

# **OPEN**

# **MINUTE ITEM**

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Ordinary meeting of the  
Environment Committee**

**Thursday 5 March 2020  
Commencing at 10.00a.m.  
Council Chamber**

**Civic House**

**110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>4.1 Public Forum</b>	
A. A2354339 - Friends of the Maitai presentation	2
<b>0 Chairperson's Report</b>	
A. A2355550 - Chairperson's report	14
<b>7 Building Act 2004 – Earthquake Prone Buildings – Priority Buildings - Deliberations</b>	
A. A2353307 - Corrections to report	18



# *Friends of the Maitai*

*For a cool, clear, clean, flowing Maitai River*  
*Nelson City Council - 5 March 2020*

A2354339

## *Friends of the Maitai (FoM)*

- ▶ Residents advocating for the Maitai River for the past 7 years.
- ▶ 300 on mailing list
- ▶ Partnering with Council on Project Maitai/Mahitahi & Healthy Streams
- ▶ Groom Creek Wetland restoration
- ▶ Developed Fish Game as an education resource
- ▶ Drove formation of Forestry Forum

A2354339



### *Council led gains:*

- ▲ Removed fish barriers at Almond Tree Flat and Golf Course
- ▲ Improved fish passage in the Brook catchment, and at the Maitai Dam
- ▲ Restored wetlands at Groom Creek
- ▲ Significant riparian planting on main river banks
- ▲ Improved monitoring of river health
- ▲ Funded research into e-coli, cyanobacteria and the sediment that clogs the river bed
- ▲ Increased the minimum flow from the dam.

A2354339





## *Forestry & the river*



- ▲ Cawthron and NIWA research shows forestry sediment is the biggest negative impact on the Maitai River
- ▲ Sediment + warm water + low flow allows growth of toxic blue green algae
- ▲ Sediment also affects the health of Tasman Bay.

A2354339

## *Green Gold?*

- ▶ 42% of the total area of the Maitai River catchment is planted in Radiata pine
- ▶ From the 1980s Council contributed by building roads and bridges
- ▶ Logging trucks travelled down the river valley to Port Nelson.
- ▶ Pine = green gold... Council told residents there would be no rates in the future!



A2354339

## *1998-2005 harvest*

- ▶ Hundreds of truck trips went through the city
- ▶ Residents had to advocate for safety of children
- ▶ The long-term impacts of pine plantations became evident...
- ▶ But the entire catchment was replanted.
- ▶ The future of the catchment was set for at least another 25-30 years.



A2354339



## *The problems of radiata pine*



- ▲ Low value means clearcutting large areas for economic viability
- ▲ Clearcutting increases the risk of erosion, landslides and sedimentation of waterways
- ▲ Pine is only economic because the environmental and social impacts are ignored
- ▲ The environmental clean-up is paid for by ratepayers and/or taxpayers.



## *What have we learnt?*



For the health of the river and the bay:

- ▲ Reduce reliance on pine
- ▲ Stop planting pine on steep and/or erodible terrain

Council has accepted these facts:

- ▲ 2018 Council retired 20% of its own forestry – congratulations!
- ▲ Council responded to FoM call for Forestry Forum

A2354339

# *The Maitai Forestry Forum*



FoM does not  
share that view

The Forum has  
been asked to  
develop a plan  
of practical  
and  
implementable  
changes

We'll report  
back sometime  
this year as to  
whether or not  
we achieve  
that task.

Aim is to  
remediate and  
minimize  
impact of  
plantation  
forestry on the  
river

## *Other concerns*

- ▶ Forestry remains our number one issue
- ▶ We commend the decision to go ahead with aerator to improve water quality in the dam
- ▶ We see the pluses of the gondola project but are concerned at the impact of increased traffic in the Maitai Valley, and the potential impact on the river of such a huge increase in use.

A2354339





## *Healthy Streams – annual report*



- ▲ FoM calls on Council to create an annual State of the Maitai River Report
- ▲ Give the community an up-to-date status of the river and its health
- ▲ Would keep Council accountable for its role in keeping the Maitai River the recreational asset we all love.

A2354339

## *A valued partnership*



- ▲ FoM wants to reiterate how much we value the relationship with the Council
- ▲ NCC needs organisations like FoM to assist in its public education and regulatory role
- ▲ FoM needs the Council to fulfil its regulatory functions.
- ▲ Let's keep talking!

A2354339

Item 0: Chairperson's Report



Environment Committee

5 March 2020

---

REPORT R15873

---

## Chairperson's Report

---

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide updates to Committee members on recent and future events and initiatives in Nelson relating to climate action, restoring healthy environments and creating connected communities.

### 2. Recommendation

***That the Environment Committee***

- 1. Receives the report Chairperson's Report (R15873).***

### 3. Climate Change Minister, Hon James Shaw – Visit to Nelson

- 3.1 As Environment Committee Chair I had the privilege of hosting Climate Minister Hon James Shaw at a number of events over the weekend here in Nelson.

*Climate Change: What's next for Nelson?*

- 3.2 On Friday, 27 February 2020 the Chamber of Commerce co-hosted this informal Friday evening question and answer social event at Mahitahi Colab, NMIT. There was a high level of attendance from diverse sectors of our community. Superb questions came from the floor including questions on hempcrete housing, the planetary health diet and bringing solar to Nelson. The community was literally bursting with enthusiastic ideas and positive action which can lead us towards a carbon zero future. Many thanks to CEO Ali Boswijk for making this event happen.

*NEC Coffee and Kai*

- 3.3 On Saturday, 28 February 2020 the Nelson Environment Centre co-hosted breakfast for the Climate Minister. Again there was a great turnout – especially for 8am! This was an opportunity for the Minister to hear about and view some of the initiatives that our community is showing leadership in, including Kai Rescue, E-waste recycling, urban



Item 0: Chairperson's Report

food gardens and Community Compost. A huge thank you to Manager Anton Drazevic for your enthusiasm to drive grassroots community projects which are truly making a difference.

*Taking climate action in Wakatū Nelson*

- 3.4 Greenmeadows Centre. Councillors, council staff and climate leaders in our community had an opportunity to hear from Minister Shaw about the intentions of the Zero Carbon Act and what this new 'law of the land' means for Nelson. We were also able to share our thoughts on how Central Government can assist Local Government to action climate initiatives more rapidly. There was a particular focus on Housing Intensification and how we can ensure the Nelson Plan incorporates low carbon and sustainable building principles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Shaw for giving us his valuable time to understand NCC and our community's aspirations to be local leaders in climate action. I would also like to thank Environment Group Manager Clare Barton and Executive Assistants Nicole Ching and Gemma Paton for their support in making this event happen.

**4. Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Launch**

- 4.1 As a result of the Climate Emergency Declaration by Council in 2019, the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum has been established. The launch was on Saturday afternoon, 29 February 2020. It was a highly successful event with over 300 attendees. It felt like a truly 'making history' moment for our city and our region. Climate Minister Hon James Shaw and Raven Maeder both gave outstanding speeches.
- 4.2 I first met Raven in my first term on Council when she was leading Generation Zero climate activism. She spoke about some of her frustrations back then of speaking out and not feeling heard by those who should have been listening. Having shared and experienced similar frustrations I am excited that we are moving into 2020 with climate action, as a focus, and as a priority.
- 4.3 Following the Launch, members of the Climate Forum collectively facilitated workshops on 14 different topics: energy and electricity; food and natural fibre systems; buildings and cities; land-use; transport; materials; resilient communities; decision-making for local climate action; social justice connections to climate change; ecosystems and diversity; local economy and business; society and culture; peace reconciliation and conflict; te ao Māori and Kaitiakitanga.
- 4.4 The Forum will be meeting regularly to shape an action focused living strategy with these key topics in mind. I am looking forward to being closely involved as this strategy is developed over the coming months. I will also be involved in facilitating the food and natural fibres working group with a focus on regenerative agriculture principles and urban food initiatives which connect community and strengthen resiliency.

Item 0: Chairperson's Report

- 4.5 I want to acknowledge and thank the Climate Forum Working Group for working so hard to deliver an outstanding event for Nelson, which will truly shape our future.

**5. 2019-2020 Australian Black Summer Bushfires**

- 5.1 I was still living in the Dandenong Ranges, Melbourne during the tragic Black Saturday fires of 2009. Flashbacks of the terror of the one night when fireballs swept through the valleys and land all around us and the grief of so much loss - of human lives and indigenous animal lives, of massive trees and ferns, and of peoples cherished homes, gardens and possessions which help provide meaning and identity in ones life, come to me whenever I read or hear about the ongoing losses in Australia.
- 5.2 As of middle of January 2020, fires in Australia this season have burnt an estimated 18.6 million hectares. An estimated one billion animals have died and some endangered species may be driven to extinction due to such a massive loss of habitat. 34 people have died. Nearly 6000 buildings (including nearly 3000 homes) have been destroyed. Air quality has dropped to hazardous levels. The cost of dealing with the bushfires will exceed the A\$4.4 billion of the 2009 Black Saturday fires. Tourism sector revenues have fallen more than A\$1 billion. NASA estimates that 306 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> was emitted.
- 5.3 The devastation of this summer's Australian bushfires has affected us all. In Nelson, there was for many days a constant haze, apocalyptic sunsets and those with respiratory health issues noticed the exacerbating effects of poor air quality.
- 5.4 We are witnessing the tragically predicted amplifying feedback loop of climate change. Increasing frequency and severity of fires, result in increased greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time destroy our vital, life-supporting, carbon sequestering plants and trees. They are the precious life force we most need to mitigate for fossil fuel emissions.
- 5.5 Globally we must continue to plant more trees at every opportunity. In Nelson, this can include opting to offset our existing carbon emissions through regional indigenous tree planting.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q0xUXo2zEY>

**6. Biodiversity Forum**

- 6.1 The Nelson Biodiversity Forum celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020.
- 6.2 The forum is working its way through reporting on the Outcomes proposed in the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy (Revision Three).
- 6.3 *Outcome 3 – Indigenous biodiversity is ecologically connected to sustain its functioning.* Monday's meeting focused on reporting on this outcome.

Item 0: Chairperson's Report

- 6.4 *Intermediate Outcome 3.1 – Biodiversity corridors connect hill to coastal ecosystems.* There has been good progress with restoration projects on biodiversity corridors on council reserves and private land through a range of council programs including: Nelson Nature, Nelson Halo, and Healthy Streams and Land Management. 140Ha of retired plantation forestry is also being replanted with indigenous plants. As part of the City Development Spatial Plan there will be a focus on indigenous 'green' corridors linking the city to the hills and coast.
- 6.5 *Intermediate Outcome 3.2 – Impediments to fresh water flow and fish migration are removed.* Excellent progress on fish passage barriers throughout our streams has also been made, with the exception of the tide gate at Wakapuaka sandflats, for which a solution needs to be found.

**Author:** Kate Fulton, Chairperson

**Attachments**

Nil



## **Corrections to Report R13587 - Priority Buildings Deliberations**

### **Discussion: URM Buildings...**

- 5.7 There are currently ~~11~~ **9** URM buildings with EPB Notices, or equivalent section 124 Notices issued under Council's previous policy, that will become priority buildings as a result of adopting the recommended option. ~~Three~~ **Four** of these already have timeframes shorter than 12.5 years, and most timeframes expire within 5 years of today. All owners of these buildings were advised in writing of the effects of the legislative changes, and options that they have, specific to their building, late in 2017. Information was also sent to these owners as part of the SCP.

### **Discussion: Buildings on a transport route of strategic importance...**

- 5.13 Officers recommend that the routes set out in part two of the statement of proposal and the map be adopted without amendment. This will mean that these routes will be prioritised for the identification and remediation of ~~URM-hazards~~ **buildings that could impede those routes should they collapse.**
- 5.15 There are currently ~~8~~ **7** buildings with EPB Notices, or equivalent section 124 Notices issued under Council's previous policy, that are likely to become priority buildings as a result of adopting the recommended option. ~~Five~~ **Two** of these already have timeframes shorter than 12.5 years, and most timeframes expire within 10 years of today. All owners of these buildings were advised in writing of the effects of the legislative changes, and options that they have, specific to their building, late in 2017. Information was also sent to these owners as part of the SCP.