



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST 2026 commencing at 9.00 am.**

Present

Cllrs S J Arbuckle (Acting Chairperson), G A Hope, R J Innes, M J Taylor and Acting Mayor J D N Croad

Present via Teams

Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative)

Also Present

Cllrs S R W Adams (from 9.17 am), C M W Dawson, and T P Sowman

In Attendance

Mr H R Versteegh (Group Manager Environmental Science and Policy) and Ms G Ferguson (Group Manager Consents and Compliance), and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary) and Ms B Brookland (Secretary)

Apologies

Cllrs Innes/ Taylor

That the apology for absence from Cllr B A Faulls, A R Burgess, Mayor N P Taylor, Cllr J C Hyndman and Mr R McKinney (Iwi Representative) be received and sustained and the apology from Cllr Adams for lateness be noted.

Carried

E&P-0826-63 Declaration of Interests

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Zeke Hoskins, Council's Biodiversity Officer, was present for the following item.

**E&P-0826-64 Working for Nature Grants / Mahi mō te
Taiao Grant Scheme E390-005-26-06**

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176756).

The Committee received the report on the Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Scheme. The report noted that the 2025/2026 grant round concluded on 1 June 2026, with all funded projects achieving their expected outcomes.

The Committee was advised that applications for the 2026/2027 grant round were open from 1 April to 30 April 2026. A total of 39 applications were received, seeking \$349,129.25 in funding, against an available fund of \$142,400. The Grant Sub-Committee assessed the applications against the scheme criteria and approved 22 applicants for partial or full funding. All applicants have been notified of the outcome.

To read further information on the Working for Nature funded trapping project, see the Trap NZ website <https://trap.nz/index.html>

Acting Mayor Croad/Cllr Innes:

That the Committee recommends that Council approves the funding allocations recommended by the Working for Nature / Mahi mō te Taiao Grant Sub-Committee for the 2026-2027 funding round.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Adams joined the meeting at 9.17 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Liam Falconer, Council's Biosecurity Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-65 Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2025 / 2026 E315-002-005-10, E315-002-005-11

The Committee received the Biosecurity Operational Plan Report for 2025/2026. The report outlined Council's biosecurity activities for the year and noted that the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018–2028 had been reviewed on 1 July 2026.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176753).

The Committee noted that operational delivery had been successful, with 99% of targets achieved, 1% almost achieved and no targets not achieved. The report highlighted progress across pest programmes, delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, continued monitoring of exclusion pests, and work on emerging biosecurity threats affecting the region.

The Committee also noted the proposed addition of a new annual performance target requiring a minimum of 30 awareness and engagement actions relating to Chilean needle grass.

Mr Falconer noted the Council's Biosecurity team will be chairing the National Marine Biosecurity Committee for the next three years.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Innes:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That the below additional performance target be added into the operational plan is approved.**
(a) *Each year, a minimum of 30 awareness and engagement actions are undertaken relating to Chilean needle grass.*
- 3. That the annual report on the Biosecurity Operational Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year be approved by the Council in accordance with section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.**

Carried

Note: The order of the agenda was altered at this point of the meeting and the following Item 6 was heard ahead of Item 5 which was moved to be considered after Item 19.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Sarah Pearson, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-66 Update on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill – Select Committee Reports L150-019-R01-01

The Committee considered the update on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill following the Environment Select Committee's report back. The Committee noted that the Bills remain the Government's proposed replacement for the Resource Management Act and that the Select Committee has recommended they proceed through Parliament with amendments.

The Committee noted that the overall structure of the reforms has been retained, including the two-Act framework, Regional Spatial Plans, regulatory relief provisions and transition arrangements. Key amendments include revised purposes and goals, changes to the treatment of climate change effects, expanded Ministerial powers, amendments to Regional Spatial Planning provisions and an extended transition period.

The Committee further noted that some aspects of Council's submission were reflected in the amended Bills, including improved integration between the Bills, clarification of national direction, permitted activity provisions and retention of first-in, first-served allocation methods. However, Council's request for the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan to be deemed a combined plan under the new system was not adopted.

The Committee noted that uncertainty remains regarding the final form of the legislation, future national direction, wider legislative and local government reforms, and implementation implications. Staff will continue to monitor the legislation and report back once the final Acts are enacted.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Innes:
That the report be received.
Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following two items.

E&P-0826-67 Climate Change Response Amendment Bill

E320-003-001

The Committee considered the report on the Climate Change Response Amendment Bill. The report outlined the purpose and key implications of the Bill, including proposed changes to the national emissions reduction and climate adaptation framework.

The Committee noted that the Bill proposes amendments to the Climate Change Response Act, including changes relating to emissions budgets, the emissions reduction plan process, adaptation planning and the role of the Climate Change Commission. The Committee also noted that the proposed amendments may have implications for local government planning, reporting and implementation responsibilities.

The Committee further noted that staff will continue to monitor the progress of the Bill and assess any implications for Council once the legislation is finalised.

Cllr Hope/Acting Mayor Croad:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That the Committee seek Council approval to establish a Climate Change Response Amendment Bill Sub-Committee comprising Cllrs Hope, Hyndman and Croad.**
- 3. That the Committee recommends Council delegate authority to the Sub-Committee to determine whether Council will make a submission on the Climate Change Response Amendment Bill, including approve the preparation and lodgement of any submission on behalf of Council, and represent Council during any Select Committee hearing process.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Dr Scott Stephens and Dr Jing Yang from Earth Sciences New Zealand were present via Teams for the following item.

**E&P-0826-68 Assessment of the Impact of Climate
Change and Sea Level Rise on Groundwater
E320-003-001**

The Committee considered the report on the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Groundwater. The report outlined work undertaken to assess potential risks to groundwater resources from projected sea level rise and climate change effects.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176749).

The Committee noted that the assessment considered possible impacts on groundwater levels, salinity, recharge patterns and the longer-term security of groundwater supplies. The report highlighted the importance of continued monitoring and improved understanding of climate-related risks to support future planning and resource management decisions.

An integrated surface-water and groundwater model was updated and calibrated using current geological, hydrological, monitoring, irrigation and water-use data. Fifty-four future scenarios were assessed using six climate models. Inland impacts are primarily driven by climate change. Coastal shallow groundwater could rise by up to one metre, primarily because of sea-level rise. No significant change is expected in the deeper coastal aquifer. Effects are expected to become more pronounced after approximately 2040 and intensify toward 2100 and beyond. Existing monitoring indicates that shallow coastal groundwater levels are already rising.

The Committee noted that staff will continue to monitor groundwater trends and consider the findings as part of ongoing climate change adaptation, freshwater management and infrastructure planning work.

Cllrs Hope/Taylor:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Charlotte Tomlinson, Council's Environmental Scientist - Hydrology, was present for the following two items.

**E&P-0826-69 High Intensity Rainfall Design System
(HIRDS) 2025 Update E320-002-001**

The Committee considered the report on the High Intensity Rainfall Design System (HIRDS) 2025 update. The report outlined changes to rainfall intensity estimates and design rainfall data relevant to infrastructure planning, stormwater management and flood risk assessment.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176746).

The Committee noted that the updated HIRDS information provides improved rainfall projections, including allowance for climate change, and will assist Council in assessing future rainfall-related risks and informing engineering, planning and infrastructure decision-making.

The Committee also noted that staff will consider the updated data in relevant technical assessments, infrastructure design standards and future climate resilience work.

Cllrs Taylor/Innes:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner was present for the following three items and Andy White, Council's Rivers & Drainage Engineering Manager was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-70

Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment 2025

E320-002-001

The Committee considered the report on the Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment 2025. The report provided an update on flood frequency analysis for the Wairau catchment, including revised information to support flood hazard assessment, infrastructure planning and future resource management decisions.

The Committee noted that the assessment incorporates updated hydrological data and modelling to improve understanding of flood risk across the catchment. The updated information will assist Council in planning for flood resilience, informing engineering design, and supporting climate change adaptation work.

The Committee noted that staff will continue to use the assessment to guide relevant river management, infrastructure and planning decisions.

Clr Hope/Acting Mayor Croad:

1. That the Wairau Catchment Flood Frequency Assessment Report 2025 be received.
2. That the Committee recommends that Council endorses the specific use of the updated hydrological information within the Wairau River Scheme Review (Floodplain Management Plan), particularly as it applies to Levels of Service for @Barnetts Bank (5,850 m³/s), and @Taylor River (200 m³/s).

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 10.22 am and resumed at 10.33 am.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-71

Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024 / 2025 – 2027 / 2028 Progress Report

E320-003-001

The Committee considered the Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan 2024/25–2027/28 Progress Report. The report provided an update on progress against the actions identified in the plan and outlined work undertaken to support Council's climate change response and adaptation planning.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176745).

The Committee noted progress across a range of workstreams, including climate risk assessment, adaptation planning, emissions reduction initiatives, infrastructure resilience, community engagement and integration of climate considerations into Council planning and decision-making.

The Committee also noted that staff will continue to monitor and report on implementation of the Action Plan, including any emerging priorities, resource implications and opportunities to align the work programme with wider regional and national climate change initiatives.

Clrs Hope/Innes:

That the report be received.

Carried

E&P-0826-72

Proposed Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment

E320-003-001

The Committee considered the report on the Proposed Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment. The report outlined the proposed approach to assessing the impacts of climate change on Marlborough and how the findings may inform future Council planning, decision-making and adaptation work.

The Committee noted that the assessment is intended to improve understanding of climate-related risks across the district, including potential effects on communities, infrastructure, natural resources and Council services. The work will support evidence-based planning and assist Council to prioritise future adaptation responses.

The Committee noted that staff will continue to progress the assessment and report back as further information becomes available and if there are financial implications.

Members were advised that discussions will continue with national science providers and other relevant stakeholders to investigate the feasibility and potential value of undertaking a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment. The work will consider the scope, objectives, methodology, governance arrangements, delivery options, programme timing, costs, funding opportunities and potential strategic benefits of the project. It was further advised that a future report will be presented to Council outlining the findings of the investigation, available options, associated costs, funding opportunities, governance considerations and recommended next steps, with any longer-term financial implications to be considered through the Long Term Plan process.

Cllrs Hope/Innes:

That Council notes the proposed development of a Marlborough Climate Change Impact Assessment.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Kim Lawson, Council's Strategic Planner/Solicitor was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-73

Making Further PMEP Provisions Operative

M100-12-01

Ms Lawson noted that the purpose of the report was to update the Committee on progress in resolving Environment Court appeals relating to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP).

Members were advised that further progress had been made in resolving outstanding appeals on the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP), with a number of appeals either resolved or withdrawn. As a result, additional PMEP provisions were no longer subject to challenge and could progress through the final statutory process to become operative. The Committee was advised that regional coastal plan provisions beyond challenge could now be adopted and referred to the Minister of Conservation for approval, while non-regional coastal plan provisions beyond challenge could be approved by Council in accordance with the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991

Cllrs Arbuckle/Taylor:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That the regional coastal plan provisions [as available on Council's website via the following link [here](#) named as Item 13 – Regional Coastal Plan Provisions and Non-regional Coastal Plan Provisions, and filed in CM under Record No. 26166990] of the PMEP be adopted and that the adopted provisions be sent to the Minister of Conservation for his approval.**
- 3. That the non-regional coastal plan provisions of the PMEP appended to this report be approved.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Karen Winter, Council's Team Leader Environmental Health, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-74

Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024 – Changes to Alcohol Control Areas

L150-019-78-01

The Committee received a report on the outcome of the Special Consultative Procedure undertaken for proposed changes and additions to the Alcohol Control Areas under the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024. Consultation was carried out between 20 April and 21 May 2026 following requests from the Marlborough Policing Team to extend and add alcohol control areas to help reduce alcohol-related harm, crime, and disorder.

One submission was received from Public Health, which supported the proposed changes. The appointed sub-committee, comprising Mayor Taylor (Chair), Councillors Faulls and Burgess, considered the submission and deliberated on the proposed amendments.

The sub-committee resolved to support the proposed additions and changes to the Alcohol Control Areas as outlined in the consultation document and recommended that Council adopt the amendments, to take effect from 1 October 2026.

Acting Mayor Croad/Cllr Innes

That Council confirms the sub-committee decision to adopt the proposed changes and additions to the alcohol control areas under the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024 to come into effect on 1 October 2026.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Mary Ann Douthett, Council's Environmental Health Officer, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-75

Environmental Health Activity Summary 2025 /2026 and Review of Survey Results

E350-004-009-02

Ms Douthett noted that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with a summary of the activities undertaken by the Environmental Health Team for the 2025/2026 registration year and detail the outcome of our customer survey results.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176742).

Members were advised that the Environmental Health Team achieved all 2025/26 performance targets and continued to protect public health through food safety, alcohol licensing, health inspections, complaint investigations, noise control, and public health education.

A total of 303 food verifications were completed, with 288 acceptable and 15 unacceptable outcomes.

Annual inspection targets were met for events, licensed premises, camping grounds, funeral homes, and offensive trades. Alcohol licensing staff completed 217 compliance checks and processed a significant number of licence and manager applications. Three controlled purchase operations were undertaken resulting in four non-compliant premises identified.

The team investigated 88 public health complaints and responded to 948 noise complaints, issuing 23 Excessive Noise Directions.

Environmental Health staff also supported flood recovery efforts and expanded swimming pool monitoring activities. Customer satisfaction remained high, with Food Act respondents rating services 9.9/10 overall.

Cllr Innes/Acting Mayor Croad:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Innes withdrew from the meeting at 11.31 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Melanie Burke, Council's Team Leader – RMA Enforcement and Investigation, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-76

Environmental Protection Enforcement Activity Summary for 2025 / 2026

E360-005-002-01

The Committee received an overview of the Incident and Response Team's compliance, enforcement, and education activities for 2025/2026.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176741).

Members were advised that the team responded to 623 complaints, an increase from 586 in the previous year, and achieved all service level targets. Initial assessments found 44% of complaints related to compliant activities, 43% to non-compliance, and 13% were undetermined.

A total of 96 enforcement actions were taken, including 39 infringement notices, 48 abatement notices, and 9 formal warnings. No prosecutions or enforcement orders were initiated during the year. Enforcement decisions continued to follow Council policy, statutory requirements, and quality assurance processes.

The report highlighted the team's focus on the 4Es approach: Engage, Educate, Enable and Enforce. Key initiatives included increased community and industry engagement, expanded educational resources, website updates, and targeted communications to address recurring compliance issues.

Customer satisfaction results showed improvement, with 76% of respondents rating their experience 8/10 or higher.

Future priorities include preparing for RMA reform, implementing the new compliance cost recovery framework, continuing public education initiatives, and reviewing enforcement effectiveness to improve environmental outcomes

Acting Mayor Croad/Cllr Arbuckle:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Claire Frooms, Council's Team Leader Compliance Monitoring Programme Coordinator, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-77

Compliance Monitoring Summary 2025 / 2026

E360-006-02

Ms Frooms noted that the purpose of the report was to provide Council with an overview of the activity undertaken by Council's Compliance Monitoring Team during the 2025/2026 monitoring period.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176738).

Members were advised that the Compliance Monitoring Team undertook 5,592 monitoring activities covering 4,112 resource consents and permitted activities during 2025/26. Overall compliance levels were 63% compliant, 14% technically non-compliant, and 22% non-compliant, with no significant non-compliance recorded.

The team proactively monitored 81% of activities requiring monitoring under its priority programmes.

Members noted improved compliance outcomes across a number of key programmes, particularly water takes, dairy effluent, and winery waste. It was advised that the higher level of reported non-compliance for mooring consents reflected changes in monitoring and reporting practices, rather than any significant deterioration in compliance performance.

It was reported that 37 formal enforcement actions were issued during the reporting period, comprising warnings, infringement notices, and abatement notices.

Members noted operational improvements, including the transition of mooring monitoring to an automated system and the development of a new compliance database to enhance efficiency and support monitoring activities.

It was advised that upcoming staff changes within the forestry monitoring portfolio are being managed to minimise any disruption to programme delivery.

Discussion was held regarding the monitoring of consents that have been subject to Environment Court proceedings and orders. It was noted that Environment Court involvement is already considered when determining monitoring priorities and that such consents are generally captured through existing monitoring programmes, with additional monitoring occurring where consent conditions require information or notifications to be provided to Council.

A request was made for officers to consider whether Environment Court-related consents should be more explicitly recognised within the monitoring programme, including monitoring against both consent conditions and any requirements arising from the Environment Court process. It was further noted that these consents may warrant priority attention due to the additional scrutiny and agreements associated with Environment Court proceedings.

Clr Arbuckle/Acting Mayor Croad:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Savannah Boere, Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was present for the following item.

E&P-0826-78 Forestry Monitoring Report E335-003-002-01

Ms Boere noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the Compliance Group's ongoing monitoring programme of forestry activities for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26176737).

It was reported that 42 forestry block inspections were completed during the reporting period, with monitoring undertaken by both Council officers and Spencer Consulting.

Members noted that 38% of forestry blocks were fully compliant at first inspection and that no sites were assessed as significantly non-compliant. The majority of non-compliance issues related to the maintenance of erosion, sediment, and drainage controls, particularly following rainfall events.

It was advised that 18 previously non-compliant sites achieved compliance during the reporting period, with four sites remaining under active monitoring. Significant improvement was also reported in skid site compliance, which increased to 90.4%, representing a 19% improvement on the previous year.

The report outlined enforcement actions taken, including formal warnings, an abatement notice, and letters of education. Members also noted that 425 Areas of Recognised Compliance were recorded, almost double the previous year's total, reflecting improved environmental management practices across the sector.

Forestry was confirmed as Council's highest-priority compliance monitoring programme, with a continued focus on education, engagement, risk-based monitoring, and proportionate enforcement. The report also highlighted

recent amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) and ongoing industry engagement through workshops and field days.

It was noted that this was Ms Savannah Boere's final presentation to the Committee prior to her departure from Council. Members acknowledged and thanked Ms Boere for her contribution, noting her positive engagement with industry stakeholders.

Acting Mayor Croad/ Cllr Arbuckle:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Clark, Council's Environmental Protection Officer - Contract Manager (Animal Control), was present for the following item.

**E&P-0826-79 Dog Control Policy and Practices Annual
Report 2025 / 2026 E305-003-003-01**

The Committee received the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the 2025/26 financial year and noted that the report had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996. Members were advised that the report provides information on Council's administration of dog control policies and practices, including dog registrations, dangerous and menacing dog classifications, disqualified owners, dog-related complaints, infringement notices, and prosecutions undertaken during the reporting period.

It was noted that the report would be made publicly available on the Marlborough District Council website and that public notice of its availability would be published in a local newspaper.

Cllrs Taylor/Arbuckle:
That the report be received.

Carried

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of Item 5, *Summary Report on the Results of the Significant Natural Areas 2025/26*, to the next meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee on 1 October 2026 due to time constraints.

E&P-0826-80 Information Package

Acting Mayor Croad/Cllr Hope
That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 20 August 2026 be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 12.22 pm.

Record No: 26179063