

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CLIMATE
CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT

Mayor S T Broughton, Councillors N C Reid (Chair), L L Gliddon and E S Mundt

ATTENDEES

Mesdames S Mason (Chief Executive Officer), J Beker (Legal Counsel); Messrs. S Gibling (Executive Director People Culture and Capability), B Baird (Strategy Team Leader), J Gentilcore (Climate Change Lead), A Boyd (Resource Recovery and Waste Manager), R Raymond (Senior Communications Advisor), A Spanton (Environmental Team Leader), M Walker (Arboriculture Advisor); Ms T Davel (Governance Lead), Ms T Velde (Assistant to Executive Director Strategy and Engagement) and Mr B Adhikari (Governance Coordinator).

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Ms McKay.

Moved – Councillor Reid / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

‘That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee receives an apology as notified’.

CARRIED

EXTRAORDINARY OR GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

None.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee held on Wednesday 14 May 2025, as circulated

Councillors asked about budget allocations for community facilities and reserves, specifically referencing the carbon audit mentioned in the minutes. Staff responded that a carbon audit and reduction strategy is currently underway, focusing on emissions from reserve maintenance activities such as diesel use in mowers and lighting. The strategy is still in development and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Councillors also sought clarity on the decarbonisation fund, noting that while it appeared in the budget, it had not been implemented, and asked whether the budget would roll over. Staff acknowledged confusion around the fund's existence and its visibility in budget spreadsheets. Although it was referenced in the emissions reduction plan, no concrete budget was found for the current financial year. Follow-up communication with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is ongoing, and staff are committed to providing a report once more information is available.

When concerns were raised about the lack of scheduled future meetings, the Chairperson noted that another meeting could potentially be arranged. Staff confirmed that the current action will be carried forward in the Long-Term Plan (LTP), and the incoming Council will decide whether to continue and consult with the community.

When asked whether the decarbonisation fund is separate from the community fund, staff responded that there is no clear distinction at this stage. They further added that it remains unclear whether the fund is community-facing or meant for internal operations. Staff confirmed that this lack of clarity will be addressed through consultation as part of the next annual plan process, allowing both Council and the community to provide input on how the fund should be utilized.

Moved – Councillor Gliddon / **Seconded** – Councillor Mundt

'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee confirms the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Subcommittee held on Wednesday 14 May 2025, as circulated.'

CARRIED

REPORTS

1. Chairperson's Report

The chairperson's report was circulated via an email prior to the meeting. She highlighted the Christchurch Conversations event at Tūranga, activities by the Lincoln Envirotown Trust, and upcoming plant-out days.

Moved – Councillor Reid / **Seconded** – Councillor Gliddon

'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee receive the Chairperson's Report for information.'

CARRIED

Staff emphasized on current challenges faced through rate of development and climate change impact along with key role of the trees in the community like cooling through the shading, habitat for biodiversity and managing storm water. Staff also noted that the Council is seeking clearer direction on how to proactively manage trees in a fast-growing district.

Staff shared the public feedback on the consultation, which included comments indicating that people would like to see more trees. While many like trees on the street, opinions are divided on whether they should be placed there. Feedback also emphasized that the tree removal should be the last resort, and that people want more opportunities to learn about and engage on trees-related matters. Additional comments on the consultation highlight the importance of trees for the ecosystem, shading, and visual appeal. Some people suggested adopting a concept like Christchurch's Garden City with Selwyn having its own story, particularly by increasing tree coverage in urban areas.

Staff noted that a policy is being developed to recognise the value of trees, particularly in infrastructure and subdivision, with goals of replacing one removed tree with two new ones and increasing canopy cover. Staff shared that this policy may be brought forward in August and integrate with other ongoing works. Staff also mentioned that feedback from the subcommittee and community has been considered in developing the operational policy. This policy has been signed off by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and will inform the Reserve Management plan and other capital projects plans. A councillor briefing on 27 August is earmarked to present this policy which was agreed by the subcommittee. Staff said a briefing allows for a workshop space and then the subcommittee could endorse the policy. The Chair noted that the matter be presented at a Council briefing for feedback as the end of term is approaching soon with a lack of opportunities for other meeting options.

Councillors asked if the staff wanted more direction for the policy to come back noting that there are specific matters that should be reflected on the policy. Councillors referred the matters like above and below ground root issues, root management, the need for permeable surfaces to avoid planting

in spaces like carpark, the lack of technology use, and associated cost considerations. Staff responded that the trees in Lincoln were being planted in a pre-prepared area for the roots to grow in. Councillors asked about managing mature trees and implementing paving solutions, questioning when such measures would begin. Staff said that they could look at these solutions in the upcoming briefing session and noted that the policy will be circulated in advance.

2. MOU - Selwyn District Council and Manaaki Whenua

Strategy Team Leader

Staff discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Selwyn District Council and Manaaki Whenua, noting that Manaaki Whenua has secured funding for a project titled Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence to Inform Nature-Based Adaptation to Climate Change.

In response to a question about why a specific staff member was listed as the MoU signatory rather than a position, given the potential for staff turnover, staff explained that Manaaki Whenua preferred a named individual. However, a generic email address was included to ensure continuity.

Moved – Councillor Gliddon / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee receive the MOU – Selwyn District Council and Manaaki Whenua for information.'

CARRIED

3. National Waste Policy Changes

Resources Recovery and Waste Manager

Staff presented an overview of the impact of national waste policy changes introduced by the current government.

Councillors asked if it is correct to state that without the kerbside green collection, carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets will be met. Staff clarified that there should not be any specific emissions reduction target tied up directly to green waste collection.

Councillors asked if the Council is considering separating glass from other recyclables, despite not being part of the current mandates but high public interest. Staff confirmed that it was not included in recent regulatory changes but acknowledged that it remains an ongoing issue. Staff added that there needs to be a conversation with Christchurch and Waimakariri districts as all recycling is processed at a shared sorting facility in Christchurch.

Councillors suggested that there needs to be some improved communication around recycling including clearer information on the Council's website. When asked about the performance and cost effectiveness of electric waste truck, staff clarified that they did not perform as well as hoped. Staff stated

that they are retrofitted standard trucks and spoke about the batteries used and challenges associated with them. The challenges associated are requiring specialists care, having to send the trucks to Auckland for repairs and maintenance, or bringing technicians here. Due to these issues and challenges, staff shared that contractors are now looking to move from retrofitted diesel trucks to fully electric trucks. Staff clarified that the current ones do not cost the Council any more than the other collection vehicles.

Staff informed the subcommittee that Reconnect Project is the finalist for the 2025 Super Idea Awards for LGNZ.

Moved – Councillor Gliddon / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

‘That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee receive the Resource Recovery & Waste Manager’s Report to the Subcommittee for information.’

CARRIED

4. Climate Change Policy and Sustainability Policy Scenarios *Climate Change Lead*

Councillors highlighted the importance of determining the appropriate level at which policies should be set. They suggested that the Council may wish to signal to the community that climate change and sustainability are important to us. Councillors further added that with the recent refresh of the policy manual, these aspects are now embedded within staff-level policies and practices. Referring to the Christchurch City Council's sustainability policy, Councillors stated that it is unclear where that sits within their organizational structure.

Councillors asked whether combining the concepts of sustainability and climate change might dilute the true meaning of sustainability, resulting in a focus solely on climate change. They also asked whether it would be more effective to have a comprehensive strategy rather than just a policy. In response, staff clarified that they are in the final stage of drafting a sustainability plan, with climate change as a core section alongside waste, biodiversity, and other key areas. Staff emphasised that every core strategy the Council has, such as infrastructure strategy, includes a strong focus on sustainability within its specific purpose. Councillors highlighted that, from a governance perspective, it is important to consider sustainability separately so that the Council can ensure it is embedded in its decision-making processes.

Councillors also sought clarification on the difference between a plan and a policy, suggesting that the policy should be overarching, with individual plans developed under its framework. Councillors acknowledged that the refresh policy manual will help improve alignment across the documents and added that the community expects the Council to take proactive stance. Therefore, they suggested that sustainability should sit above or outside the other policies. In response, staff agreed there is a role for a stand-alone climate

change policy, which aligns with community expectations. They clarified that climate change and sustainability are interconnected as climate change will influence how the Council operates, while sustainability is embedded in many aspects of decision making. Staff asked whether Councillors saw the need for a stand-alone sustainability policy or preferred the two concepts to be combined. In response, Councillors noted that sustainability is already embedded in Council reports, while climate change is more about making a leadership statement than achieving a specific outcome.

Staff clarified that multiple documents are not necessarily required. They explained that while terminology varies, both policies and plan are types policy statements. They further added plans tend to be more implementation-focused, whereas policies are statement statements of intent. They emphasised the important of consolidating these statements into one clearly articulated document. Councillors noted that the matter could be brought back to the August Council briefing.

Moved (as amended) – Councillor Reid / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

*'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee endorses **two** of the following recommendations:*

- i. ~~Full adoption of the C201 Climate Change Policy (reviewed and amended), or~~*
- ii. Retirement of the C201 Climate Change Policy (as previously earmarked for retirement),*
- iii. ~~Support the development of a standalone Sustainability Policy, or~~*
- iv. Support the development of a combined Climate Change and Sustainability Policy.'*

CARRIED

5. EECA Community Resilience Programme

Climate Change Lead

Councillors sought clarification on the percent of community served criterion, whether it referred to the percentage of the Selwyn population or the local township or rural areas. Staff clarified that the metric is based on the percentage of the local township served. They provided an example in which the energy impact of solar panels at the Rolleston Community Centre versus Castle Hill Community Hall would be assessed proportionally to the size of each township, ensuring equal opportunity in the rating process.

Councillors also asked how exposure to risks, such as flooding, is assessed. Staff explained that recent flood models would be used to identify townships more susceptible to risk, which would then be ranked slightly higher. However, they noted that more detailed risk assessments would be needed to provide a comprehensive score at this stage.

Councillors asked about decision-making process for selecting facilities and whether those decisions would return to the committee for discussion or

remain operational. Staff clarified that once the shortlisting is completed, it will be provided to EECA for the final decision. Staff further noted that the feedback will be shared, and if any of the shortlisted sites fall outside Council assets, for example if a shortlisted school declines participation, alternative sites will be considered. Staff also clarified that the funding decision rests on EECA, and the Council's role is primarily to be informed than to make the final decision. Councillors suggested that they be kept in the loop through briefings or Chief Executive's report to ensure transparency and public visibility.

Councillors asked whether EECA requires a minimum number of beneficiaries before considering a site. Staff responded that EECA has not indicated any such requirement. Further questions were raised about whether a non-Council facility, such as a school considered for emergency use, would require a written agreement to ensure community access after-hours community access. Staff clarified that this decision rests with the school and noted that the Council's Civil Defence and Emergency Management team has been involved in identifying top-priority locations.

Moved – Councillor Mundt / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee endorses the proposed criteria for site selection.'

CARRIED

6. MEMORANDUM

Climate Change Lead

Councillors suggested that since \$200,000 is not budgeted for Decarbonisation Fund, it should not be included in the Emissions Reduction Plan as it would be misleading to suggest the fund exists. Staff confirmed that they would remove it from the table.

Councillors asked if there was potential to revisit the Decarbonisation Fund in the future. Staff suggested that this could be considered during the next Long-Term Plan. Councillors discussed the possibility of designing a community-facing fund, similar to the Selwyn Natural Environment Fund (SNEF), which could support decarbonisation initiatives in partnership with the community.

Councillors asked for some clarification on the Energy Plan, specifically whether it is intended for Council operations or the wider community. Staff clarified that it is a district-wide initiative, not limited to Council operations. They further explained that the plan is multi-faceted. It is part of Mayoral Forum's Canterbury Regional Economic Energy initiative, and is aligned with the Council's Economic Development Strategy, developed in partnership with Orion and Lincoln University, and contributes to the broader Regional Energy Plan. Staff added that the Energy Plan is being developed through the Economic Development Forum, with guest speakers contributing to the

conversation, and offered to share relevant documents, including the inventory and strategy that have been developed.

Staff said that since there is now some clarity on Emissions Reduction Plan, there will be more reporting on improvements such as building energy efficiency and solar integration. Staff shared the recent LED upgrades across the district that were completed over the past 5 years and assessed energy and costs savings. These updates will be Energy Management Action Plan, which will be feature ongoing updates and potentially live reporting. Staff also shared that the Sustainability Plan has been completed and that they are currently refining goals, targets and actions to better align with Waikirikiri Future Selwyn.

Councillors asked about energy savings at Selwyn Aquatic Centre. Staff clarified that the centre is among the highest energy users' site, with a high number of visitors, but it is very energy-efficient facility, and there are still some opportunities for further savings. Staff added that a recent energy audit had been conducted on the pool and that a power factor corrector and harmoniser have been installed to improve operational efficiency. This technology cleans up the incoming energy to the pool, reducing fixed line charges and pump and motor maintenance. Staff also shared another project, the Building Management System (BMS), which is currently a pilot project in collaboration with Beca.

Councillors spoke about the recent ministerial visit to Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant, where the Minister expressed interest in the work being done around solar energy and generating own electricity on-site. Councillors noted that the availability of roof space may limit the implementation of solar energy across some sites, however, they emphasised that there needs to be continued focus on this area. Referring to a case study discussed at the last subcommittee meeting, Councillors suggested that this case study could be presented to highlight the potential for solar in the Selwyn district. Councillors were supportive of the changes made to the Emissions Reduction Plan, including the exclusion of agriculture.

Moved – Councillor Gliddon / **Seconded** – Mayor Broughton

'That the Climate Change and Sustainability Subcommittee receives current work updates.'

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

The meeting closed with a karakia at 2:44pm

DATED this 20 day of August 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CHAIRPERSON