



Litter Intelligence Data Governance Group (DGG)

Minutes Data Governance Group (DGG) Meeting 8 November 2023

Date: Wednesday, 8 November 2023

Time: 11.00am - 1.00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Ben Knight (Chair - Sustainable Coastlines), David Harris (Stats NZ), Amanda Valois (Greater Wellington Regional Council/National Freshwater Advisory Group), Jordi Tablada (Department of Conservation), Logan Ashmore (Ministry for the Environment), Rick Leckinger (Be A Tidy Kiwi), Karina Brehmer (Keep New Zealand Beautiful), Shawn Elise Tierney (Sustainable Coastlines), Amy Smith (non-voting, Secretary)

Apologies: Heather Saunderson (Keep New Zealand Beautiful)

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Current Actions Table

Action	Owner	Status
2023 ToR to be circulated and signed by all members before the next meeting.	Bella	
DGG members to provide nominations for the chair role via email to bellah@sustainablecoastlines.org. A poll will be circulated for voting before the next meeting	Bella	Ben acting as interim chair until new chair is elected.
StatsNZ to deliver a workshop/meeting with SC on data use and data quality. David and Ben will meet beforehand to discuss how this will be delivered. To be done before the next DGG meeting.	David/Ben	
SC to discuss how to incorporate back of the beach recommendations into training/tech.	Ben	
Investigate the cost for changing the wording from 'freshwater' to 'streams' across the LI platform.	Ben/Shawn	Done
Amanda/David/Ben to meet to discuss QA/QC next steps and data analysis.	Amanda/David/Ben	
Present on the definition of LI as a brand and personality at the next meeting.	Josh/Ben	

1. Review and Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes were circulated. No issues arose.

Agreed: Minutes of the 21 November 2022 meeting approved as a true and accurate record.

2. Review Actions from Previous Meeting



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Action	Owner	Status
2022 ToRs pending signatures signed by all DGG members.	Bella	Complete.
2023 ToRs drafted for 2023 before the next meeting and circulated to all members to sign.	Bella	ToR complete. Members to sign.
All DGG members provide nominations for the chair role via email to bellah@sustainablecoastlines.org. A poll will be circulated for voting before the next meeting.	Bella	Ben acting as interim chair until new chair is elected.
StatsNZ to deliver a workshop/meeting with SC on data use and data quality. David and Ben will meet beforehand to discuss how this will be delivered.	David/Ben	To be completed before the next meeting.
SC to discuss how to incorporate back of the beach recommendations into training/tech.	Ben	Carried over.
Investigate the cost for changing the wording from 'freshwater' to 'streams' across the LI platform.	Ben/Shawn	Carried over.
Send categories to Rick to share proportional numbers for categories that can't be merged between KNZB and LI. This data will be then shared with David for STATS NZ to look at next steps.	Carla	Complete. Spreadsheet here.
Amanda/David/Ben to meet to discuss QA/QC next steps and data analysis.	Amanda/David/Ben	Carried over.

3. Governance

A. Updated Terms of Reference (TOR)

- [2023 ToR](#) will be circulated to the group to sign following this meeting.

B. Membership

- SC update: Bella (secretariat) and Carla (insights and impact analyst) left, Shawn Elise returned from maternity leave.
- Current membership:
 1. David Harris, Stats NZ
 2. Amanda Valois, Greater Wellington Regional Council/National Freshwater Advisory Group
 3. Jordi Tablada, Department of Conservation
 4. Logan Ashmore, Ministry for the Environment
 5. Heather Saunderson, Keep New Zealand Beautiful
 6. Rick Leckinger, Be A Tidy Kiwi
 7. Ben Knight, Sustainable Coastlines, Community Engagement Director (Chair)
 8. Amy Smith, Sustainable Coastlines, Secretary (non-voting role)

Agreed: Current membership approved.

4. Quality Assurance and Quality Controls



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- Quality control activities will resume after being paused over the past six months with SC embedding a new team.
- The QC process for classification decisions has yet to be developed.
- Classification decisions will be quality controlled at the material class level.
- There is a good pool of data for auditing counts and weights and survey completeness metrics.

5. Beach Monitoring

A. New Zealand

- 456 beach surveys were completed over 207 survey areas between 21 November 2022 and 25 October 2023, meeting the objective of a minimum of 432 surveys. Around 125k individual items of litter were classified.
- The frequency of repeat surveys is increasing. SC are supporting community groups to understand the value of repeat data compared to one-off data.
- The SC team were acknowledged for their work in maintaining the programme over the past year.

B. Pacific Islands

- The online virtual trainings delivered by SC over the past three years have been well received.
- Over the past year, SC delivered a successful Pacific Marine Litter Pilot Project across Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, funded by Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP). Training was delivered in person through workshops for communities. The pilot project will end as the SWAP funding wraps up at the end of 2023. If the next phase of the project comes into fruition, it will not start until 2027.
- SC are in discussion with the Australian Government funded Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) about a similar pilot or extension of the SWAP project to bridge the gap between the SWAP phases and to help the POLP requirements be met. One step within POLP is to establish a Pacific DGG. They are looking to us as the experts and want our guidance and recommendations. The idea of combining the NZ DGG and Pacific DGG was discussed:
 - NZ DGG members see value in combining.
 - It could reduce the focus of the NZ DGG which focuses on NZ data.
 - It would allow us to compare trans-boundary marine litter data across countries over time which would be useful for stakeholders.
 - There would be opportunities to collaborate if the groups do not combine. The two groups would need to work openly together. An interface between the two groups is needed.
 - Workshopping will be done around the composition of the Pacific DGG, and the conversations at this meeting will be included. SC will keep the NZ DGG updated.

6. Stormwater Monitoring

A. Official Training Developed

- Auckland City Council funded the development of standardised training for lead stormwater citizen scientists. In April 2022, a working group of SC, Stormwater360, Mountains to Sea Wellington, Northland Regional Council, Tread Lightly, Nelson EnviroSchools, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and NIWA came together to



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- help develop the training materials.
- SC is working with local authorities to review their waste minimisation and management plans.

B. Auckland Council Funding (December 2022)

- There is a good spatial spread of stormwater surveys around Northland and Auckland with a handful of sites elsewhere around the country.
- A platform is available to deliver official training in stormwater monitoring, therefore enabling communities to collect data from stormwater sumps at a high level of data quality.

7. Freshwater (Stream) Monitoring

- SC is seeking funding to develop official freshwater training materials and funding to support the delivery of the programme.
- The app is available for data collection however data can only be submitted at the lower perceived data quality standard of adhoc.

8. Terrestrial Monitoring

- The KNZB and LI category concordance project is complete and sitting with Stats NZ to review.
- The national litter audit is available to read. SC acknowledged KNZB for all their work.

9. Category and Keyword Review

- The category and keyword spreadsheet was reviewed.
- No changes or new category recommendations were made during this meeting.
- There would have to be a strong case to create new litter categories.
- There is currently no resource to split out categories.
- POLP has a big focus on single-use plastics. Suggestion to support them by doing sub-sampling of the categories we have identified as being predominantly single-use plastics to get a more accurate count.

10. Platform/Technology Updates

- SC have terminated their contract with Enlighten Designs who built the LI platform, and have engaged Redux, who have worked alongside Enlighten for the past 18 months, to provide on-going support to maintain the LI platform.
- Funding will be needed to support any further development of the platform outside the existing maintenance.
- Shawn facilitated a series of technology roadmap planning workshops with SC staff to define requirements and prioritise improvements.
- The immediate focus will be on Salesforce improvements to improve team administration efficiencies and survey automation.
- Many bugs have been fixed in the app.
- Recommendations for technology improvements will be brought to the next DGG meeting.
- SC are developing a comprehensive technology roadmap which will include improvements to the LI app and website, and aspirations in how data is presented and how easily different groups can download and interpret data and use it accurately.
- Shawn was acknowledged for her work on allowing Northland Regional Council to



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automatically pull data from the LI website to their own website. We would like to see a similar model for all Regional Councils.

- It is important to be clear on the type of freshwater body being referred to. We want to make it clearer to people that stream methodology is a wade or stream methodology only and does not measure freshwater litter in all the ways freshwater litter can be found. We need to decide how this can be implemented cost effectively. The DGG advised making this a priority. It has been included in the technology roadmap. Freshwater litter is included in the stream and river QA framework Amanda has been working on with NIWA. There is capacity to expand the framework to include lakes and stormwater. David, Amanda and Ben will discuss this further as part of their QA/QC discussion early next year.

11. General Business

- DGG meetings will be quarterly for an hour with the next meeting being in February 2024.

The meeting closed with a karakia at 12.22pm.