

12. DRAFT BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee that the Draft Biodiversity Strategy has now been amended to include input from tangata whenua. At its March 2004 meeting the Committee approved the first version of the draft Biodiversity Strategy. The Committee also supported the associated budget, for the 2005/06 funding round, and the inclusion of a reference to the Biodiversity Strategy and its funding implications in the LTCCP. The Committee's approval is now sought to release the completed draft Biodiversity Strategy (copies circulated) for public consultation.

NGĀI TAHU INPUT

Discussions with Ngāi Tahu have resulted in a series of consultative meetings with representatives of affected Rūnanga (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke and Te Taumutu Rūnanga). The outcome of these meetings has been to provide greater recognition, throughout the draft strategy, of the relationship Ngāi Tahu have with natural resources and biodiversity and the role this plays in their cultural identity and values. The development of an on-going relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the Council is recognised as an essential component of the strategy.

The Action Plan has been amended to better enable Ngāi Tahu to contribute to sustainable biodiversity management, and to promote a wider understanding of sites and species of significance to Ngāi Tahu. This section now includes recognition of Ngāi Tahu's relationship with biodiversity and indigenous species, including the sustainable customary use of those species.

EDITING CHANGES

An editing process has resulted in a number of changes to the text and layout of the document. In particular, the introduction has been updated and other sections have been edited and re-organised to enhance readability and provide a better flow of information. Maps have been clarified and relocated to provide a more logical sequence of material.

The Action Plan has been consolidated (to approximately half its original length) and reformatted, making it less daunting, while still retaining the key concepts. In addition the "top 10" actions have been highlighted. New sections have been added on monitoring of the strategy and its relationship to the LTCCP.

TIMEFRAME

The timeframe for the Biodiversity Strategy is now scheduled as follows:

- Draft Biodiversity Strategy presented to Council at its 1 July meeting
- Public consultation begins mid-July (extends over two months and will include two public workshops)
- Submissions collated at the end of September
- Facilitated forum held in October to receive feedback on the summary of submissions and recommended amendments
- Final Biodiversity Strategy document to Council in February 2005

CONCLUSION

Following consultation with Ngāi Tahu and after further editing, the second version of the draft Biodiversity Strategy has been completed. With the inclusion of any amendments required by the Committee, it is now ready for public consultation.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Committee approve the Draft Biodiversity Strategy for release for public consultation.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the recommendation be adopted and that Kelvin McMillan and Anne Greenup be delegated authority jointly to make minor editorial amendments.