programme and cost management. These include:
- **An Optimistic Pathway** - this approach assumes the following:
 - That the draft standards will result in a significant reduction in Resource Management Act (RMA) approvals. It must be noted that there is little guidance from Taumata Arowai to indicate that the RMA will be amended in parallel with the draft standards being prepared. However, a 'permitted' approach to wastewater discharge standards at the end of the pipe may result in a more permissive consenting pathway; and
 - A more permissive consenting pathway could result in a shortened programme and budget required to prepare and submit a resource consent application. This could also reduce programme and budget for the post-lodgement process.
 - **The Conservative Pathway** – this approach assumes the following:
 - That a BPO process and consenting pathway similar to the current consent is required, despite the draft standards providing additional guidance. This pathway is similar to what was followed previously but looks to streamline process and utilise previous work wherever possible.

4. HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL

- 4.1 An update to Horizons Regional Council was provided on 20 December 2024 as per the quarterly commitment to provide updates on the project.
- 4.2 The Project Manager met with the Processing Planner at Horizons in January 2024 to discuss the implications of the draft wastewater standards and the project. Due to the uncertainty for Horizons as the regulator as well as Council as a result of the draft standards, it was agreed that the project team would reconnect with Horizons post-release of the standards.

5. IWI INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 A regular meeting has been established with representatives from Rangitāne, Te Tūmatakahuki and Ngāti Whakātere. The purpose of these meetings is to

provide an opportunity to integrate iwi into the project's development and delivery, as the project progresses.

6. BIOSOLIDS STRATEGY UPDATE

- 6.1 The project conducted site investigations of the Awapuni landfill southern slopes to confirm the infiltration capacity of the soil. This testing determined the current soil layer meets infiltration requirements.
- 6.2 A meeting with Horizons will be arranged to communicate this. Reducing the requirement for additional clay capping layer reduces cost to prepare the slopes for biosolids remediation. Further planning works are also required to define the slope preparing activities.

7. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 7.1 The organisation structure presented to Council has been established, with regular reporting and updates to the groups. The Project Oversight Committee meetings have started on a monthly basis to provide senior management direction on the project.

8. RISK

- 8.1 The following top risks have been identified and are being actively managed by the project team:

Risk	Risk Level	Mitigations	Residual Risk
<p>National Wastewater Standards Could change consenting requirements. Cannot make objective decisions on consenting strategy if unknown. Potential regretful spending and/or delays.</p>	<p>■ EXTREME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rework programme timeline and accept time delays, continuing with no regrets works only • Monitor standards progress 	<p>■ VERY HIGH</p>
<p>LTP budget Cannot find a solution that meets the LTP FY24-34 budget. Current consented option is over the LTP budget. If too high, may not secure funding for the project.</p>	<p>■ EXTREME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce fatal flaw screening on estimated option cost • Adjustment of weighting of BPO selection considered with input from EMs (workshop now planned) 	<p>■ VERY HIGH</p>
<p>Ratepayer affordability Ratepayers unable to afford the proposed scheme caused by estimated high capital and operational</p>	<p>■ EXTREME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has set LTP budget cap, with instructions to reduce further if possible • BPO process introduced 	<p>■ VERY HIGH</p>

Risk	Risk Level	Mitigations	Residual Risk
cost of the proposed Nature Calls scheme.		fatal flaw screen based on budget and BPO selection weightings to be adjusted	
<p>Iwi relationships The project does not engage and consult with Iwi. Caused by the failure to recognise and fulfil obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.</p>	■ EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iwi represented on Project Oversight Committee Iwi involvement and consultation in operational project in place with regular fortnightly meetings established Regular updates to Te Whirekoko meetings Identified and engaged with all iwi with affected rohe 	■ HIGH

9. BUDGET

- 9.1 At the end of December 2024, a total of \$529,910 has been spent YTD from the revised \$2.1M Nature Calls budget for 24/25 (previously \$3M).
- 9.2 Project spend to date is \$12.2M which includes \$5.8M of operational costs and \$6.4M of capital costs since FY17-18.
- 9.3 The project spend for 24/25 is detailed below.

Cost Line	FY Revised Budget	Committed	Forecast	Actual
FY25 TOTAL	\$2,100,000	\$1,804,978	\$2,020,000	529,910
BPO	1,756,857	933,880	1,170,000	302,600
Biosolids Strategy	343,143	1,899	100,000	42,354
Project Management	543,000	279,158	370,000	184,956

10. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	Yes
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	Yes

Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these objectives?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to: Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city	
The recommendations contribute to this plan: 13. Mahere wai 13. Water Plan The objective is: Lodge resource consent application for future discharge of Wastewater Treatment Plant	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Lodging for resource consent allows Council to continue to provide its wastewater services and allows for future proofing the city.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 19 February 2025

TITLE: Committee Work Schedule

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated February 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2025

Estimated Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction & Clause number
19 February 2025	Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy – deliberations	General Manager Strategic Planning		21 August 2024 Clause 23-24
19 February 2025 16 April 2025 18 June 2025	Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls: Quarterly Report	General Manager Infrastructure		Council 29 May 2024 Clause 95.11 - 25 (rec 2)
16 April 2025	Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Joint Action Committee Update	General Manager Strategic Planning	Subject to agenda of Joint Committee or any changes at a national level	Climate change plan ongoing
19 February 2025 16 April 2025	Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatū	General Manager Customer & Community	Deferred to allow for adequate data collection	Terms of Reference
16 April 2025	Local Water Done Well – hearings	General Manager Infrastructure		Terms of Reference

18 June 2025	Draft community-focused city-wide climate action plan	General Manager Strategic Planning		Climate change plan ongoing action #5 16 October 2024 Clause 34-24
18 June 2025	Resource Recovery Services Review	General Manager Infrastructure		21 August 2024 Clause 28-24
	PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory 2024/25 Annual Report	General Manager Strategic Planning	Council 8 October	Climate change plan ongoing action #1
	Waste management and minimisation plan 2019 - annual progress update for 2024/25 FY	General Manager Infrastructure	Council 8 October	9 Sept 2020 Clause 17-20
	Citywide Emissions Inventory 2024 Annual Report	General Manager Strategic Planning	Council 8 October	Climate change plan ongoing action #3
	Low Carbon Fund Allocations 2024/25	General Manager Strategic Planning	Council 8 October	21 August 2024 Clause 24-24
2025	Options to enable inclusion of organisational and community-wide sustainability indicators in the 2026 Sustainability Review	General Manager Corporate Services/CFO		22 May 2024 Clause 15
2025	Progress report on the city-wide stormwater strategy	General Manager Strategic Planning		16 October 2024 Clause 42-24

TBC 2026	Develop a city-wide stormwater strategy	General Manager Strategic Planning	Prior to the development of 2027 FDS	Council 29 May 2024 Clause 95.7 -24 2F(3)
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