



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for the Waikato  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Notice of a meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) to be held at:

**Go Eco - Cnr Kent and Commerce St**

**On May 22nd, 2019, at 3.00pm**

<b>1</b>	<b>Karakia Timatanga</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies – None</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Visitors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3.15pm John McArthur - Carbon Credits - informing discussion on land use change opportunities</li></ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 2019</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Minutes</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of anticoagulents in pest management - Kelvin</li><li>• WRC Pest Plant Management Plan - Leo</li><li>• Visit to Integrate Constructed Wetlands site - Wednesday June 26th prior to ACRE meeting</li><li>• Healthy Rivers Submission - Anna</li><li>• Visit with Pūniu River Care with WRC - Monday June 24th - Anna</li><li>• Land Use Change Opportunities Forum – Anna</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Written reports -</b> To Chrissie prior to meeting please – members identify highlights for discussion Topics: Identify your topics of interest.
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting – 26 June 2019, 3pm at WRC</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Karakia Whakamutunga</b>



Minutes of a meeting of the  
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:

**Go Eco - Cnr Kent and Commerce St**

**On May 22nd, 2019, at 3.00pm**

**Present:** Kemble Pudney, Brian Habberfield, Anna Casey-Cox, Dell Hood, Andrew Sinclair, Chrissie McLeod (minute taker), Leo Koppens, Kelvin Mouritson, Shepherd Issac, Greg Hill, John McArthur (guest speaker)

**Apologies:** Martin Wallace

**3. John McArthur - Carbon Credits - informing discussion on land use change opportunities**

John McArthur presented on how the ETS (Emission Trading Scheme) relates to land use and carbon credits. The ETS is a relationship between people who emit greenhouse gas emissions and the other side is land owner who would like to turn land into a forest and gain credits. The Government measures trees and land areas and determines how many carbon units go to the landowner who then puts it in the bank or on the carbon registry. Business then purchases carbon units off landowners and they give the carbon credit to the government. NZ has the most comprehensive ETS system in the World. There are certain industries who are not included yet in the ETS i.e. steel mills, cement. The EITE (emission-intensive and trade-exposed) allocation process protects local industries and this is happening all over the world. There are now new submissions happening on the ETS and we expect to see the EITE slipping back as the Labour Government intended when they first set this up. Land owners can grow carbon units in the form of trees. The government requirements is that the forest has to have 30% canopy cover, grow more than 5m tall and 30m across in average and cover a 1ha area with the gap between trees being less than 15m. With the Kyoto Protocol there is a cut off which is 31 Dec 1989 midnight. If the land was forest before you get 1 credit. If it was pasture or something else before that date you can start planting and gaining carbon credits. This is part of the Kyoto Protocol. The ETS accounts for 2 sources of carbon stock held in forests which is both above and below the ground. A forester can get carbon credits for growing the trees and when they cut the trees down they need to surrender carbon units. WRC are promoting forestry planting for erosion management. A half a million hectares of land in the Waikato has potential for erosion. There is a time lag between putting land aside and when the forest is fully grown. You get more credits as the trees get bigger. There are MPI tables that will tell you how many units you can get. There were announcements of ETS improvements last Thursday and there is more coming through related to forestry's. They are looking at making it a bit easier for landowners to do this. The Billion Tree programme is looking into this and went hunting for good land to use. The early part was disappointing as it looked at turning good land into forestry. Now it is more about the right tree on right land. With the carbon unit now at \$25.00 per tonne it is worth finding marginal land to plant. At the moment there is a cap on the price of the carbon unit but there is talk that the cap must go by December 2021.



**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 2019**

Greg Hill - moved  
Leo Koppens – seconded

**5. Matters Arising from Minutes**

A site visit to integrated wetlands has been organised for the morning of 26 June 2019. Kemble will make a time with Suzanne for this.  
Anna wrote to Alan Saunders at Trust Waikato regarding requested input from Community groups regarding how funding may best be utilised

**6. Other Business**

**Use of anticoagulant's in pest management**

A written report was submitted to the ACRE members on the use of Brodifacom in the Coromandel. Over a year ago there was a report released that indicated that this goes right throughout the ecology system. DOC only uses Brodifacom for eradication now. There has been plenty of research done on this and it is about trying to avoid it getting into the food chain.

*ACRE's position on this was discussed and it was decided that as there is a lot of information out there publicly that ACRE would not pursue this any further*

**WRC Pest Plant Management Plan**

Concerns over pest plant management was raised and in particular the prevalence of Pampas. It is noted that a lot of the Pampas is being allowed to grow near roadsides, quarries and railway lines. Responsibility for pest control in these areas lay with the land owners which is NZTA, Railways and the Quarry Owners. The major concern is that these areas have a lot of vehicles moving around that pick up the seeds and spread it. It is also evident that the funding for pest plant control has been reduced creating a lack of education and enforcement.

*ACRE's plan moving forward is to wait until the next budget comes out and following that to create a submission and engage with WRC on the upcoming pest plant strategy management plan.*

**Visit to Integrate Constructed Wetlands site - Wednesday June 26th prior to ACRE meeting**

Kemble has organised a site visit to Integrated Wetlands on 26 June 2019.

**Healthy Rivers Submission**

Information about the benefits of the constructed vs restoration of wetlands has been received. The science on the emissions related to wetlands is still very new and being developed and understood. The wetlands constructed at Taupiri has been a costly development with a considerable portion of the cost being used for the resource consent.  
*Anna to draft a submission to WDC and will send to Shepherd and the rest of the ACRE group for review*



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the Waikato REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

### **Visit with Pūniu River Care with WRC - Monday June 24th**

A visit with the Pūniu River Care on Monday 24 June has been organised. This is to develop our networks and relationships with Māori led restoration groups.

*Anna, Kemble and Kelvin will attend.*

### **Land Use Change Opportunities Forum**

The Land Use Change Forum is coming up and the Waikato River Authority are looking at potential investment in farms along the Waipa River to convert into organic dairy farming.

*ACRE to look at making connections and keeping informed of progress.*

### **Riverlea Wreckers Site concerns raised**

Concerns about the old Care Wreckers site in Riverlea was raised. There are still a lot of tyres and car wrecks that are contaminating the stream that runs through there. WRC have been to visit the site but it appears there is going to be a long consultation process. Also noted was that the Riverlea Environmental Board are also concerned about the Maungaonua River.

*Ways of ACRE becoming involved were discussed and it was decided to wait to see what progress WRC get before moving forward.*

### **Hauraki Gulf Marine Reserve**

It was noted that the proposal for the Hauraki Gulf has been released and is recommending that 25% be devoted to a Marine Reserve.

### **Moth Plant Update**

WRC submitted an application to the EPA in January 2019 to release the moth plant beetle. The EPA has approved the application.

### **Brian's Trap**

Brian to send in information on trap

## **6. Written Reports**

Anna Casey-Cox	Presented for Go Eco (and Project Echo) to the Amberfield Development Hearing Interviewed Andrea Graves (Riverlea Environment Group) and Pubudu Senenayake from Generation Zero re Zero Carbon Act on Earth Matters Free FM Attended Waikato Biodiversity Forum meeting Met with Kaumatua Piripi to talk about whakapapa of the pekapeka Presented envirosan to HCC with Go Eco Attended Philanthropy NZ Conference.
	Usual local landcare activities, including making and donating rat/mouse traps to emerging local trapping group at Dickeys Flat, Protect Karangahake Pest Free. Kaimai Windfarm Project, had principal Glenn Starr talk at HELP working bee morning 7 May. Same day the United Nations IPBES report was released. Summary global assessment.



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	<p>Eugenie Sage vetoed Oceana Gold's application to buy two more Waihi farms to cover in tailings. Waihi gold miner Oceana Gold applied for a mining licence for Wharekirauponga, north of Waihi. Attend Crazy &amp; Ambitious 2, Wellington, 20-21 May</p>
	<p>Official opening of Taranaki Mahood Lowe Reserve, NFRT's latest acquisition an excellent event, well attended with local and visitors, and a most compelling guest speaker presentation from Prof Bruce Clarkson, a proud son of Taranaki Participation in a major planting on private property near Maungatautari. This included 3 people laying out 1600+ plants on a steep hillside two days before 17 volunteers planted them all in ~2 hours. Attended Biodiversity Forum seminar on lizards at Maungatautari Visited and walked around Motu Kaikoura, a sanctuary island at the entrance to Port Fitzroy, Aotea/Great Barrier. Attended F&amp;B AGM, John Innes guest speaker Trustee meeting NFRT – more purchases in the wings.</p>

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Waikato Regional Council in the Council Meeting Room (401 Grey Street, Level one, between the Council Chambers and the Kitchen)