

COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE/ NGĀ ĀRAHINA MAHINGA

Chair	Councillor Templeton
Membership	Councillor Chen Councillor Coker Councillor Cotter Councillor Davidson Councillor Donovan Councillor Galloway Councillor Scandrett
Quorum	Half the members if the number of the members (including vacancies) is even, or a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.
Meeting Cycle	As required – potentially monthly
Reports To	Sustainability and Community Resilience Committee
Focus	Climate change issues and opportunities, excluding coastal hazards adaptation planning.

Background/Context

The Council delegates to the Sustainability and Community Resilience Committee authority to oversee and make decisions on ‘implementing the Council’s climate change initiatives and strategies’.

Christchurch and the Council face a number of climate change challenges, both within Council’s own operations, and across the district. These issues require ongoing attention. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting to the changing climate will become increasingly important to Council and to our district as a whole.

It is proposed that a Council working group comprising of Elected Members be established to work with staff to guide a co-ordinated ‘whole of Council’ approach to climate change issues, and ensure that Council is living up to its Strategic Priority of ‘Meeting the challenge of climate change through every means available’.

Purpose and Responsibilities

The Council Climate Change Working Group will work with staff (and any external parties invited to attend the working group), to support the delivery of both internally and externally focused climate change policy and actions, including both mitigation and adaptation issues.

The Council Climate Change Working Group may make recommendations to the Sustainability and Community Resilience Committee on climate change issues.

Specific responsibilities of the working group will include providing advice and feedback to staff in advance of decisions, raising awareness about climate change issues, and supporting the development and implementation of action on climate change.

An early area of focus will be to oversee the initial implementation of the draft Ōtautahi Climate Change Strategy, including advising on the potential membership of the joint Christchurch Climate Leadership Group proposed in the draft Ōtautahi Christchurch Climate Change Strategy.

Ongoing work with staff may include issues relating to Climate Change Risk Assessment work, Council's internal Resource Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions programme, and consideration of Regional and National policy and actions, including advice on submissions to central government.

Exclusions

The work of the Coastal Hazards Working Group (to support the delivery of both the Proposed Plan Change – New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Alignment and Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning programme) is out of scope for this working group.

Involvement of External Parties

External parties may be invited to attend a working group meeting based on specific needs.

Delegations

There are no delegations provided to this group.

Status

The Council Climate Change Working Group does not have the status of a Committee, and the Council's Standing Orders accordingly do not apply to its meeting.