

Report No.	21-41
Decision Required	

COMMITTEE FORMATION AND WORK PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to provide an update on appointment of tangata whenua Members and to seek guidance on the Committee's working agenda.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-41;
- b. notes proposed amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference;
- c. notes that appointment of tangata whenua Members to the Committee is progressing;
- d. agrees to meet in March and September each year, to align with Regional Chiefs;
- e. agrees to invite the Climate Change Minister to discuss engagement between the Committee and central Government;
- f. requests that member councils report on their respective climate action plans;
- g. invites tangata whenua to share their views on climate action.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This item is available for public viewing via the Horizons Regional Council website.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with this item.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

- 6.1. As the report deals entirely with administrative matters, there is no climate change impact.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. In establishing this Committee, member councils agreed to Terms of Reference. These are attached at **Annex A**. Two amendments to the Terms of Reference are proposed. Firstly, to avoid any confusion (and reflecting the wording of several councils' resolutions), we recommend amending the Committee's name to 'Climate Action Joint Committee'. Secondly, iwi have expressed an expectation of equal partnership, including equal representation on the Committee. To provide for this, we propose to amend the 'committee membership' clause (and, consequentially, the quorum). Proposed changes are highlighted in the version at **Annex B**. Changes to the Terms of Reference may be approved by Regional Chiefs.

Tangata Whenua Participation

- 7.2. The Terms of Reference provide for members to be appointed to represent the perspectives of tangata whenua. Horizons has worked through a process seeking nominations from iwi groups across the region. One nomination was received. A further process will be opened to identify additional nominees before the next meeting of the Committee.
- 7.3. Appointment of iwi Members to this Committee is intended to provide a tangata whenua perspective, knowledge and participation. It does not replace the need for the Committee or councils to seek the particular view of an individual iwi / hapū on any decisions the Committee should make or on issues the Committee may be considering.

Engagement with Central Government

- 7.4. In its draft advice on emissions reductions, the Climate Change Commission has noted the importance of genuine partnership between iwi, central government, and local government in achieving enduring change. This Committee offers a mechanism to support those relationships. Members may wish to invite the Climate Change Minister to attend a meeting once iwi members have been appointed, to explore how best to work together.

Committee Work Programme

- 7.5. According to the Terms of Reference, the Committee is to meet at least twice a year. We suggest aligning Committee meetings with Regional Chiefs in March and September. Whether more frequent meetings are warranted would depend in part on the Committee's work programme. In line with the objectives set out in the Terms of Reference, the Committee's agenda might include:
- Receiving council climate action plans (or progress toward developing action plans);
 - Receiving iwi / hapū plans and proposals;
 - Developing an overarching regional action plan;
 - Responding to climate-related risks identified through the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment or other processes;
 - Exercising leadership through transition;
 - Coordinating a regional response to government policy, including emissions budgets and pathways to be adopted later this year;
 - Overseeing joint projects; and
 - Subject to discussion with the Minister, updates from Government officials.
- 7.6. A baseline regional action plan was produced in September 2020, outlining efforts already underway to tackle climate change. It is available at:
- <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Publication/Climate-Change-Action-Plan.pdf>

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1. Authority to vary the Terms of Reference rests with Regional Chiefs. We will seek endorsement of the proposed amendments at or before Regional Chiefs' June meeting. At that time, we will also provide an update on nominations for tangata whenua Members. We aim to have completed the process, and have made appointments to the tangata whenua roles, in time for a September 2021 meeting of the Committee.
- 8.2. For a September 2021 meeting, we are also likely to be in a position to report to the Committee on findings of the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment as well as on transitional and governance risks (discussed in a separate report to this meeting). We suggest that the Committee request that member councils provide details of their respective action plans at that time, to inform a discussion about next steps. These updates might usefully include an overview of climate change provisions included in each council's Long-Term Plan.

30 March 2021

- 8.3. We suggest that it would also be useful for the Committee to receive advice exploring implications of proposed emissions budgets / policies for the region, and what role the Committee might play in response.

9. SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.1. This is not a significant decision according to Horizons' Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Tom Bowen

PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, STRATEGY & POLICY

ANNEXES

- A Committee Agreement and Terms of Reference
- B Proposed Amendments to TOR