



PPTA TE WEHENGARUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

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# THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

A conference paper entitled “Embracing Kaitiakitanga” was presented to the 2019 Annual Conference. Conference passed the following recommendations:

1. THAT PPTA purchases carbon offsetting from a reputable organisation for all flights that are booked by the organisation.
2. THAT PPTA implements environmentally responsible actions immediately.
3. THAT PPTA sets up a working group to look into the more complex actions that could be taken to reduce the PPTA’s environmental impact.
4. THAT PPTA publicly support student climate action.
5. THAT PPTA develop advice for those teachers wishing to support students in climate action.
6. THAT PPTA co-ordinate with other unions to support nationwide action over climate change.

This report sets out the work on these recommendations to date.

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## 2. PROGRESS

### 2.1. Working Group

A working group has been established in accordance with recommendation 3 above.

#### 2.1.1. Members

There are six teacher members, and four staff on the working group. The teacher members are from regions throughout the motu and represent different roles in the PPTA such as branch or regional committee members, including Te Reo ā Rohe and Te Huarahi. The staff members are the advisory officer who holds the climate justice portfolio, and the three deputy general secretaries to represent the advisory, field and administrative services.

#### 2.1.2. Initial meeting

The initial meeting of this group was postponed due to COVID-19. As a result, the first meeting of the group was on 11 June 2020 via Zoom. At this meeting the vision, priorities, goals and processes were discussed.

#### 2.1.3. Vision

In discussing the vision and goals for the group, PPTA’s existing points of reference for decision making were considered. When making operational decisions, consideration is given to the wellbeing of the people involved (staff and/or members) and to the financial implications to the Association. The vision for this group is to add an environmental framework to this decision making process, so that when making decisions the Association is not only considering the human and financial costs, but also environmental costs. The group emphasised that consciousness of environmental concerns should not come at the detriment of the cultural need for whanaungatanga and being together face-to-face.

#### 2.1.4. Name

In naming the group, all members agreed that a Māori name would be appropriate and preferred. Te Reo ā Rohe and Te Huarahi representatives agreed that they would present the group with a name at the next meeting.

#### 2.1.5. Priorities

The recommendations from Annual Conference 2019 fall into two areas: those that encourage the PPTA as an organisation to improve its environmental sustainability, and those that call on PPTA to advocate for increased environmental sustainability in our schools. It was agreed that we should first get our own house in order by addressing the PPTA's practices, before moving on to addressing issues in the wider school setting.

#### 2.1.6. In terms of the PPTA's operations, there were three main areas identified where there would be potential improvements:

##### a) travel, including:

- flights for staff, members of the executive, and members to attend hui around the country
- car travel/taxis for field staff and national office staff

##### b) waste, including:

- paper usage in offices and at hui
- recycling in offices

##### c) energy, including:

- heating and lighting in offices

#### 2.1.7. Next steps for the group

In light of the agreement that the groups' principles allow for face to face meetings, it was decided that the most effective way of moving forward is to hold a full day meeting at national office during Term 3, 2020. Andrew Cassidy is the NZEI Te Riu Roa staff member responsible for improving their environmental sustainability, and has been invited to the meeting to share his experiences and advice. This meeting is taking place on 14 August 2020 and details of discussion at this meeting will be available at Annual Conference 2020.

## 2.2. The Sustainability Trust

#### 2.2.1. The Sustainability Trust offers a service called Your Sustainable Workplace, which is a programme designed to help organisations reduce waste in their work space. This includes:

- Site assessment
- Waste auditing
- Education programmes
- Recycling advice
- Reducing your carbon footprint

#### 2.2.2. Free consultation

On 30 June 2020, two representatives from the Sustainability Trust met with the staff members on the working group at PPTA National Office for a free consultation to access our goals and needs. They are putting together a quote for a full site

assessment and education programmes. This report will then be presented to the working group at their August meeting. An update will be available at Annual Conference 2020.

### **2.3. Carbon Credit offsetting**

2.3.1. This is another area where progress has been delayed due to COVID-19. The immediate impact of alert levels 2 to 4 meant that PPTA members and staff were not flying for PPTA activities, so planning to implement carbon offsetting was postponed.

#### **2.3.2. Research**

Research into the most effective way for PPTA to offset carbon emissions from flights indicates that it is best to estimate the number of miles flown by PPTA members and staff per year and offset in bulk. Most years, it would be relatively easy to estimate the amount of carbon offsetting required by referring to the previous year's mileage. COVID-19 has made this difficult. Not only did we cease flying entirely for more than two months, the number of face-to-face meetings that are taking place for the rest of the year is greatly reduced.

#### **2.3.3. Advice**

The Sustainability Trust will assist us to find a trustworthy New Zealand-based company, and we will estimate the amount of carbon we believe we will use. If we underestimate we will make up the difference. Because carbon credit offsetting for flights has been approved by Annual Conference 2019 and a budget line assigned for this purpose, we can make this change as soon as we are sure we have a suitable carbon offsetting provider. We anticipate that this will be underway before Annual Conference 2020.