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**Date:** 20 April 2026

**To:** Greater Wellington Regional Council

**From:** Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust, and  
Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

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**Submission: Proposed Annual Plan 2026/7**

We note with concern that changes in Te Taiao – Environment activity will contribute \$7.5 million in savings, the largest contribution to savings identified in your proposed annual plan document for 2026/27.

We are pleased, however, that you are making minimal cuts to parks planting programmes and proceeding as planned with the plan for Belmont Park, including grazing retirement.

On the other hand, you are not going to increase the community environment fund as had been planned in the 2024-34 long-term plan. You are also not going to start the Environment Activation Fund and will significantly scale back Fish Passage improvement work.

It is particularly notable that you make no mention at all of the Porirua Harbour Accord. We can only surmise that Greater Wellington's contribution to implementation of action plans now nearing completion will suffer from the cutbacks proposed for 2026/27.

We remind you of the commitment made by Greater Wellington when the Accord was signed on 6 February 2025. The Accord says that one of three "purpose" points of the Accord is a commitment by the partners to establish, implement and monitor well-resourced, accountable work programmes that deliver the improvements that will restore harbour health.

Furthermore it says:

1. “Resourcing and funding of actions and work programmes should be prioritised through each partner organisation’s strategic planning activities, wānanga, long-term plans and other planning processes and funding mechanisms;
2. Agreed actions should include a combination of capital investment, regulatory and non-regulatory actions;
3. Decisions relating to the resourcing of actions and work programmes of the partner organisations are joined-up and aligned;
4. To share, in a timely fashion, progress on meeting obligations under The Accord by monitoring and reporting using a Performance Monitoring Framework which will be supported by an iwi-led mauri ora approach for the restoration of Te Awarua o Porirua.

The mauri ora approach is to be developed before the LGA’s next LTP cycle for 2027 and a matured approach to monitoring agreed by the governing parties; and,

5. To give effect to The Accord, the governance parties agree the timeframes and priorities for implementation within six-months of the document’s signing.”

The six-month deadline under point 5 has long since passed and news of Greater Wellington’s cuts to the Environment programme do not bode well for the partners agreeing on and announcing the first implementation plan this year.

While the Trust and Guardians acknowledge that GW faces unenviable financial challenges to live within its means, we ask that before your final determination of the upcoming annual plan, you think through very carefully the impact of your decisions on the environment. Decisions taken to reduce environmental funding and services cannot easily be reinstated. We ask, however, that you agree that as soon as economic conditions improve you will accelerate the resourcing of expenditure on the environment in keeping with the commitments solemnly made on Waitangi Day 2025.

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