

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026 AT 9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Steve Cretney, Deputy Mayor Grace Ayling, Cr Brian Deller, Cr Lou Newman, Cr Steve Laurence, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Jane Burns, Cr Simon Casey, Cr Rachel Round

IN ATTENDANCE: Staff

Ricky Utting (Climate Change Advisor), Becks Clarke (Community and Partnerships Manager), Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Solitaire Robertson (Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), Marc Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Geri Brooking (Group Manager People and Corporate), Glenda Seville (Group Manager Community and Facilities), Sara Renall (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor), Katrina King (Democratic Services Officer)

1 REPORTS

1.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOP

1. PURPOSE

To discuss Greenhouse gas emissions and Climate change

DISCUSSION

- **Climate Change Impacts and Local Effects:**
Ricky led a comprehensive discussion on the science of climate change, its global and local impacts, including temperature increases, extreme weather events, and specific risks for the district, with input from participants.
- **Climate Change Policy and Regulatory Frameworks:**
Ricky outlined international, national, and local climate change agreements and policies, including the Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, and local government strategies, with questions from participants about biogenic methane and regulatory relief.
- **Council Emissions, Mitigation, and Solar Initiatives:**
Ricky presented data on council emissions, mitigation strategies, and the implementation of solar panels, discussing inventory splits, offsets from forests, and ongoing work to optimise solar panel placement, with input from the Chief Executive.
- **Fleet Management and Transition to Low-Emission Vehicles:**
Ricky and Geoff discussed the council's vehicle fleet, strategies for transitioning to more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles, and considerations for fleet size, utilisation, and whole-of-life costs.
- **Forest Management and Carbon Offsets:**
Ricky explained the council's forest assets, their role in carbon offsetting, and future management options, including harvesting, rewilding, and fire risk, with input from participants on incentives and biodiversity.
- **Adaptation Strategies and Community Resilience:**
Ricky described adaptation strategies, including community education, infrastructure planning, and emergency management, highlighting the importance of resilience and preparedness for adverse weather events.

- **Climate Change Scenarios and Long-Term Planning:**
Ricky presented climate change scenarios developed for local government, emphasising the need for long-term planning, asset management, and consideration of transition and physical risks, with input from participants on global influences.
- **Nature-Based Solutions and Biodiversity:**
Ricky and participants discussed nature-based solutions, including the benefits of wildflowers, permeable surfaces, and biodiversity for resilience against drought and flooding, referencing personal experiences and council planning.
- **Ratepayer Assistance Scheme and Equity:**
Ricky explained the ratepayer assistance scheme, its potential to support electrification for property owners, and limitations for renters, with participants discussing uptake and the need for further workshops.
- **Opportunities for Local Resilience and Migration:**
Ricky discussed the district's relative protection from climate risks, potential for attracting migration, and planning for infrastructure and resilience, considering local advantages and future opportunities.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Solar Panel Redistribution and Costing:** Bring a paper to Projects and Policy Committee detailing the redistribution of solar panels, including costings and answers to previously emailed questions. (Ricky)
- **Solar Panel Frame Reuse:** Clarify whether the unused part of the solar panel frames will be moved as part of the redistribution project. (Ricky)
- **Ratepayer Assistance Scheme Update:** Provide an update on the ratepayer assistance scheme, including insights from Masterton District Council's recent discussions. (Ricky)