
Agenda for a hearing panel of the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee (to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations on the Taiao Strategy) to be held in Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 18 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

4. REPORTS

- 4.1 Hearing & Deliberations report - Taiao Strategy 5

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It is intended to discuss this matter in the open section of the meeting, however, should in depth legal advice be requested from the Committee, a resolution may be passed to exclude the public to hold these discussions.

GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Reports to:	Council
Chairperson:	Cr Lisa Thomson
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Mayor Carolyn Eyre
Membership:	The Mayor and all Councillors
Meeting frequency:	Six-weekly
Quorum:	Majority of the members (including vacancies)

Purpose

The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee is responsible for:

1. Developing strategies and plans to achieve the goals of Council's Long-Term Plan as they relate to sustainability and the four wellbeings.
2. Enhancing the District's economic position by promoting it as a business-friendly and business-enabled location and providing direction on strategic initiatives, plans, projects, and potential major developments relating to economic and business development.
3. Monitoring of Council's sustainability and wellbeing related strategies and plans.
4. Partnering to guide the provision of strategic community services to meet the current and future needs of the district and the enhanced wellbeing of its communities.
5. Facilitating community and stakeholder involvement and engagement with community infrastructure, safety, and wellbeing matters.
6. Overseeing civil defence and emergency management.
7. Approval and monitoring of funding to benefit the social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of communities.

In addition to the common delegations, the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:

Terms of Reference – Sustainability & Wellbeing

- To develop, monitor and review Council's plans and strategies in relation to climate resilience and adaptation.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's plans and strategies in relation to desired community outcomes, including Blueprints.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's Economic Development plans and strategies.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's social development and cultural wellbeing plans and strategies.

Terms of Reference – Engagement and Funding:

- To develop and agree engagement strategy and plans for the purpose of enhancing community engagement and involvement.
- To provide advice on the development and implementation of strategies in relation to the impacts on sustainability and the four wellbeings.
- To receive and consider presentations and reports from stakeholders, government departments, organisations and interest groups on development and wellbeing issues and opportunities within the District.
- To determine funding applications for the Discretionary Grants Fund in accordance with the Discretionary Grants Policy and Guidelines, in a fair and just manner.
- To monitor and review the work of the Creative Communities Scheme Assessment Committee on a regular basis.
- To prioritise allocation of funding for community activities in accordance with Council policy and strategy

Terms of Reference – Civil Defence and Emergency Management:

- To monitor the performance of Waikato District’s civil defence and emergency management response against Council’s requirements under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act including:
 - a.) implementation of Government requirements; and
 - b.) co-ordinating with, and receiving reports from, the Waikato Region Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

- Monitor the performance of Waikato District’s civil defence and emergency management response against Council’s requirements under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act including:
 - a. implementation of Government requirements; and
 - b. co-ordinating with, and receiving reports from, the Waikato Region Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee.

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

Approval of:

- Climate resilience and adaption strategies and plans
- Economic Development strategies and plans
- District and Community Blueprints

- Social Development and Cultural strategies and plans
- Community Engagement strategies and plans
- Approval of funding applications for the Rural Ward Fund within the funds allocated by the Council on an annual basis (other than those applications to be determined by the relevant community board or community committee).
- Approval of funding applications for the Heritage Assistance Fund and Conservation Fund as recommended to the committee by officers or relevant assessment bodies.
- Approval of funding applications for any other community-based funding as delegated to the committee by the Council.

To	Deliberations Panel (draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy- submissions)
Report title	Taiao in the Waikato Strategy Hearing and Deliberations
Date:	18th and 19 th April 2023
Report Author:	James Fuller, Senior Environmental Planner
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To assist with consideration and deliberation on the submissions received to the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy (the draft Strategy) by the deliberations panel on behalf of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee.

AND

To enable the deliberations panel to recommend to the Sustainable and Wellbeing Committee approval of the proposed changes to the draft Strategy. The deliberations panel, with staff assistance, will work through the submissions and suggest changes to the draft strategy based on the submissions.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

Waikato District Council has reviewed and updated its Conservation Strategy and Esplanade Strategy and combined both strategies to develop the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy. The draft Strategy provides a long-term plan to achieve the 'draft Strategy's vision of liveable, thriving and connected communities while helping to maintain, protect and restore indigenous biodiversity throughout the district. The approach outlined in the draft Strategy allows it to be more relevant and implementation-orientated than the current Strategies.

The draft Strategy is intended to:

- Provide overarching guidance to communities, iwi, hapū, marae, businesses, and action-orientated neighbouring local communities to help deliver on the conservation vision, goals and actions identified;
-

- Build on the current protections under the Proposed District Plan with support and collaboration around Taiao; and
- Guide council staff on the Strategy goals and actions (including restoration, access, collaboration, and education) that should be prioritised within existing budgets and resources, as well as projects and activities that should be considered for funding through the development of the Council's Long-Term Plans (LTPs).

The draft strategy was released for public submission on 15 August 2022 for a time period of six weeks, ending on 27 September 2022. Overall, 21 submissions were received, one of which was received late (Waikato Tainui). It is noted that many of the submissions were made by stakeholders who were initially consulted regarding the development of the draft Strategy. The deliberations panel will consider the submissions along with suggested changes to the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy as tracked through Attachment 3.

3. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS TUUTOHU-AA-KAIMAHI

THAT the deliberations panel receives the report and:

- accepts the late submission by Waikato Tainui;**
- Considers and makes decisions on the submissions on the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy, pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, AND**
- Recommends the attached tracked changes version of the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy, with further amendments as required, in response to decisions made on the 21 submissions, to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee for approval.**

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

In 2004 Council approved a Waikato District Conservation Strategy (WDCS) with the following vision of three main threads;

- Promoting the 'Council's focus to lead by example when carrying out service delivery functions on its parks and reserves;
- promoting the conservation of private land; and
- education through the wider communities about the benefits of conservation.

Whilst it was a non-regulatory document, the Conservation Strategy 2004 provided direction for the Operative District Plan (Waikato Section) biodiversity-related provisions.

In 2020, the Strategic Planning team began a review of the Conservation Strategy (2004) and identified several shortcomings of the Strategy. Staff set up a steering group that included three councillors and relevant staff from across the business. The steering group developed a new vision, goals and a series of actions around the goals, with monitoring and implementation to progress over time through a series of report cards.

Key themes were to set a clear vision for the district given the current and future conservation environment. The themes included:

- Improve the Taiao and conservation;
- Support and collaborate with others around protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity;
- Include mana whenua in promoting Kaitiakitanga of our natural systems; and
- Promote access to Taiao where it is appropriate.

The steering group met regularly to develop the vision and goals, which were workshopped with councillors as required. Several key stakeholders were also contacted (Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Federated Farmers and QEII), and their views were incorporated into the drafting of Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato.

The draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy was brought to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 3 August 2022. Council approved the public release of the draft Strategy for public consultation for a period of six weeks.

Council received 21 submissions, one of which was late by four days (Waikato Tainui). A workshop was held on 13 March 2023 to update the new councillors on the Strategy and request that a deliberations panel be given delegation to consider and make decisions on the submissions. The panel appointed at the 5 April 2023 Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee includes Councillors Beavis, Eyre, Gibb (Chairperson), Keir Ngataki and Turner.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

Council received 21 submissions through the public consultation period between 15 August and 27 September 2022. Responses were received from Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Forest and Bird, Federated Farmers and QEII, amongst others.

The general themes of the submissions received focused on the following:

- General support for the revised Conservation Strategy and addition of the Esplanade Reserves;
 - Protection and restoration are key topics that submitters spoke to and want to see results on the ground. This means appropriate resourcing from the Council through staff and funding, e.g., reinstating the conservation fund or an equivalent;
 - Te Ture Whaimana must be at the heart of the 'district's conservation efforts, where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities;
 - Helping tamariki learn and participate in restoring our Taiao in the Waikato;
 - Empowering our communities through collaboration with the tools and support they need to restore the Taiao in Waikato from new and existing restoration groups, predator-free groups, individual landowners etc.;
 - Providing safe and easy access to the Taiao, where we can go through esplanade reserves and access strips; and
 - Creating ecological corridors by linking SNAs with Council and private landowners supporting each other.
-

Each of the submissions before the deliberations panel needs to be considered along with staff recommendations which recommend including (in full or part) or rejecting the submission. The submissions are grouped by topic to help with ease during deliberations.

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

Staff have assessed that there are two viable options for the deliberations panel to consider submissions and make decisions.

Option 1 (preferred): The deliberations panel considers each of the submissions by topic and makes decisions on staff recommendations and any resulting changes to the Strategy. This option will ensure the most efficient decisions on submissions and the final wording of the strategy. This is the preferred option.

Option 2: Consider the submissions and finalise the Strategy without any changes.

Staff recommend **Option 1** because it is the most comprehensive way to ensure community participation and meets the requirements under section 83 of the Local Government Act.

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

Council has a sufficient budget to finalise the Strategy. The budget will go towards finalising the document based on decisions made on the submissions and updating the design of the final document with related images.

It is important to note that at the 18 October 2021 Strategy and Finance Committee meeting, a series of Funding Review recommendations were adopted, primarily focusing on re-aligning discretionary funds. A new Community Aspirations and Blueprints budget that includes funding for conservation groups will be available subject to an application process. With the removal of the Conservation Fund, private landowners will no longer be able to apply under individual applications as set out in the Conservation Strategy 2004. The Strategy does recognise that support and collaboration are key actions of the Strategy, so more funding opportunities for landowners will need to be explored through the LTP process.

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that both options comply with the 'Council's legal and policy requirements and best practices.

5.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the 'Council's policies, plans and prior decisions. Furthermore, the preferred Option 1 adheres to 'Council's engagement policy for community engagement and responding to the submissions.

The report and recommendations are consistent with the 'Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

Finalising the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy and addressing the submissions focuses on refreshing 'Council's Vision for conservation, setting goals and actions consistent with the current 2004 Conservation Strategy intent, but extending it into best practice, including restoration, access, collaboration, and education.

5.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

The draft Strategy sets goals for 'Council's role in supporting Tangata whenua aspirations, including facilitating conversations with Waikato-Tainui for iwi-led and hapū-led conservation projects. Waikato District Council also sought further input from Waikato-Tainui as part of the draft Strategy as a stakeholder. This forms part of this report's recommendation that their late submission be accepted. As part of implementing the Strategy, the Council will investigate ways to support mana whenua in protecting and restoring the Taiao through the Long-Term Plan process. ,

5.6 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

The matters covered in the Strategy are consistent with the 'Council's Climate Response and Resilience Policy and Climate Action Plan and will help it meet its resilience planning outcomes. It is hoped that the protection, management, and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, support and collaboration with other parties, and improving access and education will help the 'district's resilience to climate change improve.

5.7 Risks

Tuuraru

The overall risk profile is low. The submission review and the Strategy review process will follow a clear council process as detailed in Promapp. The key risk arises from the fact that consideration of the submissions is not undertaken by all of the councillors but only a subset (Deliberations Panel).

However, any submissions with opposing or conflicting recommendations will be discussed in deliberations, and reasons for any changes will be identified. The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee, which will make the final decision on the draft Strategy, will have visibility of the changes proposed as part of the submission changes, so the risk of having a subset of Councillors on the deliberations panel is mitigated.

6. Significance and engagement assessment

Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance

Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of low significance in accordance with the 'Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

6.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

This report acknowledges the deliberations panel is considering all 21 submissions received on the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy and suggested changes to finalise the Strategy for the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to make a final decision.

The engagement has been challenging due to Covid, with the focus to date being on iwi and key stakeholders. Key stakeholders have made up most of the submissions on the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato, who generally agree with the strategies themes, but have requested specific changes in their submissions. The deliberations have suggested changes to finalise the strategy based on the submissions and what is relevant to the Strategy.

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by briefly explaining the tools used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	<i>A steering group was put together with staff and councillors to review the Strategies (Conservation and Esplanade). The steering group identified key Stakeholders who were consulted with as part of the drafting and development of the Strategy.</i>				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Community Boards/Community Committees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi and hapuu
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Affected Communities

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affected Businesses
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Other; Federated Farmers, New Zealand Walking Access Commission, Waikato Regional Council, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council and Auckland Council.

7. Next steps Ahu whakamua

Staff will draft a tracked change version of the Strategy based on the decisions made by the deliberations panel for each submission point. The tracked change version of the Strategy will be presented to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee for approval before the final document and design work is completed.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

As required by the Local Government Act 2002, staff confirm the following:

The report fits the 'Council's role and the Committee's Terms of Reference and Delegations.	Confirmed
---	-----------

Refer to the [Governance Structure](#)

The report contains sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages (<i>Section 5.1</i>).	Confirmed
--	-----------

Staff assessment of the level of significance of the issues in the report after consideration of the 'Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.	Low
---	-----

The report contains adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons taking account of any proposed or previous community engagement and assessed level of significance	Confirmed
---	-----------

The report considers the impact on Maaori (<i>Section 5.5</i>)	Confirmed
--	-----------

The report and recommendations are consistent with 'Council's plans and policies (<i>Section 5.4</i>).	Confirmed
--	-----------

The report and recommendations comply with 'Council's legal duties and responsibilities (<i>Section 5.3</i>).	Confirmed
---	-----------

9. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy

[Link to Taiao \(Nature\) in the Waikato Draft Strategy Document](#)

Attachment 2 – All submissions

Attachment 3 – Submission points by topic with staff recommendations

Submissions Received on the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy

Submissions Period: Aug 18, 2022 - Sep 27, 2022

Table of Contents

<u>Response No. 1 Waikato Branch Forest & Bird</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Response No. 2 Sport Waikato</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Response No. 3 Forest and Bird</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Response No. 4 Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Response No. 5 Fish & Game New Zealand</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Response No. 6 Waikato Environment Centre Trust</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Response No. 7 Leanne Steel</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Response No. 8 Wayne Bennett</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Response No. 9 Paul Newton-Jackson</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Response No. 10 Waikato Regional Council</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Response No. 11 Crystal Walker</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Response No. 12 Herenga Nuku Aotearoa – The Outdoor Access Commission</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Response No. 13 Confidential</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Response No. 14 Chris Harvey</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Response No. 15 W Montemezzani</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Response No. 16 Hamilton City Council</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Response No. 17 Jackson Farm</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Response No. 18 Waikato-Tainui</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Response No. 19 Federated Farmers</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Response No. 20 QEII</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Response No. 21 Tamahere Restoration Trust</u>	<u>50</u>

Response No:
1

Contribution ID: 4737
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Sep 27, 2022, 03:52 PM

15

Q1 Name

Short Text Katherine Hay

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Waikato Branch Forest & Bird

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text See attached

Q15

Upload any further material here

16

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1317

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 4736
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Sep 27, 2022, 03:48 PM

17

Q1 Name

Short Text

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Sport Waikato

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text See attached

Q15

Upload any further material here

18

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1316

Q1 Name

Short Text Elvisa Van Der Leden

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Forest and Bird

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text See attached

Q15

Upload any further material here

20

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1307

Q1 Name

Short Text Jan Simmons

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

The general intent of the vision and goals is along the right lines but the wording of these key strategic elements could be considerably improved. [Wording from draft strategy in italics, suggested wording underlined]

A Vision should paint a picture of what something will look like in the future. It should not include an action. Therefore the first statement in the vision should start with "A liveable, thriving and connected community where our district values and understands the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga." There is nothing in the glossary defining "District". It is usually associated with defining the boundaries of the area administered by WDC so it may be better, in this instance, to refer to "the people of the District".

The second two sentences of the vision should be connected as one statement.

The fourth statement is not achievable or desirable as worded. You do not want the full range of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems and species – you just need those that belong in the District. Suggested rewording is: "A full complement of indigenous ecosystems and species are thriving across their natural range in the Waikato District from the mountains to the sea". This then ties in with Goal 1 where there is reference to "their natural range".

The Goals can be essentially grouped into four categories – protection/restoration, resource use, working together and access/recreation. A further goal relating to education could be appropriate. Applying these categories, we suggest that reference to ecological linkages should be removed from goal two (use) and be included in goal one (protection/restoration).

The wording of Goal 4 (access) should include "where appropriate" as not all natural areas should be open to public access in the interests of protecting biodiversity.

On page 26, there is a section entitled "Snapshot of Goals". This is confusing as it seems to be a random list of ideas for achieving goals. There is a similar random list of ideas on page 28 under the heading Focus Areas (timeframes). It is suggested that these ideas should either be included under the focus areas (many are) or deleted.

The Focus areas generally align with the goals which is appropriate. However, it is suggested that a number of actions would be better placed under different Focus areas and there is inconsistency in layout style that adds confusion e.g. some statements are repeated and bullet points are used in some instances and not in others. We have offered suggestions for improving Focus areas but would like to see more detailed editing to provide clarity of what is intended by whom. You will find our suggestions under "Additional comments" towards the end of this submission.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Long Text

The general direction of this strategy will contribute some way to protecting Taiao in the Waikato District. However, WERT considers more specific guidance would be helpful especially for the wider community. There is an extensive list of actions identified for WDC and this raises the question as to whether there will be the resourcing for staff to implement and monitor them. It would be pertinent to consider how the community may be able to assist.

Q11

3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

We would like to bring to your attention, areas which may be far from pristine but contain examples of biodiversity not found elsewhere. These areas are a valuable guide to restoring natural areas on similar landforms. Taiao in the Waikato would be advantaged if reference ecosystems like these were used as a guide to restoration on appropriate sites.

1. Several examples of riparian / swamp forest vegetation found where streams enter the Waipa River. For instance, the area surrounding the confluence of the Koromatua stream and the Waipa River. This is a particularly important type of landform to restore well.
2. The unique vegetation of the islands of the Waikato River delta. Again, a guide to quality restoration would be helpful.
3. The remnant vegetation of the limestone outcrops surrounding the Whaingaroa (Raglan) Harbour.
4. Remnant kahikatea stands are a feature of the Waikato District but many lack the diversity of species that should be present.

Q12

4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

The threat posed by plant pests is very significant and may not be fully realised. Particular threats include tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*).

Tradescantia is regularly dumped along with garden waste along waterways and roadsides. This plant is particularly resilient, establishing well from tiny fragments. *Tradescantia* also translocates along waterways during floods. *Tradescantia* poses a threat, not to mature trees and shrubs but to native plant regeneration and so the health of a population rather than an individual. Some success has been achieved through the introduction of bio-controls but action to eliminate dumping as well as more bio control work will be important.

Ivy is increasing in the Waikato District and slowly invading native bush. Ivy growing up trees has the potential to set seed and this is currently resulting in an invasion capable of degrading local bush reserves.

Tree Privet invades bush margins and poses a significant threat to new native planting projects. As it spreads more widely across the district it will become increasingly more costly to control. Raising community awareness of weed threats is an important action to take.

Well intended planting of native trees and shrubs which have not been well ecosourced is an ongoing threat to the unique character of Taiao in the Waikato. Having a clear definition and guidelines for ecosourcing in the Waikato District is important. Ecosourcing guidelines were adopted by Ecosourced Waikato in October 2003 and key points are included as an appendix to this document - and could also be added to the strategy as an appendix.

Lack of knowledge of local ecosystems, how they are structured, how they change over time and how best to replicate them is an impediment to useful restoration.

Ecosourced Waikato (now superseded by WERT) produced detailed local planting guides for the Waikato District some years ago. We propose to update these, make them more user friendly and accessible e.g. they could be made available on the WDC website. These guides focus on restoring natural patterns and processes. They take into account the dynamic nature of natural areas and facilitate succession. WERT members have accumulated considerable experience restoring natural areas over the past 20 years. We have funding already available to both revise these local planting guides and provide workshops to share and interpret that information.

Q13

5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Guidance: Ecological restoration is a long-term activity. Sites take time to adequately prepare. Plants adapted to exposed conditions will eventually be succeeded by those better suited to more mature ecosystems if this is facilitated. Having access to good information about local ecosystems, how they are made up, how they change and the time frames that can be expected will be really useful not only to practitioners but also to funders. A lack of good information is a key factor holding up restoration.

The right plants: There are many nurseries keen to grow easy to propagate, fast growing colonising species. These establish quickly but typically are overrun by weedy exotic species if they are not followed up by a more complex, site-specific suite of ecosourced species. Knowledge of these species and their availability for projects will greatly smooth the way for restoration of our unique ecosystems. WERT operates a community volunteer native plant nursery at Mystery Creek offering a wide variety of species and already provides plants for community projects and landowners in Waikato District.

Competent practitioners: Ecological restoration is very different to landscape planting. Planting for ecological restoration requires knowledge of the requirements, growth rates, ultimate size and life span of each species planted so that plants can be laid out to best advantage. Weed control prioritises those weeds which inhibit natural succession and, where possible,

relies on competition to control those weeds. Experience of biocontrols is important.

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text See attached file for additional comments, concluding remarks and Appendix

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1306

Q1 Name

Short Text Adam Daniel

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Fish & Game New Zealand

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text See attached

Q15

Upload any further material here

25

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1305

Q1 Name

Short Text Jo Wrigley

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Waikato Environment Centre Trust

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text Perhaps could also add supporting either the creation or updating management plans for WDC reserves, with collaboration from the community and led by Mana Whenua supported with appropriate resourcing.

- Always ensuring equitable involvement and public participatory processes of mana whenua within the community. There should always be a relationship and involvement from start to finish of initiatives, not just consulted or involved when convenient.
- Ensure that the increased funding, resourcing etc is well tracked and transparent for all those involved or interested. There should be some sort of transparency on how funding from the large economic benefits made with environmental efforts is being reinvested. Also, transparent investment from private and public sector agencies, corporations, organizations etc.
- Ensuring there is a transparent process or plan when it comes to retiring farms/productive lands, ensuring that productivity is not overshadowed by pushing towards environmental protection. Furthermore, as we move towards a renewable energy society the infrastructure required can have a very large footprint due to requiring large areas of land; ensure transparent processes and plans for transitioning this land to be used for renewables to ensure they will be of benefit and not further harm.
- Part of the increased knowledge and education for the community should involve improving publicizing and increasing submission engagement with plans, policies, strategies etc that will impact Taiao. Furthermore, the knowledge portal should also include how landowners can voluntarily place land under various protections and what these protections will mean for their land.

- As part of Council support, will there be complementary work undertaken by either Council or contracted field staff to assist with efforts that may not be possible for community members to undertake?

- Ensure that social aspects related to Taiao are also included in monitoring and reviewing processes.
- With education, connect and/or assist collaboration with as many schools and education providers at as many levels as possible in regard to Taiao learning.
- We don't agree with the promotion of carbon credit market systems. We believe the focus should be on incentives for reducing carbon emissions rather than creating a market that promotes continued carbon emissions. Creating this carbon credit market opposes the core idea that moving towards renewables involves both a transition of those that are a part of fossil fuel industries and increasing investment to support renewable energy markets.

WDC publish a management plan for each native species that has a national threat listing that grows on WDC-managed land (including road reserves).

WDC collaborate with WRC and DOC to put together a 'regional threat status' document of species that may not be nationally threatened but are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District that is informed by mana whenua m?tauranga.

WDC commits to no further loss of biodiversity within the District (especially on WDC-managed land)

WDC prepares a number of biodiversity plans per annum for privately owned ecologically significant sites and then works with and supports biodiversity plan holders to improve the condition of their sites.

WDC encourages landowner collaboration and the creation of ecological corridors by allowing groups of 2 or more nearby landowners to apply to their Conservation Fund as a group.

WDC hosts field trips to their own reserves to share best practices

Prioritising the maintenance and protection of the full suite of ecosystems within the district; connected, resilient and thriving, for future generations.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Yes

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

see above

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Access to funding, access to labour, education, time.

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1 NameShort Text
Leanne Steel**Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**

Short Text

Q3 Email addressEmail
****Q4 Phone**Telephone
****Q5 Preferred method of contact**Select Box
Email**Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**Select Box
Individual**Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?**Select Box
Yes**Q8 Any further comments**Long Text
I absolutely support the goals on page 12 of your document. I hope the council is sincere in its intent, budget and will to achieve them and the draft strategy is not just a legally required box ticking exercise.

I am very involved with two weed eradication groups in Whaingaroa Raglan. One working year round on Kaitoke Walkway and the other helping residents learn to take the initiative, recognise and eradicate specific pest plant species targeting roadsides, private property and reserves. Wherever we can we will.

I was working under the auspices of Whaingaroa Weedbusters.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?Select Box
Yes**Q10 Any further comments**Long Text
Well yes but only if it's enacted and not just a wordfest on paper. From my observations I don't have faith that council will be willing or able to achieve these goals. But I would love to be wrong and I fully support doing so and offer support from Whaingaroa Weedbusters in Raglan to support the goals locally.

I do however utterly disagree with the strategy of passive (rewilding) management adopted by council to manage reserves, pg 6 of your doc. There is nothing about this strategy that is working for most reserves.

Kaitoke Walkway in Whaingaroa Raglan is an example. Council staff I encountered on here told me the strategy for management was to let the bush manage itself. We were standing amongst stunted native trees, unable to reproduce effectively, draped in climbing asparagus, tradescantia and Kahili ginger interspersed with emerging woolly nightshade, privet, japanese spindleberry among others. I asked how that was working out?

I am aware this pathway (which is an awesome 2.5km long amenity in the middle of town visited frequently by locals and visitors) had weed control a few years ago but it's narrow strip of bush with private gardens along the edges making it unresilient to incursions of pest plants. The passive strategy is not patently unworkable on sites like this.

I fully support strategies that include assisting community groups to work more effectively by providing advice, resources and, most importantly, collaborative communication between council and community.

Q11

Long Text

29
3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Zealandia Te Mara a Tane in Wellington.

Wellington City council uses native plants in amenity plantings. Their own nursery grows native plants for council and community restoration work. They provide advice, tours and workshops on plant propagation. Maybe a few council administered nurseries about the region specialising in providing enrichment plants for each different type of space - coastal, lowland, flood plain.

This provides jobs and skills for locals. You could look at applying to DOC for Jobs for Nature funding.

Closer to home Wainui Reserve is OK. I guessing this is possibly the site referred to in the draft doc on page 3 "Coastal reserves around Raglan... are managed well, particularly in restoration activities, and there is good community consultation with these".

I have been given to permission to quote John Lawson who leads the Friends of Wainui and is surprised the council feel the communications with this group is good enough to hold up as an example.

He states "Since FoW was formed we'd used chemicals and chainsaws, but were then told to stop using them and to stop cleaning the Millennium ponds. WDC promised training for handling chemicals and getting a resource consent for the ponds. Neither has happened and has been a reason why several volunteers have given up. They're were also unhappy that WDC sprayed Poroporo in an area we were regenerating from bamboo and put in gravels paths without consultation".

John is not aware of any active monitoring of the site for pest plants, to give advice or to plan enrichment plantings.

From a cursory glance I can list some the pest plants there from a walk around the main trails includes,

- Tradescantia
- Montbretia
- Japanese walnut
- Selaginella
- Woolly nightshade
- Agapanthus
- Loquat
- Pampas
- Ginger
- Privet
- Japanese anemone
- Arum Lily
- Artistea

Using a passive management strategy, left to their own devices these plants will in time become the dominant species. Even tradescantia on it's own will bring down a forest. The statement is from Wayne Bennet, a nurseryman with years of experience and observation of his own remnant restoration projects.

I would not like to see an increase in the number of native areas until you manage the ones you've got much better. Obviously I do support increases in the quality of native areas and suggest the following strategies be considered,

- In-person monitoring of sites - not just monitoring via complaint which is, I am aware from WRC, a key tool.
- Active pest plant management
- Enrichment planting into sites following the initial years post pioneer species planting.

Some expectation that the road corridors are actively managed for their contribution to pest plant numbers. Eg, Privet abounds on Waikato roadsides and Waka Kotahi does not make any effort to manage. Adjacent landowners don't either. Te Uku and Whatawhata are key examples.

I would also like to see council contractors able to recognise pest plants and as they trim the path edges to the requisite 50cm, instead of trimming the woolly nightshade or the pampas by the path edge how about killing it properly. And not just cutting it down and walking away. A coppiced privet is much harder to manage later.

Q12

Long Text

4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Inertia - human. Everyone's looking for someone else to do the job so they don't have to. The view that its too late, the environment is too far gone so why bother.

Lack of recognition. People don't know what they're looking at. People don't value indigenous biodiversity and realise how much our human health and wellbeing is influenced by the environment. Or indigenous biodiversity is something you see in a nature reserve or zoo, or a steep hike up Karioi, not in my backyard.

We can't grasp the extent of what is lost because its been gone so long and is now relegated to small far away sanctuary's. Except in Wellington

Entitlement. I don't care that Dally pine or privet etc are a pest plant that changes the nature of the soil preventing native plants from growing. I don't care that the Nikau took 50 years to get that tall, it's blocking my view. That patch of SNA on my land has to be cleared to make way for my boat shed. These are all examples of actual conversations with my neighbours.

Shade tolerant ground dwelling creeping plants that are robust to a variety of conditions - Climbing asparagus, Tradescantia and ginger.

Q13

5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Number one lack of interest, support, collaboration, advice and resources from council.

I know I can access biocontrols, plants, labour (although more would be great) but as a volunteer with no budget I would rather spend my precious private time kill trees than organise.

I think district council should employ a full time coordinator, advisor for community groups with a budget. Some one to assist with funds apps, advertising and social media advice, a conduit between the council staff and community groups. You might need two or three. This could be paid for via the DIA Community Lead Development funding or Jobs for Nature ? Again, providing jobs for locals, upskilling all around and decreasing massively a cost and workload for council.

Q14

Any additional comments?

Long Text

Poor comms on this whole thing. I was not aware this draft document existed or was out for consultation until last week. It was brought to my attention by a landowner who is engaged in restoration who highlighted it just in case we hadn't been aware. I've seen nothing in the local paper. Perhaps the communication could be improved ?

What I also wonder, a lot more cynically, is that the council considers the whole process a box ticking exercise and if it goes under the radar it will have done the job and not caused themselves too much extra work.

My experience trying to work collaboratively with council started out well. I spoke with the reserves team leader about adopting a beach access walkway adjacent to my home. Council was very generous in providing plants, mulch, compost and lime. I calculated approximately \$10,000 worth over 2 years. This despite him not knowing if I was was a person of my word.

I am unaware of there has ever been an audit of the work.

Also I can understand the wariness of council when residents come up with schemes and then walk away when they get bored or shift away. Residents are also a huge resource. We live here and are motivated to improve the environment and do a good job.

Since then efforts to engage with council and expand the programme to other sites has been met with radio silence. I seldom get return messages from phone calls or emails. There was a small increase in contact when I included the manager but I find this approach antagonistic.

So we got sick of asking but we still think the work is worth doing so we have been working in our own time, at our own expense to remove pest plant material and dispose in landfill or green waste and we have grown appropriate native plants to put back onto the site.

On Kaitoke walkway we have very recently secured a means for disposal of noxious plant material that council has agreed to after nearly a year of asking. However I believe the funds for the this is from Regional Council.

I find the unwillingness on councils part to collaborate very short sighted. Community groups can be a pain in the arse. But we can also present a massive cost effective resource.

I would like to see more protection and monitoring of SNA's. I live adjacent to one.

I have watched my neighbours fell parts of it for buildings, remove the understory entirely with assistance from a local landscape company who should have known better and cut down mature nikau without any consequence.

I am aware Clare Jackson is submitting and she has copied me her main points.

I support her points on

information gathering and monitoring,

applying best practise evidence based guidelines,

sharing with the community so we can see how much you value what is here and the community is imbued with the same value

allowing groups of landowners to apply to the Conservation fund,

All and every effort at restoring and enhancing native biodiversity is going to have value in carbon sequestration and mitigate climate change which lies at the heart of my decision to spend my time caring for nature.

Again I reiterate my sincere hope council is honest in the intent to carry enact this strategy. I respectfully request a response to my submission in any case.

Thanks for reading.

Q15

Upload any further material here

31

File Upload

Q1 Name

Short Text Wayne Bennett

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text N/A

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text Vision, goals and focus benefit from being specific realistic and achievable.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further commentsLong Text This strategy could benefit from more specific actions. For the strategy could identify all WDC policies strategies and guidelines which might be influenced by the ideals of this strategy and identify how they will be amended to align with the vision, goals and focus of this strategy.
Specific WDC staff could be familiarised with this strategy and empowered to implement appropriate areas in it.**Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.**

Long Text

Several times this strategy refers to planting native plants. There are appropriate remnants which might be used as reference ecosystems to guide planting and help it contribute to Taiao in the Waikato.
Examples of these include the limestone outcrop associations on Whaingaroa Harbour, streams entering the Waipa river and islands in the Waikato Delta

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Lack of understanding of local ecosystems how they are structured, how they function and how they are changing over time is a threat to taiao in the district.
This strategy identifies education as an important aspect

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

The spread of plant pests from neighbouring and public properties

Labour is available but good ecological understanding is rare amongst contractors
Biocontrol is an important tool. Good progress is being made and it should continue

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text

I started considering incremental improvements to this document but really it needs thorough revision to give it a more logical structure make it more concise and give it specific measurable objectives.

All the best

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1 Name

Short Text Paul Newton-Jackson

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text I support the broad vision, but I believe that the present draft is insufficiently clear with respect to a) present challenges facing Taiao in the district and b) concrete strategies to address these challenges.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box No

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text No

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text Waiwhakareke (Horseshoe Lake) near Hamilton.

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text No. We are seeing local plant species extinctions all along the Western Waikato coast, and it is not clear what strategies are in place to remedy this.

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text The fact that the Conservation Fund was discontinued, leaving the future of conservation projects on private land uncertain.

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text Please see attached document.

Q15

Upload any further material here

35

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1304

Q1 Name

Short Text Hannah Craven

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Waikato Regional Council

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text Please see attached feedback from Waikato Regional Council staff.

Q15

Upload any further material here

37

File Upload

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1297

Q1 Name

Short Text Crystal Walker

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Phone

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text However there are some actions that I cannot see how they will be achieved when we are already not delivering on these areas.

e.g
Action 2.2– Identify pockets of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Conservation Covenants and Esplanade opportunities
Link good ground-truthed SNAs and conservation covenants to A1.2 and A1.3 to existing information. Managed areas could be complemented voluntarily with legal protection through other mechanisms such as covenants or designations. Include unique linkage to other funders, including Waikato Regional Council, QE II Trust, and Waikato River Authority. Explore a programme to identify key native areas (logged over time) and how these could be captured, logged, and monitored over time.

Legal mechanisms - Covenants. At the end of the day a covenant is a legally binding document, however it is only monitored on a trust of good will and there are many covenants out there that are not compliant to the legal obligations of up keep and maintenance however there is no recourse available to monitor or enforce the covenant conditions.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box Yes

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text A strategy is only a strategy the true measure is the processes put in place and the ongoing dedication of resource to set the strategy into a reality.

Q11

3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Engaging with QE11 on all private conservation covenants to assist in the preservation and maintenance. QE11 have the expertise and function to serve the land owners in a way that WDC currently do not have the ability.

Q12

4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

I have found in my time working within council as part of the monitoring team that there is a lack of expertise in the topic of restoration / and conservation and a gap in knowledge leading to a lack of monitoring of our current Conservation Covenants. Monitoring for appropriate 'tick box's' is only carried out in the initial stage of creating a conservation covenant but there is little ongoing monitoring from there so there is no check that the promised conservation efforts are being adhered to. For fauna pest control the District council and land owners rely heavily on the Regional Council possum control and all other pests are generally not managed - Deer, goats, stoats, ferrets and rats are not managed as they should.

Q13

5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

N/A

Q14

Any additional comments?

Long Text

Q15

Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1 Name

Short Text Felicity Brough

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Herenga ? Nuku Aotearoa — The Outdoor Access Commission

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text Please see attached submission

Q15

Upload any further material here

41

File Upload

Submission to Waikato District Council on draft strategy: Taiao in the Waikato

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – The Outdoor Access Commission

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – The Outdoor Access Commission is the Crown agent responsible for providing leadership on outdoor access issues. Our role is to advise on and advocate for free, certain, enduring and practical access to the outdoors.

We administer a national strategy on outdoor access, including tracks and trails. We map outdoor access, provide information to the public, oversee a code of responsible conduct in the outdoors, help resolve access issues and negotiate new access.

Summary of key submission points:

In Herenga ā Nuku's submission on the Conservation Strategy, we:

- encourage a view of landscape connectivity that views esplanade reserves, esplanade strips and access strips as recreational assets and green space corridors for active transport as well as areas of riparian protection and management
- encourage Waikato District Council (WDC) to adopt a framework that facilitates the uptake of new esplanade strips and access strips, including those that are voluntarily offered to WDC, and
- encourage WDC to see esplanade and access strips as opportunities that can confer benefits of recreational access without the capital cost of landownership.

Principles

In compiling our submission, we considered the following:

- The purpose of esplanade areas (esplanade reserves, esplanade strips and access strips) is for public access and recreational use of riparian areas.

Level 15, Majestic Centre
100 Willis Street
Wellington, 6011

herengaānuku.govt.nz

- The importance of esplanade areas in providing both recreational spaces and green corridors for connectivity.
- How the legal differences between the three types of esplanade areas impact their use and function: Esplanade Reserves are land owned or administered by the WDC. In contrast, Esplanade strips and access strips are easements over privately owned land. For Esplanade Reserves — where the WDC owns or administers the land — it has more control over what occurs on the land and capital tied up in land ownership. Underlying landowner consent is typically required for management activities on Esplanade and Access Strip easements unless the matter is specified in the easement instrument.
- Significant population growth and impacts on availability and quality of outdoor public access within the Waikato District.
- The role of Herenga ā Nuku, as the government agency responsible for advocacy on public outdoor access and the statutory underpinnings of public access in Aotearoa
- Our work with groups and individuals in the region with outdoor access interests and aspirations
- The changing and evolving uses for outdoor spaces and how people recreate

Our submission

With respect to the above considerations, we offer the following points:

Feedback on the Draft strategy: Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato

Note where parts of the draft strategy are quoted, the phrases appear in italics

Page 11 Goals

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to take a wider view of recreational activities on esplanade areas — beyond just walking and cycling — to include activities like dogs on leads, horse riding and vehicular use (motorbikes and other vehicles) to meet current and future recreational aspirations of the community.

The strategy focuses on some technical aspects of esplanade areas. Herenga ā Nuku encourages adding an outline of the purpose and benefits of esplanade areas to the strategy as it will provide important context for decision-making around esplanade areas.

The purposes of esplanade reserves and strips are outlined Resource Management Act 1991. Along with protecting conservation values, section 229 states the purpose is:

(b) to enable public access to or along any sea, river, or lake: or

(c) to enable public recreational use of the esplanade reserve or esplanade strip and adjacent sea, river, lake, where the use is compatible with conservation values

Another useful source is the Quality Planning Resource: <https://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/node/737>, which outlines why esplanade areas are important.

In addition, we encourage WDC to consider adopting some of the benefits outlined in this submission under “other factors for consideration” (below) to understand why adopting and retaining esplanade areas provides value to WDC.

Page 18 Esplanade Reserves

"private property rights must be respected"

An esplanade reserve is public land (either council freehold title or crown land vested in the council). Therefore it is difficult to understand why WDC would need to respect private property rights when the land is under its control.

"landowners are responsible for minimising the effects of land use on waterbodies".

As the WDC is the landowner, direction on appropriate management of Reserves is contained in the General Policies Reserve Management Policy.

Page 19 Esplanade Strips

A rule may require esplanade strips in a plan when land is subdivided, reclaimed or developed or a road stopped.

The Local Government Act 1974 section 3 outlines that when a road is stopped along a riparian margin, the road is vested in the council as an esplanade reserve (not an esplanade strip as stated above).

"Esplanade strips are a legal instrument made between the landowners and territorial authorities. They are [an easement] which is registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed".'

We submit that WDC should stipulate surveying of the esplanade strips as the default position, as this will assist in realising the public benefits of the easement. Surveying esplanade strips ensures the easement is depicted on the cadastre, thus making the easements visible to the public. The increased popularity of mapping systems reinforces the value of depicting public access provision. As the easement's purpose is to create public access and recreation, it is important that the public can easily identify the location of the easement. Clear demarcation also helps reduce conflict.

The creation of a strip, and restrictions and requirements relating to its use and management are noted on the title and bind every party having an interest in the land. The form of the agreement and standard restrictions imposed on an esplanade strip is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA.

We encourage WDC to consider how the easement instrument can be customised to enable public access and public recreational use, which will ensure the esplanade strips meet their purpose — refer to RMA section 229 (b) and (c)

An esplanade strip can include provisions to exclude access by the public during certain times or under certain circumstances (as prescribed in Form 31 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees and Procedures) Regulations 2003 — also see examples of condition in the advantages and disadvantages space.

We encourage WDC to focus on how to facilitate public access and recreational use in line with WDC's ambitions in Liveable, Thriving, Connected Communities.

Other factors for consideration

In addition, Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to consider:

- The value to the community of WDC accepting new esplanade areas by creating new public access to and alongside watercourses, i.e. extending the "Queen's Chain."

- The benefit of extended recreational access within watercourses by creating new esplanade reserves and strips. Esplanade reserves and strips provide access not only to the land they sit over but also an entitlement of public use to the midpoint of the adjacent watercourse.
- Ensuring that WDC has a framework to facilitate the acceptance of new esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips to meet the demands of a rapidly increasing population and mitigate the impacts of green space being converted into housing.
- Having the ability to accept esplanade strips even though there may not be enduring public access to the strip. The easement still has the possibility of delivering conservation benefits, and public access may come over time as land ownership or land use changes.
- Ensuring that where esplanade areas are being created by subdivision, the applicant bears the cost of surveying to confer a public benefit.
- Recognising how esplanade areas can contribute positively to providing non-vehicular connectivity. Esplanade areas can offer safe, dedicated cycling and walking routes for commuter connectivity or recreational use (or both).
- How this Strategy interacts with the proposed WDC Connectivity Strategy (revised 2016 Tracks and Trails Plan) to achieve the best outcome for landscape connectivity and access to recreational facilities for local communities?
- The contribution facilitating public use of esplanade areas can mitigate climate change and reduce vehicle use.
- Utilising esplanade areas to facilitate connectivity to open spaces, tracks, and trails to facilitate pest management.
- How esplanade areas can complement the growth in cycling as a form of active transport and recreational pursuit.

Concluding comments

We support WDC's intention in Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy, particularly in the context of population growth and pressure on landscape connectivity, growing interest in active transport, burgeoning need for public green spaces and strong interest in active recreation. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.

We submit that the strategy needs to be amended to clarify further and strengthen the role of various Esplanade areas in achieving these key objectives.

The contact person regarding this submission is:

Felicity Brough | Regional Field Advisor — Waikato | Te Kaitohutohu Ā-Rohe — Waikato
Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa — The Outdoor Access Commission

[REDACTED]

Q1 Name

Short Text Keep confidential

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box Yes

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text 2 is a Leading question I would suggest. It would be naive to assume it is guiding " us all", it will be easy to guide some but perhaps still unlikely to convert those with otherwise vested interests.

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text I have one main and necessary focus, so am unable to comment on quality of others

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text Erosion, invasive weeds, feral cats, rats, possums. Also, less obviously, the newly discovered shocking effects of Glyphosate on worms and bees, plus the findings on the elements of this weedkiller in human populations and foods around the world. (Not normally prone to accepting similar scare mongering, but this looks like a valid issue. Monsanto will be pushing back.)

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text At the moment lack of support for determining, and trying to minimise, flooding, erosion (and likely tree death) in covenanted native bush caused by volume of water from a non 'hydraulically neutral' road in a new developing subdivision. Anthing else I can handle.

Q14 Any additional comments?

47

Long Text

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1 Name

Short Text Chris Harvey

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone **

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Phone

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text We live at 7 Marlborough St and there used to be native trees down by the stream BUT now, no stream and the only trees are Yuccas, Privet, Deadly Nightshade...the privet even jumped over the fence and our boys had to pull them down early January. Also...gorse is all over the Hood...another toxic plant

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box Yes

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text I sure hope so

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

i have always been a bit of allergic to some trees like privet etc...and during this season been a bit crazy

Q13 5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

we had to have "our poor old pine tree cut down" we were worried that it could collapse and land on our neighbours...but...it cost us \$6500...

Q14

Any additional comments?

49

Long Text

pretty please and thankyou for moving toward a new lovely environment

Q15

Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1 Name

Short Text W Montemezzani

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Email address

Email **

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box Email

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Individual

Q7 1. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box Yes

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text In my opinion as a professional ecologist, connectivity and edge-effect are a highly important aspect of conservation and promotion of native biodiversity. By promoting access through unlocking native bush and esplanade areas to provide for walking and cycling, an increase level of edge effect is likely being created. Without careful management areas can become trampled and restoration efforts lost, much the same as cattle access would.

Q9 2. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text In part. If a district-wide nature connectivity plan gets drawn up, the right people are engaged to guide restoration, and ongoing maintenance and management of all those areas are supported, then yes, the plan will help guide towards an improved state of nature. Ongoing funding and other resources are important factors to consider.

Q11 3. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

There are great places all around the District, but from personal experiences, these areas are great mostly because local landowners and volunteers take it upon themselves to undertake the hard mahi. They are asking for WDC assistance, but this has often resulted in nothing.

Q12 4. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Mostly, illegal dumping is a huge threat to forest areas and hasn't been mentioned, nor has pollution of waterways. I know that waterways fall under WRC regulations, but surely WDC also has a role to play to minimise runoff?

One thing that is definitely NOT a threat but appears to read that way in the strategy are long-tailed bats!! On page 17: "To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g. linked to land development applications. Non-regulatory policies are supported in this document. Includes assistance with establishing protective

covenants, service delivery, education, funding ecological assessment with WRC and helping to manage the threats of Kauri Dieback and Long-Tailed Bats."

Is Myrtle rust not considered a threat any more?

Q13

5. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

- lack of (monetary) support from WDC to assist keen volunteers in their efforts (plants, weed control, pest control).
- access to accurate knowledge for local restoration groups
- ongoing monetary inputs for maintenance. Controlling weeds and pests and enhancing native plant communities is one thing, but it is key that regular maintenance is kept up, otherwise it's a waste of money and people's time

Q14

Any additional comments?

Long Text

There is mention of copper skink specifically, what about other native and threatened herpetofauna species? Should Australasian bittern present throughout the District get special mention in this document?

Q15

Upload any further material here

File Upload

Response No:
16

Contribution ID:
Member ID:
Date Submitted:

52

Q1

Name

Short Text

Matthew Vare

Q2

Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Hamilton City Council

Q3

Email address

Email

Q4

Phone

Telephone

Q5

Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box

Organisation

Q7

6. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8

Any further comments

Long Text

Q9

7. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10

Any further comments

Long Text

Q11

8. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12

9. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 10. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text

From my quick read of the document I couldn't find any reference to HCC Nature in the City Strategy or programme. It would be great if your strategy highlighted HCC Nature in the City Strategy, our goal and the NITC programme to realise that goal.

The key objective for the Programme is to achieve 10% native vegetation cover in Hamilton, Kirikiriroa by 2050.

We have a collaboration and engagement workstream within the programme to ensure we are working with others to help achieve our goal and over time to extend and embed what we do in the community. This aligns well with you goal "seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Taiao in the Waikato vision".

Could the strategy be amended (perhaps as an action under focus area 3) to signal a commitment to partner and work with HCC NITC programme on projects within the Tamahere Gully System? This system is extensive and we have both community groups (Friends of Manga O) and iwi (Ngatio Haua Mahi Trust) working to restore parts of this system already. I know there are pockets of restoration in the gully under Waikato DC jurisdiction by individuals and groups. This system has been identified by WRC as a priority ecosystem [Moniqua Nelsen-Tunley] and it provides eco corridor. Also has high bat activity – so habitat for threatened species.

One of the things we are looking at is developing MOU with various partners to signal a commitment to work together where interests and outcomes align. Perhaps this is something we could consider to link to action above in first instance?

(Verbal Submission)

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload

Response No:
17

Contribution ID:
Member ID:
Date Submitted:

Q1 Name

Short Text C Jackson

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Jackson Farm

Q3 Email address

Email

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 11. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 12. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 13. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 14. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

- Q13** 15. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.
- Long Text
- Q14** Any additional comments?
- Long Text
- Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on your draft Conservation Strategy **Taiao “Nature in the Waikato”**. I spend much of my time in the outdoors - either working (landscaping, native restoration, farming), volunteering (community planting, trapping) or recreationally (bushwalking, swimming).
- The following are my comments, grouped under headings which refer to headings in the Conservation Strategy document.
- Key Documents** (mentioned P12)
- I would like WDC to also use and refer to these resources:
1. <https://nzctcs.org.nz/> **The New Zealand Threat Classification System** for information on the threat status of native plants and animals. Let's use this resource so we can be strong guardians of the species which are crying out for our help.
 2. **Protecting our natural ecosystems' carbon**
<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers>
For data on the effect of browsing pests like possums, pigs, deer, and goats on natural areas' ability to store carbon. Controlling pests helps mitigate climate change by increasing carbon absorption of natural areas thus giving an economic benefit to the council and to residents and businesses
 3. **WDC natural areas reserve management plan**
<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserve-management-plan> There is a lot of very useful information that gives a clear (and sometimes sad) picture of the state of te taiao in our district reserves
- Research and Evidence**
- See P3 Elements of the Waikato District and Te Taiao
Examples of well managed reserve areas in the Waikato District:
The list of places that are given as successes contains sites that are known to be infested with weeds or pests or where species are on the brink of extinction. When I went to the North Raglan harbour (Te Akau side) last summer I was dismayed to see invasive weeds infesting the remnant bush areas, and even WDC's own natural areas management plan says *Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values*, referring to Te Akau harbour edge. When WDC wants to cite examples of well managed reserves there needs to be correct information given. If the picture is gloomy, we can at least face it together as a district and use this as our starting point. Once some meaningful progress is made, it will be great to look back at where we began.
- P6 'Leave things alone'
This is a nice photo, but anyone who has fenced off some bush knows that fencing is not enough. Letting nature take its course means pests and weeds move in and displace the native species.
Please give the full information. Third point:
- Target pest control to **both** pest plants and animals. You can't have one without the other because they are interdependent.
- See P15 Opportunities for improving te Taiao, Protection and management of native flora and fauna (vision)
I would like to see WDC use an evidence-based approach to the district's ecology and its health. If the data is relevant, professionally collected and up to date, then people working and volunteering in the restoration area can make informed decisions. The Waikato district has special treasures, lets tell everyone about them and show we value what makes us unique. When anyone is reporting on aspects of the districts' ecology it must always be done using current best practice. As well as the WDC ecology team, there is the University of Waikato, Manaaki Whenua, Forest and Bird who can share their expertise in this area.
See P 32 action 3.1
Any data used to track ecology / te Taiao health needs to be robust, up to date and follow current best practice. No use having an app if the data is poor. Adopt the accepted industry standard for any type of software.
See Action 3.2
WDC should also ask for or provide best practice measuring and monitoring of the results of all private landowner and community group restoration. The results should be independently audited (see 'collaboration')
- Monitoring**
See P22 Opportunities in te Taiao (and Monitoring)
WDC should always use current best practice when monitoring anything, preferably overseen by people who are qualified in the field. Otherwise, we risk the results being meaningless and that is frustrating for the restorers and collaborators.
- Collaboration**
- See P21
WDC can work with others who are specialists in this area eg WRC and DOC. Identify the species that are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District and use this to prioritise ecosystems most urgently needing protection. (See resources for threat list)
See P26
Wildlife corridors: Investigate collaboration with the Kokako programme at Pirongia to bring kokako across to Karioi and with kiwi recovery projects in adjoining districts. My father remembered kiwi on Karioi, we can and should bring them back.
See P 29 action 1.2
Make connections with high achieving restoration projects outside the district and use their expertise and experience. Birds, bats, insects and plants do not adhere to district boundaries.
See p34 Action 5
Success is when community groups also help with Weed control in council reserves and are encouraged to speak up when

they see new weeds or worsening infestations. The iNaturalist app is great for this. If the public feel welcome to contact WDC when they are concerned, and see action being taken, we can prevent more local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas

56

Climate Change

Emerging Threats see P16

Waikato District Council could do much to protect the indigenous biodiversity by reducing carbon emissions (set a goal) and therefore climate change.

Sea level rise around the Raglan harbour will take a heavy toll on fragile habitats and bird nesting sites because there is already only a thin fringe of native vegetation around the harbour. More frequent, heavy rainstorms wash out hillsides and streams. Weeds quickly come in on these new bare areas because weeds are more vigorous than the native plants which they push out.

See also P18, point 3.

WDC should support evidence based, good quality restoration work in these areas because a resilient, richly diverse ecology reduces climate change impacts and benefits everyone in the district.

Conservation and restoration on private land

P21 Working with private landowners

The district has many small forest remnants scattered in farmland. Their size and shape make them expensive to fence and restore. If fenced and restored, we would have a wonderful, connected corridor across the district, allowing birds, bats and insects to move between eg Pirongia and Karioi. WDC should encourage and help fund farmers to work together on projects like this.

Directly funding a landowner towards fencing important ecological areas on their land is an effective way of preserving te taiao. The farmer/landowner just wants the job done, efficiently. Dealing directly with a landowner avoids that extra layer of bureaucracy that a group may present. There can sometimes be an expectation for ongoing funding to keep a community group going, especially if it has many paid staff or a large structure.

Community restoration and pest control groups have an important role in our district. It would be great to see these groups planning for the time when the pests are eradicated and the areas restored, and what that would look like. Predator free - that is what we are all working for. That might be introducing kokako and kiwi, or guiding visitors around our amazing restored natural areas and telling their stories.

See Opportunities in Taiao (and Monitoring) P22

Monitoring should in all cases be based on current best practice and overseen by those qualified in the field.

Economics

See P26 Ideas for funding

Controlling pests has direct economic benefits for the district in several ways:

Possum, deer, goat and pigs costs farmers and growers in lost pasture production, fence damage, illegal hunting, and diseases. Ask Federated Farmers.

Also; possums, deer, goats and pigs eating native plants costs everyone in lost carbon sequestration. Protecting and restoring biodiversity will reduce the district's carbon emissions and following from this, climate change and the damage it causes is reduced.

Priorities

See P27 Council and Crown reserve land best practice

Please would WDC commit to no further loss of biodiversity and no more extinctions on their own reserves, as an example to ratepayers. Refer to the national list of threatened plants and animals and their current status in the district.

Some of the WDC reserves would be great venues for field trips where farmers and community groups could study restoration and conservation, led by the WDC ecologists and other experts.

See P28 Focus areas- Timeframes

On private land near WDC natural reserves, the WDC ecology team could extend their WDC natural area management plans to include the nearby landowners' ecologically significant sites and support biodiversity plan holders to improve the condition of their sites, working alongside WDC staff.

See P 29 action 1.3 use the list of nationally threatened species when identifying these areas.

See P 29 action 1.1 Follow the WDCs WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan

https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserves-management-plan-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=826882c9_2 when working on WDC natural areas . Always use evidence based best practice in planting and pest control.

Sharing know-how and growing capacity

Focus area 5

P34 action 5.1 Action

The WDC has plenty of reserves where there can be field trips for farmers, private restorers, community groups to gather and learn from leaders in the field. As a follow up from these days, WDC could help with funding applications. These could be for group projects and projects by 2 or more landowners in an area working to join up nearby bush areas.

Illustrate best practice template p 36

57
Action 3.2 landowners and groups could be shown how to write one of these reports for their area including how to look up plants and animals on the New Zealand Threat Classification System as one of the inputs.

Look for not only vegetation coverage, but signs of a healthy native community that is improving over time. Refer to section on monitoring and measurement for comments about how to know the site is healthy.

Community groups contribute to planting **and weed control** in council reserves. Community groups learn to notice whether the ecology in their local reserve is healthy or stressed and are encouraged to contact council ecology team if they are concerned. The aim being to prevent any further local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas.

Q15

[Upload any further material here](#)

File Upload

Response No:
18

Contribution ID:
Member ID:
Date Submitted:

Q1 Name

Short Text Marae Tukere

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text Waikato-Tainui

Q3 Email address

Email

Q4 Phone

Telephone

Q5 Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6 Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box Organisation

Q7 16. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8 Any further comments

Long Text

Q9 17. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10 Any further comments

Long Text

Q11 18. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12 19. Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 20. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text

INTRODUCTION

1. This response is made on behalf of Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (formerly known as Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated).
2. Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (Waikato-Tainui) is the governing body for the 33 hapuu and 68 marae of Waikato and manages the tribal assets for the benefit of over 78,000 registered tribal members.
3. Waikato-Tainui provides this response to Waikato District Council on behalf of our hapuu and iwi members.

BACKGROUND TO WAIKATO-TAINUI

4. Waikato-Tainui marae are kaitiaki of their environment and regard the holistic integrated management of all elements of the environment (such as flora, fauna, land, air and water) with utmost importance.
5. Waikato-Tainui are tangata whenua and exercise mana whakahaere within our rohe (tribal region). Our tribal rohe is bounded by Auckland in the north and Te Rohe Potae (King Country) in the south and extends from the west coast to the mountain ranges of Hapuakohe and Kaimai in the east. Significant landmarks within the rohe of Waikato include the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, the sacred mountains of Taupiri, Karioi, Pirongia and Maungatautari, and the west coast harbours of Whaaingarua (Raglan), Manukau, Aotea and Kawhia moana, the eastern areas of Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames), and principally, New Zealand's longest river, Te Awa o Waikato.
6. We acknowledge and affirm the intrinsic relationship of Waikato-Tainui with our natural environment.
7. Waikato-Tainui entered into a Deed of Settlement regarding our Waikato River claim under Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 2008 ("2008 Settlement"). This was followed by the signing of a revised Deed in 2009 and ultimately, enactment of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 ("Settlement Act"). The settlement marked the genesis of the Crown's statutory recognition of Te Mana o te Awa and the establishment of a "co-management" approach between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown regarding matters relating to the Waikato River. Under the Deed of Settlement, the 'Waikato River' is defined to include any lakes and wetlands within a certain marked area. Thus, the creation of any policies that manage wetlands fall under the principles established in the Deed of Settlement.
8. Waikato-Tainui recognizes the joint management agreement that exists with Waikato District Council and wants to ensure that:
 - (a) The Taiao 'Nature' in the Waikato Strategy Document (Taiao Strategy) does not adversely affect the rights, interests, responsibilities and opportunities of Waikato-Tainui;
 - (b) The co-management principles that underpin our 2008 Settlement and the Settlement Act are recognised and upheld;

OVERVIEW OF THE WAIKATO-TAINUI POSITION REGARDING THE DRAFT

9. Waikato-Tainui has a range of rights and interests including, but not limited to, those that arise from the following:
 - (a) The 1995 Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement (and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995), the 2008 Settlement and Settlement Act;
 - (b) Tikanga and customary law;
 - (c) Common law (including the common law relating to aboriginal title and customary law); and
 - (d) The Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.
10. Waikato-Tainui seeks to ensure that these rights and interests are recognised and protected with any policy development.
11. As part of the River Settlement signing in 2008, we also signed the Kiingitanga Accord. A cornerstone of the settlement is that both Waikato-Tainui and the Crown have committed to enter a new era of co-management.
12. The intention of the settlement was that the Crown would respect and work with Waikato-Tainui in good faith, as a Treaty partner. As set out in the Kiingitanga Accord, this requires the Crown to engage with Waikato-Tainui at an early stage when developing any legislation or policies, or making any decisions, affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters.
13. As noted above, the Kiingitanga Accord further included the principle of Te Mana o te Awa. This recognises that the Waikato River has its own mauri and is a single indivisible being. Moreover, it gives effect to the deep relationship between the Waikato River and the people of Waikato-Tainui.
14. This is reinforced through Te Ture Whaimana – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. This is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato- River and any activities affecting the catchment. It prevails over any inconsistent national policy statements and national planning standards as set out under the River Settlement. Te Ture Whaimana clearly states as some of its objectives:
 - The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
 - The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.

- The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
15. The 2008 Settlement Act also provided for the creation of an environmental plan by Waikato-Tainui. This plan is called Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao and sets out Waikato-Tainui's position on environmental issues and policies. The plan makes clear the integral part indigenous biodiversity holds within the whakapapa of Waikato-Tainui rivers and lakes as well as the ecosystem. Amongst other things, it affirms some methods in order to ensure that the full range of Waikato ecosystems found throughout the Waikato-Tainui rohe are robust and support representative native flora and fauna. Some of those methods are:
- All permanent waterways within the rohe shall be fenced from livestock and planted, where appropriate, with indigenous vegetation to minimise the effects of land use practices and enhance biodiversity.
 - Remnant stands of indigenous vegetation shall be retained, enhanced, and extended by fencing and planting and by the encouragement of landowners to take out protective covenants.
 - Waikato-Tainui involvement in local indigenous biodiversity strategies.
16. The creation of any policies or strategies relating to management and protection of indigenous biodiversity reflect the need to engage early with Waikato-Tainui in matters affecting the Waikato River, its ecosystem, its waters, or management over its waters.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF RESPONSE

17. Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise some issues regarding the draft Taiao Strategy. Particularly, the very limited reference to Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Te Ture Whaimana and a general need for further inclusion of iwi and hapuu within the document.
18. Waikato-Tainui principally support the draft's vision of creating a liveable, thriving, and connected environment where the district values our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga.

TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA O WAIKATO

19. As noted above, Te Ture Whaimana is the prime direction setting document for activities affecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Waikato-Tainui are concerned that, considering the real importance this strategy carries for the health of the Waikato River ecosystem, Te Ture Whaimana is only briefly noted twice in the whole document. Namely Actions 1.2 & 2.3.
20. The Taiao Strategy must give effect to Te Ture Whaimana. This may be achieved in part by adding a further statement in the Goals section at pages 12 & 28 reading:

Give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato through implementing its strategies and adopting its objectives.

21. Further work must be done to acknowledge the importance of Te Ture Whaimana in the Taiao Strategy. This includes the recognition of maatauranga Maaori in the monitoring of ecosystem health and the tracking towards achieving the Taiao Strategy's goals. Te Ture Whaimana must be put at the core of the Strategy.

WAIKATO-TAINUI ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

22. As with Te Ture Whaimana, Waikato-Tainui is concerned that the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, is only included in the section on links to key documents.
23. Waikato District Council must recognise the Environmental Plan as one of Waikato-Tainui's environmental planning documents and accommodate such within the Taiao Strategy. The Plan includes responses and positions to a broad range of environmental management issues.
24. Waikato-Tainui seeks that the Environmental Plan is recognised and incorporated into the Taiao Strategy at a fundamental level. This includes embedding it into sections on bringing the strategy to life, achieving the vision and goals, and monitoring the progress of the strategy.

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

25. Whilst recognising that Waikato District Council has identified certain SNAs Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise the need to further protect Waikato-Tainui cultural areas of natural significance.
26. The current funding pool for restoration by Waikato District Council is inadequate and will require more expansive investment if the protection of the Taiao under current and future pressures is to be ensured.
27. Waikato-Tainui further recommend that future ecological assessments require a cultural component to provide an accurate reflection of taonga that once thrived in the relevant area to be used as the baseline to target local endemic species.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

28. Waikato-Tainui support Action 5.2. However, it is important that there is express specification of marae, hapuu and iwi for this point. It is not adequate to be broadly grouped into "community groups".
29. Waikato-Tainui further support the methods proposed on communication and engagement should iwi and mana whenua be actively included in all engagement. Towards this purpose, Waikato-Tainui proposes the establishment of monthly hui between Waikato District Council, Waikato-Tainui and mana whenua representatives.
30. Whilst recognising that it is a draft document, Waikato-Tainui recommends that a brief review is done of the spelling of all Te Reo Maaori within the document, such as the correct use of macrons. I.e.: Ngāruawāhia, Waipā, Ngāti Maniapoto.

CONCLUSION

61

31.

In conclusion, Waikato-Tainui support the intention and vision of the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy. However, there are a number of issues present which Waikato-Tainui requires to be addressed.

Te Ture Whaimana and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan must be entrenched and given the appropriate weighting within the Strategy.

Q15

[Upload any further material here](#)

File Upload

Response No:
19

Contribution ID:
Member ID:
Date Submitted:

62

Q1

Name

Short Text

Jo Cook Munro

Q2

Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Federated Farmers

Q3

Email address

Email

Q4

Phone

Telephone

Q5

Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box

Organisation

Q7

21. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8

Any further comments

Long Text

Q9

22. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10

Any further comments

Long Text

Q11

23. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q12

Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Long Text

Q13 24. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14 Any additional comments?

Long Text

- General comment – remove filler words such as ‘therefore’ and ‘thus’ which have been used at the start of some paragraphs. They add nothing and are not needed.
- Page 2, the fourth and fifth paragraphs need a line spacing between them to be consistent with the overall formatting of the document.
- The reference to ‘Waikato 2070’ on page 10 of the draft strategy is supported. However, it needs to be noted that Waikato 2070 talks about protecting outstanding landscapes, significant natural areas, and rural amenity through sustainable farming practices (p15) with no further detail being given. It is important to ensure that the draft strategy recognises the existing uses in the rural environment (farming, agriculture, and horticulture) and, at a strategic policy level, provides for these activities to continue.
- The Vision on p11 of the draft strategy is supported.
- Under the goals listed on p12, we seek the inclusion of an additional goal which recognises existing uses in the rural environment and allows for these to continue in a sustainable manner.
- Page 12, fourth bullet point under the heading ‘Goals’ – full stop needed at the end.
- Page 14, first line of paragraph 4, include reference to where the SNAs are found in the PDP.
- Page 15, line spacing needed between first and second paragraph.
- Page 19, access strips – we seek the inclusion of a line that acknowledges there may be security issues for private landowners through allowing public access over their land and that this is acknowledged and work through where possible where agreements are being developed.
- Page 20, 3rd paragraph, we seek the inclusion of a line that reads “the potential for conflict to arise between private landowners and public access is acknowledged and is a matter for consideration when dealing with esplanade reserves, strips and access strips” or some other wording with similar effect.
- Page 23, first and second paragraphs need a line spacing between them.
- Page 32. Action 3.3 talks about the identification of areas of farmland for retirement. It lists community groups as part of the lead. We expect that the leads for this action are the Council and the landowners only and that community groups would have little or no impact on decisions made. We seek the deletion of community groups from this action.
- Page 35, line spacing needed between third and fourth paragraphs and fifth and sixth paragraphs.

Q15 Upload any further material here

File Upload

Response No:
20

Contribution ID:
Member ID:
Date Submitted:

64

Q1

Name

Short Text

Robbie Bennett

Q2

Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

QEII

Q3

Email address

Email

Q4

Phone

Telephone

Q5

Preferred method of contact

Select Box

Q6

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Select Box

Organisation

Q7

25. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Select Box

Q8

Any further comments

Long Text

Q9

26. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Select Box

Q10

Any further comments

Long Text

Q11

27. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Long Text

Q13

28. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14

Any additional comments?

Long Text

Reference to 'QEII' should probably say 'QEII National Trust' (at least at the start). QEII can be many things. Also we are trying to move towards "National Trust" as QEII indicates we are crown owned and maybe a covenant is 'owned' by the crown all sorts of myths to bust out there!

I was interested in the statement *Investigate a reduced covenant costing regime for QEII covenants within the Waikato District. Map these areas and coordinate monitoring initiatives with QE II staff* in the opportunities section. I was wondering what ideas you had in that regard? I'd certainly be keen to talk about opportunities. The barriers are almost always funding so if there's a way to share the load and encourage land owners lets look at it.

Also the statement .. *Fencing bush blocks, bush remnants and pest control are still supported in the Blueprint Community fund*. It was my understanding the BCF was no longer available to private land owners who want to do restoration on their land. Is that not so?

(Verbal Submission)

Q15

Upload any further material here

File Upload

Q1

Short Text

Member ID:
Date Submitted:

Name

Leo Koppens

Q2

Short Text

Organisation (if applicable)

Tamahere Restoration Trust

Q3

Email

Email address

Q4

Telephone

Phone

Q5

Select Box

Preferred method of contact

Q6

Select Box

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Q7

Select Box

29. Do you support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy?

Q8

Long Text

Any further comments

Q9

Select Box

30. Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?

Q10

Long Text

Any further comments

Q11

Long Text

31. The Strategy supports seeing an increase in the number and quality of native areas in the district. Please give examples of great places you know and how we might support replicating these.

Q12

Long Text

Do you think the Strategy identifies the biggest threats to Taiao adequately? What are your local threat experiences?

Q13

32. For those actively involved in restoration projects within the district, please list the top three things holding you back, e.g., access to plants, biocontrols, labour etc.

Long Text

Q14

Any additional comments?

Long Text

Please explain the bottom of page 1 paragraph and figures, e.g. areas in WDC conservation covenants and areas that the strategy hopes to protect.
 Definition of indigenous biodiversity where is this?
 Named areas what is there status? The state of nature in WDC e.g. figures 16.4% SNA's; 47% legally protected what is this? SNA's are 85% of what?
 Are all Kahikatea stands protected by covenants or SNA's
 How does this strategy relate to private land with no SNA's or covenants.
 Questions on WDC conservation covenanted areas: how many, total area, state of them and the need for better management.
 Nature reserves, mostly in a "poor" state, what is the plan to fix this?
 Will WDC become an active partner in engineering with nature? Eco-sourcing apart from the annual grants to Wayne Bennett and Jal Simone what is the plan to increase the supply of these plants
 Benefits of Taiao, explain subsequent ecosystem goods and services.
 Last paragraph, Taking measures for targeted restoration efforts
 Engagement, Restoration groups are not mentioned?
 Review every 3 years?
 Public open space (WDC). How will WDC address the poor state they are in? The subdivision of larger lots with SNAs are now gone. What will they be replaced by? Obligation to enhance and protect SNAs
 Commissioner for the Environment (Space invaders) not a key document?
 Restoring new sites: Scope
 Are SNA's really going to make any difference to this strategy intention. Where are the incentives to rehabilitate them and SNA process.
 Pg 14 and 15 seem to have contradictions between them e.g. only a small % of notified owners who made a submission. Most land owners were motivated etc. Regular reporting, what is that, is it possible to review the strategy every 3 years?
 How many are there in WDC, it would be great to support QEII
 SNA finding support, how and when outside land development applications
 Esplanade Reserves
 Will WDC create an esplanade reserve on the back of a restorative plan? Under the Reserves Act, WDC does not have to manage Esplanade Reserves (Please check).
 Esplanade Strips, what is reclamation? Can they be created voluntarily?
 WDC will treat Esplanade etc; Maori and mana whenua, how will this work?
 Funding half way down. Biosecurity and the role of WDC in the PMP.
 Conservation Fund, non Blueprint Fund; where will SNA landowners get support funding from? What is appropriately resourced mean?
 Steering Group (not sure of the value?)
 What about encouraging restoration groups
 What is best practice?
 Focus Areas
 I take it that community groups include restoration groups.
 How many does WDC have a record of and who is appointed to look after these groups?
 Would like to see community groups replaced by restoration groups.
 The document NPSIB, Eco-net, CAMs and LIBs will be looked at by whom.
 If this document is to be implemented it will require at least four new staff members (qualified); unless there is funding support for groups (new funding) very little will hit the ground.
 Will council recognise that the only way to get things to hit the ground is to support restoration groups (numorous) or individual landowners with a designated staff member.

Q15

Upload any further material here

File Upload

Submissions Received on the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy Attachment 3

Submission points organised by topic with staff recommendations

18th April 2023

Authored by James Fuller

Contents

Access	4
Best Practice and key documents	6
Collaboration	7
Conclusion	9
Elements of Waikato District	9
Emerging Threats	12
Esplanade Reserves.....	13
Focus Areas (Includes Actions)	16
Funding.....	25
General	26
Goals.....	27
Introduction.....	35
Layout and comprehension	36
Monitoring and Review	40
Opportunities and Implementation	41
Other	43
Policy and Scope	47
Private Landowners	48
Recreation and Reserves	49
Reporting.....	50
Restoration and Riparian plantings	51
Rewilding (Passive)	52
Significant Natural Areas.....	53
Strategic Context.....	54
Vision and Goals.....	55
Waikato Tainui – Environmental Plan.....	59

Acronyms

Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato – referred to as “the Strategy”.

Waikato District Council – WDC

Waikato Regional Council – WRC

Department of Conservation – DOC

Queen Elizabeth Trust - QEII

Forest and Bird – F&B

Fish and Game – F&G

Long-Term Plan – LTP

Significant Natural Areas – SNAs

Access

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.3.1	Access (Page 29)	Work with New Zealand Walking Access Commission to develop a network map that provides a hierarchy of provision, reflecting access, proximity and challenge of each track and trail	Noted, no change	Work with New Zealand Walking Access Commission to develop a network map that provides a hierarchy of provision, reflecting access, proximity and challenge of each track and trail	There is merit in developing a network map. The Reserves and Open Spaces team will be notified of this for their consideration.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.3.2	Access (Page 29)	Develop a connected, boundaryless cycling and walking network that links to other play, active recreation, and sport sites	Noted, no change	Develop and invest in a connected, boundaryless cycling and walking network that links to other play, active recreation and sport sites. Focus on optimising and maintaining assets that are accessible and inclusive for all (low participation groups and aging).	There is merit in developing a connected, boundaryless cycling and walking network that links to other play, active recreation and sport sites. However, this sits outside the Strategy. The Reserves and Open Spaces team will be notified of this for their consideration.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.3.3	Access (Page 29)	Continue investment in the development of cycling and walking tracks & trails where the need is identified	Noted, no change	Continued investment in the development of cycling and walking tracks and trails.	The Reserves and Open Spaces team will be notified of this for their consideration.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.3.4	Access (Page 29)	Focus on optimising and maintaining existing assets. Focus on flexible, accessible, and inclusive provision for all, including low participation groups and the aging population	Noted, no change	Focus on optimising and maintaining existing assets. Make them flexible, accessible, and inclusive for all, low participation and aging groups.	The Reserves and Open Spaces team will be notified for their consideration.

6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.1	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	Perhaps could also add supporting either the creation or updating management plans for WDC reserves, with collaboration from the community and led by Mana Whenua supported with appropriate resourcing.	Noted, no change	Seek the creation and/or update of management plans for Waikato District Council reserves in collaboration with the local community and led by Mana whenua with resourcing.	It is noted that the Reserves and Open Spaces team have a set programme outlining the update of Reserve Management Plans, which is considered equitable.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.2	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- Always ensuring equitable involvement and public participatory processes of mana whenua within the community. There should always be a relationship and involvement from start to finish of initiatives, not just consulted or involved when convenient.	Noted, no change	Ensure equitable involvement and public processes.	See the response to submission point 6.1.1.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.3	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- Ensure that the increased funding, resourcing etc., is well tracked and transparent for all those involved or interested. There should be some sort of transparency on how funding from the large economic benefits made with environmental efforts is being reinvested. Also, transparent investment from private and public sector agencies, corporations, organizations etc.	Noted, no change	Recognise the need for increased funding and resource that is well tracked and transparent for environmental efforts.	There is a need for increased funding opportunities that are transparent, however, it would be more appropriate to consider and investigate this as part of the Long Term Plan process.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.4	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- Ensuring there is a transparent process or plan when it comes to retiring farms/productive lands, ensuring that productivity is not overshadowed by pushing towards environmental protection. Furthermore, as we move towards a renewable energy society, the infrastructure required can have a very large footprint due to requiring large areas of land; ensure transparent processes and plans for transitioning this land to be used for renewables to ensure they will be of benefit and not further harm.	Noted, no change	Recognise the need to ensure there is a transparent process or plan when it comes to retiring farming/productive lands, ensuring that productivity is not overshadowed by pushing towards environmental protection and a renewable energy society.	Retirement of land would be voluntary and would ideally provide some benefit to landowners, if possible. Digitising the process could make it more transparent. The provision of sustainable infrastructure and land transition sit outside the Strategy.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.5	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- Part of the increased knowledge and education for the community should involve improving publicizing and increasing submission engagement with plans, policies, strategies etc., that will impact Taiao. Furthermore, the knowledge portal should also include how landowners can voluntarily place land under various protections and what these protections will mean for their land.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise the need to increase knowledge and education (including schools) in the community and increase engagement with plans, policies and strategies that will impact the environment.	This is covered in the Actions proposed around Focus Area 3 – Collaboration and education and Focus Area 4 Policy, rules, and regulation, which is concerned with the provision of technological and field support of community members, groups and restoration groups.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.6	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- As part of Council support, will there be complementary work undertaken by either Council or contracted field staff to assist with efforts that may not be possible for community members to undertake?	Noted, no change	Council support	This is covered in the Actions and report cards process.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.7	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- Ensure that social aspects related to Taiao are also included in monitoring and reviewing processes.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise the social aspects that relate to the environment are included in matters relating to monitoring and reviewing processes.	Staff recommend WDC consider highlighting the social benefits of the environment, monitoring and reviewing processes as part of the Report Card process.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.8	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- With education, connect and/or assist collaboration with as many schools and education providers at as many levels as possible in regard to Taiao learning.	Noted, change recommended	With education, connect and collaborate with as many schools and education providers as possible about Taiao learning	This is covered in the Action proposed around Focus Area 3 – Collaboration and education. A stocktake of the work being done in some schools and various planting programmes has already been undertaken in the district. This will be highlighted on the website and be available for those who seek to replicate these initiatives in other communities.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.1.9	Summary on Access and Action 5.1 (Pages 19 & 34)	- We don't agree with the promotion of carbon credit market systems. We believe the focus should be on incentives for reducing carbon emissions rather than creating a market that promotes continued carbon emissions. Creating this carbon credit market opposes the core idea that moving towards renewables involves both a transition of those that are a part of fossil fuel industries and increasing investment to support renewable energy markets.	Noted, no change	Do not agree with the promotion and creation of a carbon credit market system and would focus more on incentives for reducing carbon emissions.	There is a large conversion of agricultural land to carbon sequestration in wider NZ, and WDC staff would prefer to see small pockets of existing native areas protected and enhanced/extended with planting. Carbon credits may be a way to help land owners protect and maintain native vegetation on a smaller scale.

19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.5.1	Access Strips (Page 19)	Page 19, access strips – we seek the inclusion of a line that acknowledges there may be security issues for private landowners through allowing public access over their land and that this is acknowledged and worked through where possible where agreements are being developed.	Noted, no change	Page 19, access strips – we seek the inclusion of a line that acknowledges there may be security issues for private landowners through allowing public access over their land and that this is acknowledged and worked through where possible where agreements are being developed.	These issues may be dealt with as part of any access or esplanade strip that is placed over a property at the time it is created.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.5.2	Access Strips (Page 19)	Page 20, 3rd paragraph, we seek the inclusion of a line that reads, “the potential for conflict to arise between private landowners and public access is acknowledged and is a matter for consideration when dealing with esplanade reserves, strips and access strips” or some other wording with similar effect.	Noted, no change	Page 20, 3rd paragraph, we seek the inclusion of a line that reads, “ the potential for conflict to arise between private landowners and public access is acknowledged and is a matter for consideration when dealing with esplanade reserves, strips and access strips ” or some other wording with similar effect. Pg 23 line spacing.	These issues may be dealt with as part of any access agreement or esplanade strip that is placed over a property at the time it is created.

Best Practice and key documents

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
26 (4737)	Katherine Hay / Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.10.1	Illustrate best practice template (page 36)	Action 3.2 Forest and Bird would like to add: Narrative context: refer to the New Zealand Threat Classification System when evaluating how a site fits into the regional and district context. Indicators should not merely be vegetation coverage but rather a resilient and thriving ecology that is not suffering stress or decline.	Noted, no change	Addition of "Narrative context: refer to the New Zealand Threat Classification System when evaluating how a site fits into the regional and district context. Indicators should not merely be vegetation coverage, but rather a resilient and thriving ecology which is not suffering stress or decline". "	This may be considered in the future; however, it is currently considered resource hungry. If native vegetation is improved and pest control is undertaken, there is generally an improvement in site ecology.
27 (4737)	Katherine Hay / Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.10.2	Illustrate best practice template (page 36)	Community groups contribute to planting and weed control in council reserves. Community groups learn to notice whether the ecology in their local reserve is healthy or stressed and are encouraged to contact the council ecology team if they are concerned. The aim being to prevent any further local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas.	Noted, no change	Community groups contribute to planting and weed control in council reserves. Community groups learn to notice whether the ecology in their local reserve is healthy or stressed and are encouraged to contact the council ecology team if they are concerned. The aim is to prevent any further local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas".	This does happen for some WDC reserves, however, this will require further investigated with the Open Spaces team
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.1.1	Key documents (Page 12)	<p>2. https://nzctcs.org.nz/The New Zealand Threat Classification System for information on the threat status of native plants and animals. Let's use this resource so we can be strong guardians of the species which are crying out for our help.</p> <p>2. Protecting our natural ecosystems' carbon https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers</p>	Noted, change recommended	Add in the link for the threat Classification System	Propose the addition and inclusion of the New Zealand Threat Classification System: https://nzctcs.org.nz/ and Climate change and introduced browsers: https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers to key documents. This is due to the fact that controlling/removing pests ultimately protects Taiao and mitigates climate change.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.1.2	Key documents (Page 12)	For data on the effect of browsing pests like possums, pigs, deer, and goats on natural areas' ability to store carbon. Controlling pests helps mitigate climate change by increasing carbon absorption of natural areas, thus giving an economic benefit to the council and to residents and businesses	Noted, no change	Controlling mammalian browsing pests mitigates native vegetation loss and mitigates climate change.	Taiao in the Waikato recommends pest control and the benefits of native vegetation in mitigating climate change.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.1.3	Key documents (Page 12)	3. WDC natural areas reserve management plan https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserve-management-plan There is a lot of very useful information that gives a clear (and sometimes sad) picture of the state of te taiao in our district reserves.	Noted, change recommended	Add in the link for the threat Classification System	Propose the addition and inclusion of Waikato District Natural Parks Reserve Management Plan Link: https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserves-management-plan-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=826882c9_2 . The link suggested does not exist. It is also under review.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.9.1	Climate Change (page 16)	Waikato District Council could do much to protect the indigenous biodiversity by reducing carbon emissions (set a goal) and, therefore, climate change. Sea level rises around the Raglan harbour will take a heavy toll on fragile habitats and bird nesting sites because there is already only a thin fringe of native vegetation around the harbour. More frequent, heavy rainstorms wash out hillsides and streams. Weeds quickly come	Noted, no change	Reduce carbon emissions and therefore impacts on climate change	WDC is developing up a Climate Strategy. However, improving the opportunities for greater indigenous biodiversity will reduce the impacts of climate change indirectly.

No.	Submitter Group / Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
				in on these new bare areas because weeds are more vigorous than the native plants which they push out.			

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.9.1	Council and Crown Reserve/Land (Page 27)	What is best practice?	Noted, no change	What is best practice?	WDC is demonstrating how to improve indigenous biodiversity on its reserves (including crown-administered land) through this Strategy
------------------	--------------------	--------	--	------------------------	------------------	------------------------	---

Collaboration

14 (4737)	Katherine Hay / Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.7.1	Collaboration (page 21)	Forest and Bird would like to add the following: WDC collaborate with WRC and DOC to put together a 'regional threat status' document of species that are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District and use this document to prioritise ecosystems most urgently needing protection. This can be led by the ecology team at the WDC.	Noted, no change	WDC to collaborate with WRC and DOC to formulate a 'regional threat status' document for threatened species. Utilise this document to prioritise ecosystems for protection.	WDC will engage on a regional threat status for at-risk species with WRC and DOC as a process separate from this Strategy. Some individual species and habitats have been identified, and work is progressing around these species.
------------------	---	-------	-------------------------	--	------------------	---	---

3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden / Forest and Bird	3.2.1	Collaboration (page 21)	Forest and Bird support Iwi, Hapu, Community and Landowner collaboration. Local community groups such as the Waikato Forest and Bird branch committee have strong networks and sometimes resourcing to support collaborative opportunities. Forest and Bird encourage the Waikato District council to continue engaging with such groups to access technical local knowledge and information from a community perspective when identifying native ecosystems (public and privately owned) to actively protect and access volunteers.	Noted, no change.	Engage existing networks, including F&B, to access technical local knowledge and information to identify native ecosystems (public and private) and access volunteers.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested. There is an opportunity to work more with NGOs like Forest and Bird to improve the implementation of the Strategy.
-----------------	---	-------	-------------------------	--	-------------------	--	---

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.1	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	Poor comms on this whole thing. I was not aware this draft document existed or was out for consultation until last week. It was brought to my attention by a landowner who is engaged in restoration who highlighted it just in case we hadn't been aware. I've seen nothing in the local paper. Perhaps the communication could be improved?	Noted, no change	Poor communications on this review of the conservation process.	The Actions proposed and the Report Card process will allow opportunities for WDC to further engage with specific communities and groups over the life of the Strategy.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.2	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	What I also wonder, a lot more cynically, is that the council considers the whole process a box-ticking exercise, and if it goes under the radar, it will have done the job and not caused themselves too much extra work.	Noted, no change	Is this whole process a box-ticking exercise?	Key stakeholders were directly engaged, and the draft Strategy was notified and available to be reviewed by the public for six weeks.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.3	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	My experience trying to work collaboratively with the council started out well. I spoke with the reserves team leader about adopting a beach access walkway adjacent to my home. Council was very generous in providing plants, mulch, compost, and lime. I calculated approximately \$10,000 worth over two years. This despite him not knowing if I was a person	Noted, no change	Positive experience with the Council.	The draft Strategy sets out actions and opportunities to improve reporting.

No.	Submitter Group / Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
				of my word. I am unaware that there has ever been an audit of the work.			
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.4	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	Also, I can understand the wariness of the council when residents come up with schemes and then walk away when they get bored or shift away. Residents are also a huge resource. We live here and are motivated to improve the environment and do a good job.	Noted, no change	Opportunities and threats for WDC with community group initiatives	The outlined focus areas seek to collaborate more with community and restoration groups to enhance the environment.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.5	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	Since then, efforts to engage with the council and expand the programme to other sites has been met with radio silence. I seldom get return messages from phone calls or emails. There was a small increase in contact when I included the manager, but I find this approach antagonistic.	Noted, no change	Opportunities and threats for WDC with community group initiatives	The outlined focus areas seek to collaborate more with community and restoration groups to enhance the environment.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.6	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	So, we got sick of asking, but we still think the work is worth doing, so we have been working in our own time, at our own expense, to remove pest plant material and dispose in landfill or green waste and we have grown appropriate native plants to put back onto the site.	Noted, no change	Opportunities and threats for WDC with community group initiatives	The outlined focus areas seek to collaborate more with community and restoration groups to enhance the environment.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.7	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	On Kaitoke walkway we have very recently secured a means for disposal of noxious plant material that council has agreed to after nearly a year of asking. However, I believe the funds for the this is from Regional Council.	Noted, no change	Opportunities and threats for WDC with community group initiatives	The outlined focus areas seek to collaborate more with community and restoration groups to enhance the environment.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.8.8	Communication and Engagement (Page 34)	I find the unwillingness on councils part to collaborate very short sighted. Community groups can be a pain in the arse. But we can also present a massive cost-effective resource.	Noted, no change	Opportunities and threats for WDC with community group initiatives	The outlined focus areas seek to collaborate more with community and restoration groups to enhance the environment.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.3.1	Consultation and Engagement	Clarify the role of iwi/hapū in the draft strategy. We recommend directly consulting with iwi and hapū for this. Carry out further work to create the necessary links between the draft strategy and existing iwi management plans.	Noted, change recommended	Clarify the role of iwi/hapū in the draft strategy, with linkage to existing iwi management.	WDC to make amendments to the draft Strategy, where possible, to give effect to this submission point. Reference must also be given in the Strategy to collaborating with hapu and marae, where there are opportunities to improve indigenous biodiversity collectively.
-----------	--	--------	-----------------------------	---	---------------------------	--	--

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.4.1	Description - Opportunities for improving the Taiao (Page 15)	Most landowners were motivated etc. Regular reporting, what is that? Is it possible to review the strategy every three years?	Noted, no change	Motivated landowners and regular reporting	WDC seeks to enable further collaboration with landowners. This being said, WDC must undertake regular reporting on its own reserves as a first step.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.4.2	Coordinate with QEII for more significant-high-quality native areas where possible (Page 16)	How many are there in WDC? It would be great to support QEII	Noted, no change	Support QEII; how many QEII covenanted areas are there?	WDC seek amendments to the draft Strategy based on Submission 20 from QEII Trust and consequently works more collaboratively with them.

Conclusion

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.8.1	Conclusion (Page 10)	Forest and Bird encourage more “Nature-Based Solutions” to the heightening threats of climate change, including those set out in the strategy. Forest and Bird are encouraged by the direction and intentions of the Draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy.	Noted, no change.	Forest and Bird encourage more “Nature-Based Solutions” to the heightening threats of climate change, including those set out in the strategy.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.8.2	Conclusion (Page 10)	The strategy shows development in strength against the previous Conservation Strategy and highlights environmentally positive and ambitious goals.	Noted, no change.	The strategy shows development in strength against the previous Conservation Strategy and highlights environmentally positive and ambitious goals.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.8.3	Conclusion (Page 10)	Forest and Bird have highlighted some supplementary touch points in this feedback submission that we hope are considered in the finalization of the strategy and implementation of its associated plans.	Noted, no change.	Feedback from this submission is the importance of implementation and links to associated plans.	Following the release of the Strategy, implementation will be important to achieve the Strategies success and these touch points will come through.

Elements of Waikato District

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.1	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	Examples of well managed reserve areas in the Waikato District: Many of the sites listed here have experienced biodiversity decline and increased damage by pests and therefore do not stand as examples of success.	Noted, change recommended	Reconsider the sites listed on page 2, as these have experienced biodiversity decline and damage from pests. The limestone stacks at Raglan harbour have become infested with pampas and woolly nightshade, and nesting birds are stressed by the frequency of tourist boats.	Seek the addition of "good to fair", and delete the key following page 2. The draft Strategy acknowledges that the Taiao is under pressure and even good sites need help. The sites identified were indicated by stakeholders as good examples, and therefore WDC should retain them.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.2	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	For example, the limestone stacks on the fringes of Raglan harbour have become infested with pampas and woolly nightshade in the last 5 years.	Noted, no change	Specific sites in raglan are infested with weeds	The Open Spaces team have been notified, and further discussions with WRC will be undertaken.
2 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.3	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	In the last 5 years, with increased tourism on Raglan harbour, the nesting birds on the limestone stacks have experienced more stress as humans and boats come closer, in larger numbers, more frequently.	Noted, no change	Specific sites in raglan are under threat, with fauna stressed from human interactions.	The Open Spaces team have been notified, and further discussions with WRC will be undertaken.
3 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.4	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	On Mt Karioi, feral pigs have spread into new parts of the reserve, destroying areas of undergrowth, and predated on ground nesting birds such as ruru. Deer have recently escaped/been released onto the mountain where previously there were none, introducing a new, serious threat to biodiversity on this reserve.	Noted, no change	Biodiversity on Mt Karioi is under threat from feral pigs (destroying undergrowth and nesting birds). Deer have also been recently introduced and pose increased threats.	Mt Karioi is not mentioned in the Strategy, however, better animal pest and weed control is an aspiration noted in the draft Strategy throughout the district.

No.	Submitter Group / Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
4 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.5	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	Forest and Bird Waikato want to see robust, up to date information about the state of the natural areas in the Waikato, even if that information is unpalatable.	Noted, no change	F&B want to see up-to-date information on the state of natural areas in the Waikato district. The listed locations normalise native species extinctions, and growing pests within the district and any successes need to be based on sound evidence.	This will form part of future work and report cards.
5 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.1.6	Elements of Waikato District (Pages 2 and 3)	Pointing to the above areas as successes leads to native species extinctions and increased pests becoming normalised in our district. Forest and Bird expect examples of successes published by WDC to be based on sound evidence.	Noted, change recommended	Areas identified as successes in the district need to be reconsidered and based on sound evidence.	Review the sites listed in the Strategy and remove the ones that are not appropriate. Discuss with external parties, including WRC and the Waikato Branch of Forest & Bird, as to which may be appropriate to include.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.1	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Reword and edit the section to be more concise and clearer.	Noted, change recommended	Reword and edit the section including Page 2.	Staff will edit and make changes to the section to improve clarity of the Strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.2	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Amend the second paragraph of this section to "... 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), of which 47% are legally protected under statute or covenant."	Noted, change recommended	Amend the second paragraph of this section to "... 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), of which 47% are legally protected under statute or covenant."	Seek the addition "of which" in the second paragraph.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.3	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Specify that other areas of significant indigenous vegetation referred to (e.g., the Hākarimata Ranges) are managed by the Department of Conservation.	Noted, change recommended	Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation administered by DOC	Seek the addition of the following on page 2, paragraph 3: <i>DOC is administering specific sites of significance, e.g. the Hākarimata Ranges.</i>
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.4	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Recognise the Port Waikato and Raglan community groups for their work on coastal reserves.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise the Port Waikato and Raglan community groups for their work on coastal reserves.	Seek the addition of Port Waikato and Raglan community groups when undertaking work on coastal reserves.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.5	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Revise the list of well-managed reserves with input from WDC reserve staff to refer solely to specific reserves (rather than larger areas and reserve plans).	Noted, no change	Identify specific reserves, what parts of the district the strategy applies to, and whether it is inclusive or exclusive of the CMA.	WDC agree with the intent of this submission point. However, given that WDC only has control of its land and not the CMA, there may be no benefit in identifying these areas in the strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.6	Elements of the Waikato District (page 3)	Clarify which parts of the district the draft strategy applies to – does its scope finish at the CMA, or does it encompass this?	Noted, change recommended	Clarify whether the Strategy includes the CMA.	See the response to submission point 10.8.5
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.7	Elements of the Waikato District (page 2)	Mention the significant threats to Taiao here also.	Noted, change recommended	Identify threats and benefits to Taiao and improve the Map on page 4.	Threats and benefits to Taiao are identified in the wider document. Seek the addition of an improved Map on page 4.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.8.8	Elements of the Waikato District (page 4)	Add an improved, larger map early in the report (perhaps even earlier than where it currently appears on page 4 if appropriate).	Noted, change recommended	Improve the district plan map	Seek the addition of a clear District Plan map of Natural Environments with correct labels.
No.	Submitter Group / Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.2.1	Elements of the Waikato District and Te Taiao (Page 3)	Examples of well-managed reserve areas in the Waikato District: The list of places that are given as successes contains sites that are known to be infested with weeds or pests or where species are on the brink of extinction. When I went to the North Raglan harbour (Te Akau side) last summer, I was dismayed to see invasive weeds infesting the remnant bush areas, and even WDC's own natural areas management plan says Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values, referring to Te Akau harbour edge. When WDC wants to cite examples of well-managed reserves, there needs to be correct information given. If the picture is gloomy, we can at least face it together as a district and use this as our starting point. Once some meaningful progress is made, it will be great to look back at where we began.	Noted, change recommended	Review the list of places highlighted as successful, as the submitter has identified weeds and pests present.	Seek reconsideration of the sites listed on page 2, as these have experienced biodiversity decline and damage from pests. The limestone stacks at Raglan harbour have become infested with pampas and woolly nightshade, and nesting birds are stressed by the frequency of tourist boats.
------------------	------------------	--------	--	--	---------------------------	---	--

18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.3.1	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 13)	1. As part of the River Settlement signing in 2008, we also signed the Kīngitanga Accord. A cornerstone of the settlement is that both Waikato-Tainui and the Crown have committed to enter a new era of co-management.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise that Waikato-Tainui has signed the Kīngitanga Accord to work with the Crown as a Treaty partner in the development of legislation, policies and any other decisions affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters, with importance placed over the principle of Te Mana o te Awa.	Seek clarification of the role of iwi/hapu in the Strategy, with linkage to existing iwi management plans.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.3.2	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 13)	1. The intention of the settlement was that the Crown would respect and work with Waikato-Tainui in good faith as a Treaty partner. As set out in the Kīngitanga Accord, this requires the Crown to engage with Waikato-Tainui at an early stage when developing any legislation or policies, or making any decisions, affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters.	Noted, no change	The intention of the Waikato-Tainui settlement act was that the crown will engage in any legislation or policies or decisions affecting the Waikato River its waters or its management over its waters.	Waikato-Tainui is considered a key partner in improving the Taiao in Waikato. WDC has a JMA with Waikato Tainui, consulted them as a key stakeholder and through the Actions proposed, will continue to collaborate around promoting indigenous biodiversity.

19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.2.1	Elements of Waikato Taiao (Page 2 & 10)	Page 2, the fourth and fifth paragraphs need a line spacing between them to be consistent with the overall formatting of the document.	Noted, change recommended	Page 2 formatting changes.	Seek formatting changes to Page 2 as per the submission point.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.2.2	Elements of Waikato Taiao (Page 2 & 10)	The reference to 'Waikato 2070' on page 10 of the draft strategy is supported. However, it needs to be noted that Waikato 2070 talks about protecting outstanding landscapes, significant natural areas, and rural amenities through sustainable farming practices (p15), with no further detail being given. It is important to ensure that the draft strategy recognises the existing uses in the rural environment (farming, agriculture, and horticulture) and, at a strategic policy level, provides for these activities to continue.	Noted, change recommended	The reference to 'Waikato 2070' on page 10 of the draft strategy is supported. That the draft strategy recognises the existing uses in the rural environment (farming, agriculture, and horticulture) and, at a strategic policy level, provides for these activities to continue. On the Goals, page 12, add a new goal recognising these existing uses allowing them to continue in a sustainable manner.	Seek the addition of "farming, agriculture, and horticulture" within 3rd paragraph on page ten after sustainable farming.

No.	Submitter Group / Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	------------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.1	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 2)	Named areas what is their status? The state of nature in WDC, e.g., figures 16.4% SNA's; 47% legally protected; what is this? SNAs are 85% of what?	Noted, change recommended	Check the figures used in the Introduction	Seek some of this information to be improved or deleted from the document to improve clarity and readability.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.2	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 2)	Are all Kahikatea stands protected by covenants or SNAs	Noted, no change	The protection of Kahikatea stands by covenants or SNAs.	This information is not available, but it could be improved in the future with better monitoring and Action 1.3 as proposed in the Strategy.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.3	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 2)	How does this strategy relate to private land with no SNAs or covenants?	Noted, no change	How the Strategy relates to non-SNA areas or covenants	The Strategy seeks to improve indigenous biodiversity across the district, not specifically SNAs. There are specific policies and rules in the Proposed District Plan that specifically reference and provide for SNAs.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.4	Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (Page 2)	Questions on WDC conservation covenanted areas: how many, total area, state of them and the need for better management.	Noted, no change	The WDC area under covenants	This is currently being worked on by WDC, as there are still gaps in the database. This information will be part of the Monitoring and Review part of the Strategy.

Emerging Threats

11 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.5.1	Emerging Threats (Page 16/17)	Forest and Bird would like to add the following: Waikato District Council will protect the indigenous biodiversity by reducing carbon emissions (by a set percentage by 2025) and, therefore, climate change. Threats to fragile sites increase in intensity and pace as climate change progresses. For example, pampas grass and cotoneaster quickly grow up on slips that happen in extreme weather events in the district, displacing native plants that would otherwise grow there.	Noted, no change	Waikato District Council will protect the indigenous biodiversity by reducing carbon emissions (by a set percentage by 2025) and, therefore, climate change. Extreme weather events displace native vegetation and allow opportunities for invasive pest plants.	It is provided for on pages 16-17 of the draft Strategy. Also, WDC has a Climate Strategy in development, which will link to this Strategy.
5 (4733)	Adam Daniel/Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	5.3.1	Emerging Threats (Page 16)	Although you specify emphasis should be placed on "protecting native bush, wetlands, peat bogs and quality soils," rivers and streams have been omitted and are critical habitats for trout and native aquatic species.	Noted, no change	F&G identify rivers and streams as critical habitats for trout and native aquatic species.	Rivers and streams sit under the management and care of WRC and Waikato Tainui, who are Kaitiaki. WDC will work with the Kaitiaki to improve native aquatic species via land-based improvements of indigenous biodiversity.
15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.1.1	Emerging threats (Page 16)	In my opinion as a professional ecologist, connectivity and edge-effect are a highly important aspect of conservation and promotion of native biodiversity. By promoting access through unlocking native bush and esplanade areas to provide for walking and cycling, an increase level of edge effect is likely being created. Without careful management areas can become trampled and restoration efforts lost, much the same as cattle access would.	Noted, no change	Seek amendments to the strategy to promote connectivity, access and unlocking native bush and esplanade areas to provide for walking and cycling needs careful management, or it could increase the level of edge effect likely being created.	WDC staff do not seek to make changes to the document. Management and protection of indigenous biodiversity and access are key parts of the draft Strategy. The access benefits of native areas generally outweigh the edge effects, particularly if they lead to increased native areas and understanding from the public. Identifying fragile and remnant habitats may need extra protection and limited access.

Esplanade Reserves

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.2.1	Trails Strategy - Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	Policies, strategies, processes, and important documents to consider alongside the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy: Council's own Trails Strategy – currently in review; Moving Waikato Strategy - the region's unified strategy for physical activity through play, active recreation, and sport. The strategy seeks to prioritise partnerships with other key agencies to influence key outcomes, including to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation and quality experiences in physical activity for the people of the region. The Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan – This plan is currently being developed between Sport Waikato and Waikato District Council and will provide Council with suggestions for priority investment areas and projects across play, active recreation and sport in time to inform the next LTP. The previous 2017 plan was not adopted by WDC.	Noted, no change	Consider other WDC and Sport Waikato-related strategies and linkages: Moving Waikato Strategy, Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan and Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP, 2021).	These documents can be considered in the Walking and Strategy being developed by WDC. The Open Spaces team have been notified.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.2.2	Trails Strategy - Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	The Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan – This plan is currently being developed between Sport Waikato and Waikato District Council and will provide Council with suggestions for priority investment areas and projects across play, active recreation, and sport in time to inform the next LTP. The previous 2017 plan was not adopted by WDC.	Noted, no change	See 2.2.1.	See response to submission point 2.2.1

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.1	Esplanades	The strategy focuses on some technical aspects of esplanade areas. Herenga ā Nuku encourages adding an outline of the purpose and benefits of esplanade areas to the strategy as it will provide important context for decision-making around esplanade areas.	Noted, change recommended	Addition of an outline, purpose and benefits of esplanade areas to the Taiao in the Waikato Strategy, e.g. to protect conservation values, enable public access (along any sea, river, or lake) and recreation where use is compatible with those values.	WDC staff seek some changes to the document, but WDC staff do not consider that a purpose statement and benefits of esplanade areas are needed for the Strategy.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.2	Esplanades	The purposes of esplanade reserves and strips are outlined Resource Management Act 1991. Along with protecting conservation values, section 229 states the purpose is: (b) to enable public access to or along any sea, river, or lake: or (c) to enable public recreational use of the esplanade reserve or esplanade strip and adjacent sea, river, lake, where the use is compatible with conservation values	Noted, no change	See 12.2.1.	See response to submission point 12.2.1
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.3	Esplanades	Another useful source is the Quality Planning Resource: https://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/node/737 , which outlines why esplanade areas are important.	Noted, no change	See 12.2.1.	See response to submission point 12.2.1
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.4	Esplanades	In addition, we encourage WDC to consider adopting some of the benefits outlined in this submission under “other factors for consideration” (below) to understand why adopting and retaining esplanade areas provides value to WDC.	Noted, no change	See 12.2.1.	See response to submission point 12.2.1
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.5	Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	“Private property rights must be respected” An esplanade reserve is a public land (either council freehold title or crown land vested in the council). Therefore, it is difficult to understand why WDC would need to respect private property rights when the land is under its control.	Noted, change recommended	The addition of “private property rights must be respected” An esplanade reserve is a public land (either council freehold title or crown land vested in the council). Therefore, WDC does not need to respect private property rights.	Seek minor changes to the document in relation to the submission point. But staff consider that adjacent properties need to be considered when esplanade reserves are going to be used for access as the future use of esplanade reserves and strips could have unforeseen circumstances on adjacent land.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.6	Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	“Landowners are responsible for minimising the effects of land use on waterbodies”. As the WDC is the landowner, direction on appropriate management of Reserves is contained in the General Policies Reserve Management Policy.	Noted, no change	Addition of the following: “Landowners are responsible for minimising the effects of land use on waterbodies”.	No changes are proposed as WDC has legislative requirements under the Waikato Regional Plan.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.7	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	A rule may require esplanade strips in a plan when land is subdivided, reclaimed, or developed or a road stopped.	Noted, no change	A rule may require esplanade strips in a plan when land is subdivided, reclaimed, or developed or a road stopped.	This could be considered in the District Plan through a future plan change. The District Plan team will be notified.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.8	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	The Local Government Act 1974 section 3 outlines that when a road is stopped along a riparian margin, the road is vested in the council as an esplanade reserve (not an esplanade strip as stated above).	Noted, change recommended	The Local Government Act 1974 section 3 outlines that when a road is stopped along a riparian margin, the road is vested in the council as an esplanade reserve (not an esplanade strip as stated above).	This section of the draft Strategy will be removed, and the wording will be corrected.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.9	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	“Esplanade strips are a legal instrument made between the landowners and territorial authorities. They are [an easement] which is registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed”.	Noted, change recommended	Esplanade Strips are legal instruments between landowners and territorial authorities; they do not need to be formally surveyed or identified on a survey plan.	This section of the draft Strategy will be removed, and the wording will be corrected.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.10	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	We submit that WDC should stipulate surveying of the esplanade strips as the default position, as this will assist in realising the public benefits of the easement. Surveying esplanade strips ensures the easement is depicted on the cadastre, thus making the easements visible to the public. The increased popularity of mapping systems reinforces the value of depicting public access provision. As the easement’s purpose is to create public access and recreation, it is important that the public can easily identify the location of the easement. Clear demarcation also helps reduce conflict.	Noted, no change	Recommend that WDC should stipulate surveying of the esplanade strips as the default position, as this will assist in realising the public benefits of the easement. Surveying esplanade strips ensures the easement is depicted on the cadastre, thus making the easements visible to the public. Consider a customised process enabling public access and public recreational use RMA, s229(B) and (c).	No changes will be made to the document. This could be considered in the District Plan through a future plan change. The District Plan team will be notified.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.11	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	<i>The creation of a strip and restrictions and requirements relating to its use and management are noted on the title and bind every party having an interest in the land. The form of the agreement and standard restrictions imposed on an esplanade strip is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA.</i>	Noted, no change	The creation of a strip and restrictions and requirements relating to its use and management are noted on the title and bind every party having an interest in the land. The form of the agreement and standard restrictions imposed on an esplanade strip is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA.	Seek no change made to the document. This could be considered in the District Plan through a future plan change. The District Plan team will be notified.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.12	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	We encourage WDC to consider how the easement instrument can be customised to enable public access and public recreational use, which will ensure the esplanade strips meet their purpose — refer to RMA section 229 (b) and (c)	Noted, no change	The easement instrument can be customised to enable public access and public recreational use.	Seek no changes to the document.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.13	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	<i>An esplanade strip can include provisions to exclude access by the public during certain times or under certain circumstances (as prescribed in Form 31 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedures) Regulations 2003 — also see examples of conditions in the advantages and disadvantages space.</i>	Noted, no change	An esplanade strip can include provisions to exclude access by the public during certain times or under certain circumstances.	Seek no changes to the document. Staff might utilise timeframe esplanade strips and exclusion options to protect fauna and flora at specific times, e.g. during poisoning operations.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.2.14	Esplanade Strips (Page 18)	We encourage WDC to focus on how to facilitate public access and recreational use in line with WDC's ambitions in Liveable, Thriving, Connected Communities.	Noted, no change	Promotion of public access and recreational use.	No change is proposed to the draft Strategy as the Actions already promote opportunities for access and recreational used where appropriate.

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.10.1	Esplanade Reserves Point 3 (Page 18)	WDC should support evidence-based, good-quality restoration work in these areas because a resilient, richly diverse ecology reduces climate change impacts and benefits everyone in the district.	Noted, no change	Evidence-based good, quality restoration	The vision and goals outlined in the draft Strategy seek positive benefits for the Taiao.
-----------	-----------	---------	--------------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.5.1	Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	Esplanade Reserves. Will WDC create an esplanade reserve on the back of a restorative plan? Under the Reserves Act, WDC does not have to manage Esplanade Reserves (Please check).	Noted, no change	Will WDC create esplanade reserves based on restoration plans, and who manages these areas?	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.5.2	Esplanade Reserves (Page 18)	Esplanade Strips, what is reclamation? Can they be created voluntarily?	Noted, no change	Questions on Esplanade Strips, can they be created voluntarily, and where does reclamation sit?	Esplanade Strips are a legal mechanism, and that reclamation might be captured under the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management legislation.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.5.3	Summary on access (Page 20)	WDC will treat Esplanade etc., Maori, and mana whenua. How will this work?	Noted, no change	Questions on Esplanade Strips, can they be created voluntarily, and where does reclamation sit?	Esplanade Strips are a legal mechanism, and that reclamation might be captured under the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management legislation.

Focus Areas (Includes Actions)

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.1	Focus areas- Timeframes (page 28)	Forest and Bird would like to add: Identify significant pockets - WDC ecology team then prepares biodiversity plans for these privately owned ecologically significant sites and works with and supports biodiversity plan holders to improve the condition of their sites. Prioritise areas of indigenous biodiversity – WDC uses the national list of threatened plants and animals and their current status in the district to do this.	Noted, no change	Forest and Bird propose identifying significant pockets of privately-owned ecologically important sites, and then biodiversity plans are prepared for them. WDC will prioritize areas of indigenous biodiversity based on the national list of threatened plants and animals and their current status in the district.	This submission point is covered by the Actions proposed in the Strategy.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.2	Focus area 1 and 2 (Page 29 and 30) Action 1.1, 2.2	Action 1.1 Forest and Bird would like to add Each area gets restored as described in its unique management plan in the WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan. https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserves-management-plan-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=826882c9_2	Noted, change recommended	Add in the restoration of these council areas to be guided by evidence-based best practices in planting and pest control. Each area gets restored as described in its unique management plan in the WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan.	Seek the addition of : the restoration of these council areas to be guided by evidence-based best practices in planting and pest control. WDC proposes to leave out: Each area gets restored as described in a unique management plan in the WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan. The current practice is to help landowners who have conservation covenants and SNAs when they self-identify and request help. Additional support could be provided by other local governments and NGOs as well for Action 2.2.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.3	Focus Area 3 (Page 32)	Action 3.2 Forest and Bird would like to add: WDC encourages landowner collaboration and the creation of ecological corridors by assisting groups of 2 or more nearby landowners to apply to the Conservation Fund as a group.	Noted, change recommended	Addition of "WDC encourages landowner collaboration and the creation of ecological corridors by assisting groups of 2 or more nearby landowners in applying to the Conservation Fund as a group".	Seek the addition of "two or more nearby landowners" in relation to the conservation fund.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.4	Focus Area 3 (Page 32)	WDC provides best practice measuring and monitoring of the results of private landowner and community group restoration. The data is independently assessed.	Noted, no change	Private landowner and community group restoration is independently assessed.	WDC staff have taken this under consideration and could form part of the scorecard work over time.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.5	Focus Area 3 (Page 32)	Action 3.3 Forest and Bird would like to add: WDC ecology team help landowners of key sites to prepare a best practice restoration management plan for each site.	Noted, no change	Addition of "WDC ecology team help landowners of key sites to prepare a best practice restoration management plan for each site".	WDC staff have taken this under consideration. WDC has limited ecological resourcing at the current time and cannot provide this service. Currently, advice is provided where it is requested.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.6	Focus Area 5 (page 34)	Action 5.1 Forest and Bird would like to add: WDC hosts field trips for landowners, community groups to WDC reserves, with presentations and discussion with local restorers like Wayne Bennett or Whaingaroa Weedbusters.	Noted, no change	Addition of "WDC hosts field trips for landowners, community groups to WDC reserves, with presentations and discussion with local restorers like Wayne Bennett or Whaingaroa Weedbusters".	Under consideration and could form part of the scorecard work overtime.
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.7	Focus Area 5 (page 34)	Facilitate applications for funding of group projects and projects by 2 or more landowners in an area working to join up isolated bush fragments.	Noted, change recommended	See 9.1.6 above	Seek the addition of "two or more nearby landowners" to be added to Action 3.2
1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.9.8	Focus Area 5 (page 34)	Promote the nurseries which grow Eco sourced plants and connect restorers with the nursery growing the appropriate plants for their site.	Noted, no change	Promote the nurseries which grow Eco sourced plants and connect restorers with the nursery growing the appropriate plants for their site.	WDC has taken this under consideration. It is difficult for WDC to promote commercial businesses. However, the Economic Development team does provide support to new businesses, and this could be highlighted.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.3.1	Focus Areas (Pages 29 - 34)	The Focus areas generally align with the goals which are appropriate. However, it is suggested that a number of actions would be better placed under different Focus areas, and there is inconsistency in layout style that adds confusion e.g., some statements are repeated and bullet points are used in some instances and not in others. We have offered suggestions for improving Focus areas but would like to see more detailed editing to provide clarity of what is intended by whom. You will find our suggestions under "Additional comments" towards the end of this submission.	Noted, change recommended	Amend to ensure that each action is better placed under different focus areas.	The actions are to remain unchanged apart from minor ones that do not alter their intent. WDC propose reformatting the actions to improve the layout and make the actions clearer.
-------------	--	-------	--------------------------------	---	---------------------------	--	--

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.3.2	Resourcing (Pages 29-34)	The general direction of this strategy will contribute some way to protecting Taiao in the Waikato District. However, WERT considers more specific guidance would be helpful, especially for the wider community. There is an extensive list of actions identified for WDC and this raises the question as to whether there will be the resourcing for staff to implement and monitor them. It would be pertinent to consider how the community may be able to assist.	Noted, no change	Consider the list of actions developed by WERT that raise questions regarding resourcing of staff, monitoring and community assistance.	The actions to remain unchanged. Staff resourcing can be considered as part of the LTP process.
-------------	--	-------	-----------------------------	--	------------------	---	---

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.3.3	Biosecurity and Focus Area 1 (Pages 28 & 29)	<p>The threat posed by plant pests is very significant and may not be fully realised. Particular threats include tradescantia (<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>), ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) and tree privet (<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>). Tradescantia is regularly dumped along with garden waste along waterways and roadsides. This plant is particularly resilient, establishing well from tiny fragments. Tradescantia also translocate along waterways during floods. Tradescantia poses a threat, not to mature trees and shrubs but to native plant regeneration and so the health of a population rather than an individual. Some success has been achieved through the introduction of bio-controls but action to eliminate dumping as well as more bio control work will be important. Ivy is increasing in the Waikato District and slowly invading native bush. Ivy growing up trees has the potential to set seed, and this is currently resulting in an invasion capable of degrading local bush reserves. Tree Privet invades bush margins and poses a significant threat to new native planting projects. As it spreads more widely across the district it will become increasingly more costly to control. Raising community awareness of weed threats is an important action to take. Well intended planting of native trees and shrubs which have not been well ecosourced is an ongoing threat to the unique character of Taiao in the Waikato. Having a clear definition and guidelines for ecosourcing in the Waikato District is important. Ecosourcing guidelines were adopted by Ecosourced Waikato in October 2003 and key points are included as an appendix to this document - and could also be added to the strategy as an appendix. Lack of knowledge of local ecosystems, how they are structured, how they change over time and how best to replicate them is an impediment to useful restoration. Ecosourced Waikato (now superseded by WERT) produced detailed local planting guides for the Waikato District some years ago. We propose to update these, make them more user friendly and accessible e.g., they could be made available on the WDC website. These guides focus on restoring natural patterns and processes. They take into account the dynamic nature of natural areas and facilitate succession. WERT members have accumulated considerable experience restoring natural areas over the past 20 years. We have funding already available to both revise these local planting guides and provide workshops to share and interpret that information.</p>	Noted, change recommended	<p>Plant pests such as tradescantia, ivy, and tree privet pose a significant threat to native plant regeneration and the health of populations rather than individuals. These pests spread easily and are often dumped along waterways and roadsides. Bio-controls have been successful in controlling them, but eliminating dumping and more bio-control work are important. Well-intentioned planting of non-eco-sourced native trees and shrubs is also a threat to the unique character of Taiao, so clear eco-sourcing guidelines are needed. Lack of knowledge of local ecosystems is an impediment to useful restoration, but Ecosourced Waikato produced detailed planting guides for the district, which will be updated and made more accessible. WERT has funding available to revise the guides and provide workshops to share information. Refer to eco-sourcing guidelines adopted by Ecosourced Waikato in October 2003.</p>	<p>Specific weed species are captured under the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). Seek to include eco-sourced plant species that to be referenced in the Glossary.</p>
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

5 (4733)	Adam Daniel/Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	5.2.1	Focus Area 1 (Page 29)	Freshwater habitats have largely been omitted from the strategy and are severely degraded in the Waikato District requiring specific consideration. Emphasis should be placed on strengthening indigenous biodiversity and valued introduced species.	Noted, no change	Freshwater habitats have been omitted from the strategy and are severely degraded in the Waikato District, requiring specific consideration.	Freshwater habitats sit under the WRC. Improved terrestrial habitats will have corresponding improvements for freshwater habitats.
5 (4733)	Adam Daniel/Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	5.2.2	Action 2.3 (Page 31)	The council needs to include incentives to landowners to protect and enhance valued habitat. Encouragement does not improve or protect ecosystems. The plan needs to recognise that most freshwater habitat is degraded due to poor water quality and invasive plants. Protecting and maintaining natural habitats comes at a cost and incentives to landowners are an important part of offsetting those costs such as: (b) Rates rebates that allow for low impact activities such as bee keeping can help landowners generate revenue to maintain quality habitat. (c) The Taiao Strategy should include an information strategy to assist landowners. Creating a one stop shop for ecological enhancement funding, fencing rules, weed control strategies, plant suppliers and links to advice on wetland creation. The “portal” mentioned on p. 19 could be expanded.	Noted, no change	WDC should incentivise landowners to protect and enhance valued habitats. Protecting and maintaining natural habitats comes at a cost; incentives to landowners can offset those costs and could include rates rebates for low-impact activities, e.g., beekeeping. Include an information strategy and a one-stop shop for ecological enhancement funding: fencing rules, weed control strategies, plant suppliers, and links to wetland creation, e.g., portal mentioned on page 19 could be expanded.	WDC does provide some rates relief to landowners, and there are rules in the district plan to protect native vegetation. Incentives, protection and maintenance of natural habitats can be investigated under the Long Term Plan process.
5 (4733)	Adam Daniel/Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	5.2.3	Funding (Pages 29-34)	Conservation lots or a conservation fund should be part of the strategy to preserve valued habitat and increase public access. The goals of the strategy include unlocking native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements but does not give any strategy or incentive to achieve that goal. (b) Conservation lots that include provisions for providing critical public access should be included in future district plan changes. Establishing esplanade reserves or strips in key habitats or critical access areas should be encouraged through incentives. (c) A critical habitat fund should be a key part of the strategy to secure critical corridors or access. A fund used to purchase key property to create continuous corridors for habitat/access will be necessary. Relying on subdivisions to link ecological corridors is not proactive and has not resulted in the substantial increase in esplanade reserves/strips needed to protect freshwater habitat or provide public access.	Noted, no change	Conservation lots or a fund should be part of the strategy to preserve valued habitats and increase public access. There needs to be incentives to unlock native bush and esplanade areas and access agreements. Retain conservation lots in the district plan and include critical public access; Also, consider a fund to purchase key properties that help create continuous corridors or habitat/access. Subdivisions will not create this ecological linkage, promote public access and protect freshwater habitats.	It is noted that the removal of conservation lots provisions under the Proposed District Plan are under appeal. WDC does purchase key properties for parks and reserves where it can and has the funding available. This funding is limited and would be better from a regional or national perspective.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.1	Action 5.1 (Page 34)	I fully support strategies that include assisting community groups to work more effectively by providing advice, resources and, most importantly, collaborative communication between council and community.	Noted, no change	Support strategies that involve initiatives such as assisting community groups by providing advice, resources and enable collaboration between Waikato District Council and the community. Consider the approach(s) undertaken by Wellington City Council.	The submitter is supportive. WDC staff will review the Wellington City Council example for any lessons that can be learned. However, no change is recommended to the Strategy, but will be considered as part of the implementation phase. .
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.2	Action 2.1 (Page 30)	Zealandia Te Mara a Tane in Wellington - Wellington City council uses native plants in amenity plantings. Their own nursery grows native plants for council and community restoration work. They provide advice, tours, and workshops on plant propagation. Maybe a few councils administered nurseries about the region specialising in providing enrichment plants for each different type of space - coastal, lowland, flood plain.	Noted, no change	Wellington City Council uses native plants for amenity plantings and has its own nursery that grows native plants for council and community restoration work. They offer advice, tours, and workshops on plant propagation. It is suggested that WDC could have nurseries in the district specializing in providing enrichment plants for different types of spaces, such as coastal, lowland, and flood plains.	Refer to Action 2.1.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.3	Introduction and Action 3.1 (Page 30)	This provides jobs and skills for locals. You could look at applying to DOC for Jobs for Nature funding.	Noted, no change	As noted in Action 2.1, the benefits are jobs and skills for locals.	Refer to Action point 2.1
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.4	Introduction and Action 3.1 (Page 3 and 30)	Closer to home Wainui Reserve is OK. I guessing this is possibly the site referred to in the draft doc on page 3 "Coastal reserves around Raglan... are managed well, particularly in restoration activities, and there is good community consultation with these".	Noted, change recommended	The submission point suggests that Wainui Reserve is okay. They also speculate that this reserve may be one of the coastal reserves around Raglan referred to on page 3 of the draft document as being well-managed, with good community consultation and restoration activities.	Wainui Reserve is not mentioned in the Strategy; however, WDC will investigate if it should be added into the Strategy.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.5	Introduction and Action 3.1 (Page 3 and 30)	I have been given to permission to quote John Lawson who leads the Friends of Wainui and is surprised the council feel the communications with this group is good enough to hold up as an example. He states "Since FoW was formed we'd used chemicals and chainsaws, but were then told to stop using them and to stop cleaning the Millennium ponds. WDC promised training for handling chemicals and getting a resource consent for the ponds. Neither has happened and has been a reason why several volunteers have given up. There were also unhappy that WDC sprayed Poroporo in an area we were regenerating from bamboo and put in gravels paths without consultation." John is not aware of any active monitoring of the site for pest plants, to give advice or to plan enrichment plantings.	Noted, no change	Friends of Wainui are surprised that WDC feel the communications with this group are adequate.	Focus Areas 3 and 5 seek to address the collaboration aspects with community and restoration groups.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.6	Emerging Threats and Action 2.1 (Page 16, 17 and 30)	From a cursory glance I can list some the pest plants there from a walk around the main trails includes, Tradescantia, Montbretia Japanese walnut Selaginella, Woolly nightshade Agapanthus Loquat, Pampas Ginger Privet, Japanese anemone Arum Lily, Artistea.	Noted, no change	Specific weed species are identified: Tradescantia, Montbretia Japanese walnut Selaginella, Woolly nightshade Agapanthus Loquat, Pampas Ginger Privet, Japanese anemone Arum Lily, Artistea.	Weed pest species are prevalent in the district, and this is addressed in the Focus areas and could be a future report card example.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.7	Active versus Passive (Page 5)	Using a passive management strategy, left to their own devices these plants will in time become the dominant species. Even tradescantia on its own will bring down a forest. The statement is from Wayne Bennet, a nurseryman with years of experience and observation of his own remnant restoration projects.	Noted, change recommended	Passive management of sites is not enough to protect indigenous biodiversity.	Seek amendments to parts of the document (Focus areas 1-3) as per other submissions that support active management, monitoring, restoration and pest control.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.8	Action 2.1 (Page 30)	I would not like to see an increase in the number of native areas until you manage the ones you've got much better. Obviously, I do support increases in the quality of native areas and suggest the following strategies be considered: - In-person monitoring of sites - not just monitoring via complaint which is, I am aware from WRC, a key tool; - Active pest plant management; - Enrichment planting into sites following the initial years post pioneer species planting.	Noted, no change	The submitter does not support an increase in the number of native areas until the management of existing ones is improved. They suggest strategies such as in-person monitoring of sites instead of relying on complaints, active pest plant management,.	It is noted that the Vision of the Strategy seeks to protect, sustain, and improve natural ecosystems
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.9	Action 1.4 (Page 29)	Some expectation that the road corridors are actively managed for their contribution to pest plant numbers. E.g., Privet abounds on Waikato roadsides and Waka Kotahi does not make any effort to manage. Adjacent landowners don't either. Te Uku and Whatawhata are key examples.	Noted, no change	There is an expectation that road corridors should be actively managed to control pest plants. For example, privet is abundant on Waikato roadsides, and Waka Kotahi (the New Zealand Transport Agency) does not make any effort to manage it. Similarly, adjacent landowners do not manage it either. Te Uku and Whatawhata are cited as key examples.	This can be addressed under a number of the Focus Areas and Actions, including Action 1.1, Action 4.1 and Action 5.2. However, the main driver for the Strategy is to maintain what we have in terms of indigenous biodiversity and restore high risk areas initially. Road corridors could be considered in the future, but are not a priority at this stage.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.5.1	Benefits of Taiao (page 8-9)	I would also like to see council contractors able to recognise pest plants and as they trim the path edges to the requisite 50cm, instead of trimming the woolly nightshade or the pampas by the path edge how about killing it properly. And not just cutting it down and walking away. A coppiced privet is much harder to manage later.	Noted, no change	The submitter suggests that council contractors should be able to recognize pest plants, and when trimming the path edges, they should kill them properly instead of just cutting them down and walking away. The submitter emphasizes the importance of proper management, as coppiced privet is much harder to manage later.	There is potential for this to be addressed under a number of the Focus Areas and Actions, including Action 1.1, Action 4.1 and Action 5.1.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.6.1	SDGs (Page 38)	Inertia - human. Everyone's looking for someone else to do the job, so they don't have to. The view that it's too late, the environment is too far gone so why bother.	Noted, no change	There is a human element to what is happening to the environment and its loss.	There is potential for this to be addressed under a number of the Focus Areas and Actions, including Action 3.1 – 3.3, Action 4.1 - 4.2 and Action 5.1 – 5.2.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.7.1	Categories of Taiao (page 8)	Lack of recognition. People don't know what they're looking at. People don't value indigenous biodiversity and realise how much our human health and wellbeing is influenced by the environment. Or indigenous biodiversity is something you see in a nature reserve or zoo, or a steep hike up Karioi, not in my backyard.	Noted, no change	The submitter suggests that there is a lack of recognition and understanding among people regarding indigenous biodiversity. People do not know what they are looking at, do not value it enough, and think of it as something to be seen only in nature reserves or zoos. They fail to recognize how indigenous biodiversity influences human health and wellbeing and believe it does not belong in their backyard.	There is potential for this to be addressed under a number of the Focus Areas and Actions, including Action 3.1 – 3.3, Action 4.1 - 4.2, and Action 5.1 – 5.2.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.4.15	Action 2.2 (Page 30)	<p>We can't grasp the extent of what is lost because it's been gone so long and is now relegated to small far away sanctuary's. Except in Wellington Entitlement. I don't care that Dally pine or privet etc is a pest plant that changes the nature of the soil preventing native plants from growing. I don't care that the Nikau took 50 years to get that tall, it's blocking my view. That patch of SNA on my land has to be cleared to make way for my boat shed. These are all examples of actual conversations with my neighbours.</p> <p>Shade tolerant ground dwelling creeping plants that are robust to a variety of conditions - Climbing asparagus, Tradescantia and ginger.</p> <p>Number one lack of interest, support, collaboration, advice and resources from council. I know I can access biocontrol's, plants, labour (although more would be great) but as a volunteer with no budget I would rather spend my precious private time kill trees than organise. I think district council should employ a full time coordinator, advisor for community groups with a budget. Someone to assist with funds apps, advertising and social media advice, a conduit between the council staff and community groups. You might need two or three. This could be paid for via the DIA Community Lead Development funding or Jobs for Nature ? Again, providing jobs for locals, upskilling all around and decreasing massively a cost and workload for council.</p>	Noted, no change	The submission expresses frustration with the lack of recognition and support for indigenous biodiversity and the prevalence of attitudes that prioritize personal convenience over environmental concerns. The submitter cites conversations with their neighbours as examples. Additionally, the text suggests the need for more support and resources from the council for community groups engaged in conservation efforts. The author proposes the employment of a full-time coordinator to assist with funding, advertising, and communication between council staff and community groups, which could be paid for through government funding programs such as Jobs for Nature. Finally, the author recommends the cultivation of shade-tolerant ground-dwelling plants such as climbing asparagus, Tradescantia, and ginger as part of conservation efforts.	There is potential for this to be addressed under a number of the Focus Areas and Actions, including Action 3.1 – 3.3, Action 4.1 - 4.2 and Action 5.1 – 5.2.
8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.2.1	Actions (Pages 29-34)	This strategy could benefit from more specific actions. For the strategy could identify all WDC policies strategies and guidelines which might be influenced by the ideals of this strategy and identify how they will be amended to align with the vision, goals and focus of this strategy.	Noted, change recommended	Seek the development of more specific actions, including identifying all Waikato District Council policies, strategies and guidelines that might be influenced by the Taiao Strategy.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy are considered appropriate but, where possible, could be clarified further. It is a council strategy and will be considered by all WDC policies and strategies as appropriate.

8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.2.2	Actions 1 and 2 (Pages 29 - 30)	Lack of understanding of local ecosystems how they are structured, how they function and how they are changing over time is a threat to Taiao in the district.	Noted, no change	Recognise the lack of understanding of local ecosystems, how they function and how they change over time is a threat to Taiao in the district. Identifying education as an important factor.	No change is required. Focus Area 3 outlines the need to educate others.
8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.2.3	Actions 1 and 2 (Pages 29 - 31)	This strategy identifies education as an important aspect	Noted, no change	Education is an important aspect of the Strategy	It is noted that Focus Area 5 discusses some opportunities around education.
8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.2.4	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	The spread of plant pests from neighbouring and public properties Labour is available but good ecological understanding rare amongst contractors Biocontrol is an important tool. Good progress is being made and it should continue	Noted, no change	Recognise the need for biocontrol as a tool to avoid and manage the spread of plant pests from neighbouring and public properties.	No change is required.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.2.5	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	I started considering incremental improvements to this document but really it needs thorough revision to give it a more logical structure make it more concise and give it specific measurable objectives. All the best	Noted, change recommended	Seek that the structure of the strategy be revised and give more measurable objectives.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy are considered appropriate, but where possible, should be clarified further
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.3.1	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	The fact that the Conservation Fund was discontinued, leaving the future of conservation projects on private land uncertain.	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council develop a management plan for native species with reference to a national threat listing and those at risk of extinction, including the Department of Conservation.	WDC will do this indirectly in collaboration with other partners and through education.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.3.2	Actions 1-5 (Pages 29-34)	1) WDC has an important role to play in protecting threatened plant species on road reserves in the district, including: - <i>Pomaderris hamiltonii</i> (roads in the Miranda area: At Risk – Naturally Uncommon); - <i>Olearia angulata</i> (Whaanga coast roads: At Risk – Naturally Uncommon); - <i>Metrosideros colensoi</i> (Te Akau area and Aotea harbour: Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable); and - <i>Pomaderris rugosa</i> (Aotea harbour: At Risk – Naturally Uncommon).	Noted, no change	Recognise that Waikato District Council has an important role in protecting threatened plant species located on road reserves.	Through education and collaboration, WDC may be able to improve identification, protection or transfers to more appropriate environments.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.3.7	Actions 1-5 (Pages 29-34)	WDC is responsible, via its roading contractors, for the maintenance of road reserves in the district. Combined, these road reserves constitute a large area: they are important potential ‘natural corridors’ for nature, yet they can also be routes for the spread of pest species. Thus, WDC should include a ‘Road Reserves Conservation Plan’ in the Taiao Strategy Document.	Noted, no change	Seek the development of a Road Reserves Conservation Plan in the Taiao Strategy Document, to ensure that there is a balance between road safety/maintenance and protection of native species and management of invasive pest species.	This submission point will be discussed with WDC Roding team. However, staff note that the Waikato District Alliance has made efforts to improve the native species outcomes on road reserves where possible.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.3.8	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	WDC has recently removed a ‘conservation fund’ which enabled private landowners to carry out important conservation work in significant natural areas (SNAs). On page 17 of the draft Conservation Strategy document, it is stated that “Although this funding has been reorientated to Community-led projects (including conservation), WDC will still provide support and education on Taiao in the Waikato”. However, no clear indication is given on how WDC intends to support private landowners’ conservation efforts going forward. To remedy this... WDC should clarify how it intends to support and enable conservation on private land.	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council clarify how they intend to financially and non-financially support and enable conservation activities on private land.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and provide support, education and technical expertise where feasible. Support and education through additional funding will be investigated through the LTP process.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.3.9	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	Firstly, WDC should hold a public consultation about reinstating the conservation fund, which has enabled the ‘best practice’ success story showcased on page 27. Without this fund, there is no clear vision for how these conservation successes on private land might continue in the future.	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council undertake public consultation and reinstate the conservation fund to ensure that there is a clear vision and process for the successful conservation of private land.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and provide support, education, and technical expertise where feasible. Support and education through additional funding will be investigated through the LTP process.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

9 (4729)	Paul Newton- Jackson	9.3.10	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	If WDC does not reinstate the conservation fund, then it needs to offer alternative forms of support for Taiao on private land. These might include ecologist support to private land(owners), educational field trips; collaboration with adjacent landowners to WDC reserves; raise understanding of rare species; seed collection in WDC reserves (for ecosourced propagation); collaboration for ecological corridors by allowing groups of 3 or more to access conservation fund as community groups	Noted, no change	If the conservation fund is not reinstated, seek that Waikato District Council offer alternative forms of support for Taiao on private land.	This will be investigated through the Actions and score card approach.
---------------------	---------------------------------	--------	----------------------	---	------------------	--	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.5.1	Focus areas with WRC as a lead	Provide WRC with clarification regarding the WRC's actions under this strategy. Ensure actions for WRC are consistent with statutory roles and responsibilities.	Noted, change recommended	Clarification of WRC role and responsibilities referenced in the strategy should be consistent with statutory ones	Seek the addition of a clarified role for WRC in the document.
----------------------	---	--------	--------------------------------	--	---------------------------	--	--

Funding

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.3.1	Funding (Pages 29-34)	Ongoing funding and other resources are important factors to consider.	Noted, no change	Consider the incorporation of ongoing funding and other resources.	This will be explored in the LTP process.

15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.3.2	Funding (Pages 26-27)	Lack of (monetary) support from WDC to assist keen volunteers in their efforts (plants, weed control, pest control): - access to accurate knowledge for local restoration groups; - ongoing monetary inputs for maintenance. Controlling weeds and pests and enhancing native plant communities is one thing, but it is key that regular maintenance is kept up, otherwise, it's a waste of money and people's time	Noted, no change	The strategy does not acknowledge that there is a lack of monetary support from the Waikato District Council to support ecological endeavours, a lack of access to accurate knowledge for local restoration groups and a lack of ongoing monetary inputs.	The conservation fund is being repurposed into a community fund along with other funds, and therefore, if the volunteers are part of a community group (environmental), they can apply for funding.
20 (4746)	QEII Representative	20.2.1	Coordinate with QEII (Page 16)	I was interested in the statement <i>Investigate a reduced covenant costing regime for QEII covenants within the Waikato District. Map these areas and coordinate monitoring initiatives with QE II staff</i> in the opportunities section. I was wondering what ideas you had in that regard. I'd certainly be keen to talk about opportunities. The barriers are almost always funding so if there's a way to share the load and encourage landowners let's look at it.	Noted, no change	Investigate: Investigate a reduced covenant costing regime for QEII covenants within the Waikato District. Map these areas and coordinate monitoring initiatives with QE II staff in the opportunities section.	This will need to be investigated as part of the Focus Areas work, particularly in Action 3.3.
20 (4746)	QEII Representative	20.2.2	LTP Funding (Page 29)	Also, the statement <i>. Fencing bush blocks, bush remnants and pest control are still supported in the Blueprint Community fund.</i> It was my understanding the BCF was no longer available to private landowners who want to do restoration on their land. Is that not so?	Noted, no change	Query - <i>Fencing bush blocks, bush remnants and pest control are still supported in the Blueprint Community fund.</i> The conservation fund is no longer available to private land owners who want to do restoration on their land.	These funding opportunities could be investigated as part of the LTP process to regain some partial private funding for landowners again.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.6.1	Funding Biosecurity (Page 21)	Funding halfway down. Biosecurity and the role of WDC in the PMP.	Noted, no change	WDC as an active partner in restoring nature through community groups (Blueprint fund) within the district.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and provide support, education and technical expertise where feasible.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.6.2	Funding and from where (Page 22)	Conservation Fund, non-Blueprint Fund; where will SNA landowners get support funding from? What is appropriately resourced mean?	Noted, no change	WDC as an active partner in restoring nature through community groups (Blueprint fund) within the district.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and provide support, education, and technical expertise where feasible.

General

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.1	Waikato District Council (Pages 2-9)	Nature reserves, mostly in a "poor" state, what is the plan to fix this?	Noted, no change	Improving the state of Nature reserves within the Waikato District.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.2	Active Engineering with Nature (Page 7)	Will WDC become an active partner in engineering with nature? Eco-sourcing apart from the annual grants to Wayne Bennett and Jal Simone what is the plan to increase the supply of these plants	Noted, no change	WDC as an active partner in restoring nature with the district, including eco-sourcing.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.3	Benefits of Taiao (Page 8)	Benefits of Taiao, explain subsequent ecosystem goods and services.	Noted, no change	Benefits of Taiao	This part of the document attempts to explain the benefits of nature from an international perspective, where previously it has been undervalued.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.4	Where we have come from (Page 9)	Last paragraph, Taking measures for targeted restoration efforts	Noted, no change	Measures to provide and protect SNAs	No changes, as SNAs are provided for in the Proposed District Plan (Decisions Version).
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.5	How we went about updating the document and who helped us (Page 10)	Engagement, Restoration groups are not mentioned? Will we be able to review every three years?	Noted, change recommended	Restoration groups not mentioned, is three yearly review realistic.	See the addition of a reference to restoration groups. A three-yearly review will keep the report cards on track, but it may not mean adjusting the Strategy.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.3.6	Developing our Vision and Goals (Page 11)	Public open space (WDC). How will WDC address the poor state they are in? The subdivision of larger lots with SNAs are now gone. What will they be replaced by? Obligation to enhance and protect SNAs	Noted, no change	How will WDC address the poor state of the districts open spaces.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.7.1	Communications and Engagement (Page 25)	Steering Group (not sure of the value)?	Noted, change recommended	Value of the steering group.	To be considered by Council and may change to an advisory group.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.10.1	Summary	I take it that community groups include restoration groups. How many does WDC have a record of and who is appointed to look after these groups? Would like to see community groups replaced by restoration groups. The document NPSIB, Eco-net, CAMs and LIBs will be looked at by whom. If this document is to be implemented, it will require at least four new staff members (qualified); unless there is funding support for groups (new funding) very little will hit the ground.	Noted, change recommended	Include a reference to restoration groups in the context of community groups	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to support community groups, and restoration is a key driver for Taiao in the Waikato. Seek restoration groups to be included under community groups.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.10.2	Summary	Will council recognise that the only way to get things to hit the ground is to support restoration groups (numerous) or individual landowners with a designated staff member.	Noted, no change	The document sets a number of ambitious goals and will require more WDC resources and greater support of restoration groups and landowners e.g., technology and staff solutions.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and seek resources to achieve its actions.

Goals

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
8 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.3.1	Goals (Page 12)	Links to Key Documents: Forest and Bird would like to see the following resources added: Protecting our natural ecosystems' carbon - report https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers . This Forest and Bird report, released April 2021 shows how browsing pests like possums, pigs, deer and goats are reducing the environment's ability to store carbon. and https://nztcs.org.nz/ The New Zealand Threat	Noted, change recommended	Add the following resources to page 12: https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers as threats and see https://nztcs.org.nz/	Seek the addition of the F&B link "Climate change and introduced browsers to the key documents: https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers as threats and the NZ Threat Classification System see https://nztcs.org.nz/ websites added to page 12 as discussed before.

				Classification System for information on the threat status of native plants and animals.			
16 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.8.1	Snapshot of Goals (page 26)	Forest and Bird would like to add the following: Possum, deer, goat and pig damage costs farmers and growers in lost pasture, fence damage, trespassing by illegal hunters, and diseases. Controlling these pests has direct economic benefits for the district. Browsing damage by possums, deer, goats, pigs cost our district in lost carbon sequestration. Protecting and restoring biodiversity will reduce the district's carbon emissions and this has economic benefits.	Noted, no change	Controlling pests has an economic benefit and maintains carbon sequestration. Please add in the following text: Possum, deer, goat and pig damage costs farmers and growers in lost pasture, fence damage, trespassing by illegal hunters, and diseases.	This is covered by reference to the Regional Pest Management Plan
17 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.8.2	Council and Crown reserve land best practice (Page 27)	WDC commits to no further loss of biodiversity and no more native lant or animal extinctions on WDC land. WDC invites restoration practitioners who are recognised leaders to host field trips to District Council reserves to share best practices, for council staff, landowners, and groups.	Noted, no change	WDC commit to no net loss of biodiversity (flora and fauna) on administered land. Opportunities to host field trips to highlight best practices to practice the community.	This will be explored with the WDC through the scorecard approach and with the Parks and Open Spaces team. There may be good opportunities to host field trips.

2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.1.1	Goal 4 Unlock native bush (Page 12)	Sport Waikato supports each of the stated goals of the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy document and would suggest that our mahi is particularly aligned to outcomes from the fourth goal; Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for walking and cycling.	Noted, no change	Supports goals of the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy document with emphasis on the fourth goal; Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for walking and cycling.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.1.2	Goal 4 Unlock native bush (Page 12)	a. Sport Waikato suggests that bridle paths and mountain biking be explicitly stated in addition to walking and cycling to better align with the review of the Trails Strategy. B. Sport Waikato are happy to support the undertaking of work aligned to this goal and strategy where there are synergies	Noted, no change	Addition of "bridle paths and mountain biking be stated in addition to walking and cycling. Sport Waikato will support work aligned to Goal 4.	The submitter is supportive but seeks the addition of bridle paths and mountain biking. These can be left to other parts of WDC to consider. Taking animals into native bush and esplanade reserves may have biosecurity risks. Mountain Biking is captured under cycling for the purposes of this strategy.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden / Forest and Bird	3.3.1	Goals (page 12)	Forest and Bird support the Goals of the Draft Taiao in the Waikato strategy. A. Regarding Goal 4: Unlocking native bush and esplanade areas should include the consideration of involving community events and programmes to service pest trapping and weeding. These types of initiatives actively encourage the community to practice kaitiakitanga (guardianship) over these spaces, including the training of using apps like Trap.NZ and iNaturalist to encourage citizen science and monitoring. B. Opening areas with native biodiversity to public use	Noted, change recommended	Goal 4: Should include pest trapping and weeding programmes involving community events. Use apps like Trap.NZ and iNaturalist to encourage citizen science and monitoring. If areas are opened these should include "Check, Clean and Dry programmes to minimise the spread of invasive species.	Seek the addition of Apps "Trap.NZ and iNaturalist" to Action 3.1

				can open up opportunities for the spread of invasive species through equipment like bikes and boots. Consider educational tools like the Check, Clean, Dry programme. c. Community volunteer opportunities align with: i Goal 1 – Maintain, create and improve a full range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state across their natural range and genetic diversity. ii– Goal 2 - Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve a healthy ecosystem’s ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction.			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.2.1	Goals (Page 12)	The wording of Goal 4 (access) should include “where appropriate” as not all natural areas should be open to public access in the interests of protecting biodiversity.	Noted, change recommended	Amend Goal #4 as follows: "Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for walking and cycling <u>where possible</u> ."	Seek the addition of the words " <i>where possible</i> " after cycling.
4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.2.2	Snapshot of Goals (Page 26)	On page 26, there is a section entitled “Snapshot of Goals”. This is confusing as it seems to be a random list of ideas for achieving goals. There is a similar random list of ideas on page 28 under the heading Focus Areas (timeframes). It is suggested that these ideas should either be included under the focus areas (many are) or deleted.	Noted, no change	Amend to locate the "Snapshot of Goals" on page 26 and under the title of "Focus Areas" on page 28	Seek that the actions remain unchanged apart from minor changes that do not alter their intent.

6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.3.1	Snapshot of Goals (page 26)	WDC collaborate with WRC and DOC to put together a 'regional threat status' document of species that may not be nationally threatened but are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District that is informed by mana whenua mātauranga maori	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council collaborate with Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation to develop a 'regional threat status' document of species that may not be nationally threatened but are at risk of extinction within the district.	WDC will discuss this with WRC and DOC outside the Strategy. Some individual species and habitats have been identified, and work is progressing around these species.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.3.2	Snapshot of Goals (page 26)	WDC commits to no further loss of biodiversity within the District (especially on WDC-managed land)	Noted, no change	Seek that the strategy is amended to say that it commits to no further loss of biodiversity within the district.	WDC only has control of its land, and the uncertainty of the climatic factors, would make it challenging to commit to no further loss of biodiversity in its district. without central or regional funding or support.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.3.3	Snapshot of Goals (page 26)	WDC prepares a number of biodiversity plans per annum for privately owned ecologically significant sites and then works with and supports biodiversity plan holders to improve the condition of their sites.	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council prepares biodiversity plans for privately owned ecologically significant sites and supports private landowners to achieve the outcomes sought.	WDC will do this indirectly in collaboration with other partners and through education with landowners due to resourcing constraints.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.4.2	Action 3.1 (Page 32)	WDC encourages landowner collaboration and the creation of ecological corridors by allowing groups of 2 or more nearby landowners to apply to their Conservation Fund as a group.	Noted, no change	Seeks that Waikato District Council encourage landowners to collaborate and create ecological corridors with financial assistance from the Conservation Fund.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices and provide support, education, and technical expertise where feasible. Financial assistance is through a community blueprint fund, although additional funding will be investigated through the LTP process.

6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.4.1	Action 1.2 (Page 29)	Prioritising the maintenance and protection of the full suite of ecosystems within the district; connected, resilient and thriving, for future generations	Noted, no change	Seeks the prioritisation of maintenance and protection of the district's ecosystems.	WDC undertake this role as part of their statutory role under the RMA.
-------------	--	-------	-------------------------	--	------------------	--	--

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.1.1	Goals (Page 12)	I absolutely support the goals on page 12 of your document. I hope the council is sincere in its intent, budget and will to achieve them and the draft strategy is not just a legally required box ticking exercise.	Noted, no change	Support the goals outlined on page 12 of the strategy	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.1.2	Goals (Page 12)	I am very involved with two weed eradication groups in Whaingaroa Raglan. One working year round on Kaitoke Walkway and the other helping residents learn to take the initiative, recognise and eradicate specific pest plant species targeting roadsides, private property and reserves. Wherever we can, we will. I was working under the auspices of Whaingaroa Weedbusters.	Noted, no change	The submitter is involved in two groups that work to eradicate weeds in Whaingaroa Raglan, targeting roadsides, private property, and reserves. They work year-round on the Kaitoke Walkway and help residents learn to identify and remove specific pest plant species. They work under the auspices of Whaingaroa Weedbusters.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.1.3	Goals (Page 12)	Well yes but only if it's enacted and not just a word fest on paper. From my observations I don't have faith that council will be willing or able to achieve these goals. But I would love to be wrong, and I fully support doing so and offer support from Whaingaroa Weedbusters in Raglan to support the goals locally.	Noted, no change	The person is skeptical about the council's ability to achieve the goals mentioned, but is willing to support them if they are actually implemented. They offer support from Whaingaroa Weedbusters in Raglan to help achieve the goals locally.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested other than WDC achieves its goals.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.21	Format of goals	Consider how actions will be funded in action table.	Noted, no change	Funding	This is already provided for under the actions of the draft Strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.22	Action tables (pages 29-34)	Update the action table to identify whether each action is essential to the success of the strategy, if it is important to the success of the strategy, or if it is simply useful to the success of the strategy.	Noted, no change	Categorise the actions to essential, important, or useful to the success of the strategy. Clarify the timeframes of the strategy.	All the actions are important to achieve the goals, therefore, seek no change to the document.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.23	Maintain, improve, promote framework and timeframes (page 28)	Clarify the timeframe categories (short term, medium term, long term) and the 'maintain, improve, enhance' framework through the use of a dedicated section that discusses these and/or a visual diagram.	Noted, change recommended	The submitter suggests that a dedicated section or visual diagram be included in the document to clarify the categories of timeframe (short term, medium term, long term) and the "maintain, improve, enhance" framework. This will provide better understanding and help to ensure that the framework is not just a set of words on paper, but is actually enacted.	Seek to investigate a visual timeframe for the Focus areas framework to improve the clarity of the document and the actions.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.1	Action 1.2	Amend this action so that it provides for the coastal environment specifically. The coastal environment could also be discussed in other parts of the draft strategy (e.g., Elements of the Waikato District and	Noted, no change	Addition of the coastal environment to the strategy and Action 1.2 specifically	The addition of Coastal Marine Areas outside the WDC statutory jurisdiction.
--------------	--	---------	------------	--	------------------	---	--

				Taiao, why protect Taiao (nature)? or Categories of Taiao (nature)).			
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.2	Action 1.2	No specific relief sought. However, as stated in 1.7 we support the approach to consider an area with indigenous biodiversity an SNA, even if it has not been ground-truthed. We advocate for the use of the criteria in Section 11A of the WRPS to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.	Noted, no change	No changes requested but areas with indigenous biodiversity to be considered as SNA's.	No change proposed. The Proposed Waikato District Plan provides for SNAs.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.3	Action 1.2	Carry out further work to create the necessary links between the draft strategy and existing iwi management plans. Ensure these references are explicit and clear (not just referencing the plans but referencing the content and connections).	Noted, change recommended	Reference content not just links to iwi management plans	Seek to include greater linkage between the draft Strategy and iwi management plans where possible.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.4	Action 1.3	Reword action so that it identifies which lead agencies are responsible for each sub-action. We recommend rewording the final sentence as follows – inserting underlined and removing crossed text: Once areas (ecosystems) are mapped, they can be prioritised for restoration and active management. This includes managing and removing existing and potential biodiversity threats (such as the presence of and threatened conditions like weeds and pests), continuing and expanding current pest control methods, and restoration initiatives.	Noted, no change	Reword Action 1.3 and who is responsible for each sub-action.	The intent of this submission point has been captured under the emphasis on partnerships. Also, the report card process allows some flexibility to determine who will lead and is fit for the purpose without encroaching on landowner rights.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.5	Actions 1.3 and 2.2	Reword action to align with the WRPS and include all indigenous biodiversity. As previously stated, we support the approach to not require ground-truthing for an area with indigenous biodiversity, for it to be considered an SNA. We advocate for the use of the criteria in Section 11A of the WRPS to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.	Noted, no change	Reword Action 2.2 to align with WRPS	The intent of this submission point has been captured under the emphasis on indigenous biodiversity. Also, under-report cards allow some flexibility to determine what information is needed and are fit for purpose without encroaching on landowner rights.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.6	Action 2.4; 3.2; 4.1	No specific relief	Noted, no change		The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.7	Action 4.2	Amend wording from “maintain contacts with WRC” to “maintain relationships with WRC.”	Noted, change recommended	Amend Action 4.2 to include maintain relationships with WRC	Seek to amend wording from “maintain contacts with WRC” to “maintain relationships with WRC” on ...
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.14.8	Action 5.1 and 5.2	General support no specific relief	Noted, no change	General support for Actions 5.1 and 5.2 no specific relief	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.4.1	Action 2.2 (Page 30)	Legal mechanisms - Covenants. At the end of the day a covenant is a legally binding document, however it is only monitored on a trust of good will and there are many covenants out there that are not compliant to the legal obligations of up keep and	Noted, change recommended	Recognise in Action 2.2 that Covenants may be a legally binding document, however it is only monitored on a trust of good will and there is no available resources to monitor or enforce covenant conditions.	Seek the addition of a definition for "Covenants" in the Glossary.

				maintenance however there is no recourse available to monitor or enforce the covenant conditions.			
11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.4.2	Action 3.2 (Page 32)	Engaging with QE11 on all private conservation covenants to assist in the preservation and maintenance. QE11 have the expertise and function to serve the landowners in a way that WDC currently do not have the ability.	Noted, no change	Seek engagement with all landowners subject to QEII covenants to assist in the preservation and maintenance of the natural spaces.	= This will sit with the QEII Trust; WDC will partner with them and share information, and it is proposed to strengthen this relationship.

15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.3.2	Actions 5.1 and 5.2 (Page 34)	There are great places all around the district, but from personal experiences, these areas are great mostly because local landowners and volunteers take it upon themselves to undertake the hard mahi. They are asking for WDC assistance, but this has often resulted in nothing.	Noted, no change	Recognise that private landowners are undertaking significant ecological protection work and will require further assistance from Waikato District Council.	This will be provided initially through education and advice.
15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.3.3	Action 1.1 (Page 29)	Mostly, illegal dumping is a huge threat to forest areas and hasn't been mentioned, nor has pollution of waterways. I know that waterways fall under WRC regulations, but surely WDC also has a role to play to minimise runoff?	Noted, no change	Recommend that there be some role for Waikato District Council in regards to the management of illegal dumping.	This is already captured by specific rules and by-laws administered by WDC.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
16 (4744)	Matthew Vare/Hamilton City Council	16.1.1	General and Action 3 (Page 32)	From my quick read of the document, I couldn't find any reference to HCC Nature in the City Strategy or programme. It would be great if your strategy highlighted HCC Nature in the City Strategy, our goal and the NITC programme to realise that goal. The key objective for the Programme is to achieve 10% native vegetation cover in Hamilton, Kirikiriroa	Noted, change recommended	Seek collaboration opportunities between HCC and WDC e.g., Focus Area 3, "partner and work with HCC NITC programme projects over time to extend and embed Taiao in the community including mana whenua".	Seek the addition of "partner and work with Hamilton City Council Nature in the City programme projects over time to extend and embed Taiao in the community including mana whenua" or words to this effect to Focus Area 3 .

				<p>by 2050.</p> <p>We have a collaboration and engagement workstream within the programme to ensure we are working with others to help achieve our goal and over time to extend and embed what we do in the community. This aligns well with you goal “seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Taiao in the Waikato vision”.</p> <p>Could the strategy be amended (perhaps as an action under focus area 3) to signal a commitment to partner and work with HCC NITC programme on projects within the Tamahere Gully System? This system is extensive and we have both community groups (Friends of Manga O) and iwi (Ngatio Haua Mahi Trust) working to restore parts of this system already. I know there are pockets of restoration in the gully under Waikato DC jurisdiction by individuals and groups. This system has been identified by WRC as a priority ecosystem [Moniqua Nelsen-Tunley] and it provides eco corridor. Also has high bat activity – so habitat for threatened species.</p>			
16 (4744)	Matthew Vare/Hamilton City Council	16.1.2	Action 5.2 (Page 34)	<p>One of the things we are looking at is developing MOU with various partners to signal a commitment to work together where interests and outcomes align. Perhaps this is something we could consider linking to action above in first instance?</p>	Noted, no change	Explore the potential to develop an MOU with various partners to signal a work commitment where interests and outcomes align.	This can be progressed as part of the partnership arrangements.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.1	Action 3.1 (Page 32)	Any data used to track ecology / te Taiao health needs to be robust, up to date and follow current best practice. No use having an app if the data is poor. Adopt the accepted industry standard for any type of software.	Noted, change recommended	Consider the use of Apps and industry standard software	WDC will only use industry-standard apps/software, e.g. GIS and TrapNZ
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.2	Action 3.2 (Page 32)	WDC should also ask for or provide best practice measuring and monitoring of the results of all private landowner and community group		WDC to show best practice measuring and monitoring results for all private landowners and community groups.	WDC to undertake best practices and use qualified staff and volunteers. Developing a fast and effective monitoring and management system is recommended.

				restoration. The results should be independently audited (see 'collaboration')			
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.6.1	Monitoring (Pages 22 and 35)	WDC should always use current best practice when monitoring anything, preferably overseen by people who are qualified in the field. Otherwise, we risk the results being meaningless and that is frustrating for the restorers and collaborators.	Noted, no change	WDC should always use current best practice when monitoring anything, preferably overseen by people who are qualified in the field. Otherwise, we risk the results being meaningless and that is frustrating for the restorers and collaborators.	WDC to undertake best practices and use qualified staff and volunteers. A number of the options focus on partnership approaches and building these skills in the community.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.7.1	Collaboration (Pages 21 and 32)	WDC can work with others who are specialists in this area e.g. WRC and DOC. Identify the species that are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District and use this to prioritise ecosystems most urgently needing protection. (See resources for threat list)	Noted, no change	Collaborate and work with other specialists in the district including WRC and DOC, identify endangered species and ecosystems. Promote wildlife corridors and bringing back endangered species, with an emphasis on high achieving restoration projects.	Seek collaboration opportunities between WRC and DOC, particularly around endangered species and promoting wildlife corridors.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.8.1	Snapshot of Goals (Page 26)	Wildlife corridors: Investigate collaboration with the Kokako programme at Pirongia to bring kokako across to Karioi and with kiwi recovery projects in adjoining districts. My father remembered kiwi on Karioi, we can and should bring them back.	Noted, no change	Investigate Kakako programme at Pirongia to bring native bird species back	The actions within the draft Strategy consider investigating corridors between native bush areas.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.3	Action 1.2 (Page 29)	Make connections with high achieving restoration projects outside the district and use their expertise and experience. Birds, bats, insects, and plants do not adhere to district boundaries.	Noted, change recommended	The submission suggests establishing connections with successful restoration projects outside the district to benefit from their expertise and experience. This is because wildlife and plants are not limited by district boundaries.	Seek the inclusion of this in to the Focus areas and Actions 1.1, 5.1 and the Report Cards.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.4	Action 5 (Page 34)	Success is when community groups also help with weed control in council reserves and are encouraged to speak up when they see new weeds or worsening infestations. The iNaturalist app is great for this. If the public feel welcome to contact WDC when they are concerned, and see action being taken, we can prevent more local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas	Noted, change recommended	Success is when community groups also help with weed control in council reserves and are encouraged to speak up when they see new weeds or worsening infestations. The iNaturalist app is great for this.	The addition of iNaturalist App to the Strategy will help direct community groups with conservation efforts e.g. identifying flora and weed species. If not directly referenced within the document, it can form part of the report card work for pest control.

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.5	Action 1.3 (Page 29)	Use the list of nationally threatened species when identifying these areas.	Noted, change recommended	Use national and regional data sets of threatened species to identify high priority areas.	Seek the use of national and regionally threatened species to help identify high-priority areas as set out in Action 1.3. Seek an amendment to the text to include this in consultation with WRC and DOC.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.6	Action 1.1 (Page 29)	Follow the WDCs WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/natural-reserves-management-plan-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=826882c9_2 when working on WDC natural areas . Always use evidence based best practice in planting and pest control.	Noted, no change	Follow WDC Natural Reserves Management Plan and use evidence based best practice in plantings and pest control.	This is current practice.

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.7	Restoration and Action 1.1 (Pages 16 and 29)	Sharing know-how and growing capacity (Page 16)	Noted, no change	Sharing knowledge and growing community capacity	Seek more opportunities to share indigenous biodiversity knowledge, possibly on the WDC website as its own page.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.8	Action 5.1 (page 34)	The WDC has plenty of reserves where there can be field trips for farmers, private restorers, community groups to gather and learn from leaders in the field. As a follow up from these days, WDC could help with funding applications. These could be for group projects and projects by 2 or more landowners in an area working to join up nearby bush areas.	Noted, no change	Education should share practical examples and get farmers, private restorers, community groups out on site to view real working examples.	It is noted that improving this is noted as one of the benefits for Taiao. The intent is to partner with landowners and community groups and provide education resources.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.9	Action 3.2 (Page 32)	Landowners and groups could be shown how to write one of these reports for their area including how to look up plants and animals on the New Zealand Threat Classification System as one of the inputs.	Noted, no change	The submitter requests council guidance to landowners and groups on how to write a report for their area, which includes information on plants and animals based on the New Zealand Threat Classification System.	It is noted that the intent is to have more information available for community and restoration groups on plants and animals under threat and what can be done to improve their circumstances.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.10	Action 3.2 (Page 32)	Look for not only vegetation coverage, but signs of a healthy native community that is improving over time. Refer to section on monitoring and measurement for comments about how to know the site is healthy.	Noted, no change	Sites need to have good vegetative cover, healthy native fauna communities and improve over time. Planting and weed control can further improve local ecology. The aim being to prevent any further extinctions of native species and degradation of native environments.	It is noted that improving this is noted as one of the benefits for Taiao. The intent is to partner with landowners and community groups and undertake or educate all on the benefits of pest and weed control.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.5.11	Action 3.2 (Page 32)	Community groups contribute to planting and weed control in council reserves. Community groups learn to notice whether the ecology in their local reserve is healthy or stressed and are encouraged to contact council ecology team if they are concerned. The aim being to prevent any further local extinctions of native species or degradation of natural areas.	Noted, no change	The submitter suggests community groups help with planting and weed control in council reserves and are encouraged to report any concerns about the health of the local ecology to the council's ecology team to prevent local extinctions of native species and degradation of natural areas.	Assistance from community groups on planting and weed control is occurring in certain locations. However, it would benefit from a more coordinated approach. The Open Spaces Team will be notified.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.7.1	Action 3.3 (Page 32)	Page 32. Action 3.3 talks about the identification of areas of farmland for retirement. It lists community groups as part of the lead. We expect that the leads for this action are the Council and the landowners only and that community groups would have little or no impact on decisions made. We seek the deletion of community groups from this action.	Noted, no change	Action 3.3 - delete community groups from this action where it relates to identification of areas for farmland for retirement. Pg 35 line spacing.	Community groups may still manage the retired farmland if it includes the farm owners or could be a group of landowners who form the community groups. Agree with the line spacing on pages 23 and 35.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.7.2	Action 3.3 (Page 32)	Page 35, line spacing needed between third and fourth paragraphs and fifth and sixth paragraphs.	Noted, change recommended	Formatting	Seek the addition of line spacing on page 35 between the third and fourth paragraphs and the fifth and sixth paragraphs if they are kept.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.8.1	Snapshot of Goals (Page 26)	What about encouraging restoration groups.	Noted, no change	Encourage restoration groups.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices.

Introduction

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.4.1	Introduction (Page 2)	We would like to bring to your attention, areas which may be far from pristine but contain examples of biodiversity not found elsewhere. These areas are a valuable guide to restoring natural areas on similar landforms. Taiao in the Waikato would be	Noted, no change	Recognise areas that are not necessarily pristine, however contain important biodiversity not found elsewhere. The strategy would be advantaged if reference to	The actions in the draft Strategy require a stocktake of the district and the identification of some of the key Taiao areas and associated ecosystems.
-------------	--	-------	-----------------------	--	------------------	---	--

				<p>advantaged if reference ecosystems like these were used as a guide to restoration on appropriate sites.</p> <p>1. Several examples of riparian / swamp forest vegetation found where streams enter the Waipa River. For instance, the area surrounding the confluence of the Koromatua stream and the Waipa River. This is a particularly important type of landform to restore well. 2. The unique vegetation of the islands of the Waikato River delta. Again, a guide to quality restoration would be helpful. 3. The remnant vegetation of the limestone outcrops surrounding the Whaingaroa (Raglan) Harbour. 4. Remnant kahikatea stands are a feature of the Waikato District but many lack the diversity of species that should be present.</p>		ecosystems like these were used as a guide to restore appropriate sites.	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

13 (4756)	Anonymous	13.1.1	Introduction and Vision (Pages 1-11)	2 is a Leading question I would suggest. It would be naive to assume it is guiding " us all", it will be easy to guide some but perhaps still unlikely to convert those with otherwise vested interests. I have one main and necessary focus, so am unable to comment on quality of others	Noted, no change	Is the Strategy guiding us all to improve the State of Taiao (Nature) and indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District for the next 30 years (2052)?	The draft Strategy seeks to improve indigenous biodiversity within the Waikato District.
------------------	------------------	--------	--------------------------------------	--	------------------	---	--

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.13.1	Introduction - Priorities (page 1)	Please would WDC commit to no further loss of biodiversity and no more extinctions on their own reserves, as an example to ratepayers. Refer to the national list of threatened plants and animals and their current status in the district.	Noted, no change	WDC make a commitment to no further losses of biodiversity on their reserves, and some of the reserves would be great venues for field trips as case studies for restoration and conservation. Link this to adjacent land and these landowners to widen the biodiversity footprint.	The draft Strategy has the intent of this submission point embedded within it. However, it would be challenging for WDC to action no further loss of biodiversity and no more extinctions given that WDC only has control of its land. There is also the uncertainty of the climatic factors that could exacerbate impacts on biodiversity largely beyond WDC control.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.13.2	Introduction – Priorities (page 1)	Some of the WDC reserves would be great venues for field trips where farmers and community groups could study restoration and conservation, led by the WDC ecologists and other experts.	Noted, no change	Council to run field trips for farmers and community groups to study restoration and conservation led by staff.	This could be developed as part of the collaboration actions.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.1.1	Priority Sites (Page 1)	Please explain the bottom of page 1 paragraph and figures, e.g., areas in WDC conservation covenants and areas that the strategy hopes to protect.	Noted, change recommended	Please review some of the figures and conservation areas and improve the description. Put in a definition of indigenous biodiversity to the Glossary.	This will be made clearer and will be progressed as part of the ongoing report card work.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.1.2	Priority Sites (Page 1)	Definition of indigenous biodiversity where is this?	Noted, change recommended	Biodiversity definition	The draft Strategy is considered consistent with the National Policy Statement - Indigenous Biodiversity - Exposure Draft

Layout and comprehension

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.1	Writing style, formatting, and structure	Review and reconsider the format and structure of the document. We recommend: Number document sections to improve the draft strategy's readability and navigability; ·Hyperlink the sections in the contents page to their location in the draft strategy; Update captions for maps and figures so that they are articulated more clearly and link to the body of the document; Review the use of macrons throughout the document and make consistent; Fix grammatical and typographical errors, e.g., "T" at the end of the third paragraph of the "Elements of the Waikato" section;· Edit the document to be more concise. Remove/reword repetitions; Start new sections in the document on a new page. Negative space could be filled with local photographs of biodiversity and conservation spaces in the district; Consider new ways of formatting images throughout the strategy. Use full pages for maps; Update or reformat the images on page 24. Update the body of text so it refers to the images; Reformat and reconsider the location of the 'Bringing it to life and considerations' section. Clarify the intent of this section and in cases where actions or intentions are discussed, link them to the action tables at the end of the draft strategy; Reword the question in the first paragraph of the Collaboration section (page 21) to a statement; Reword the question in the first paragraph of the Collaboration section (page 21) to a statement; and Number the appendices.	Noted, change recommended	Review and consider the format and structure of the document as per recommendations. Overall look to improve clarity and conciseness	Seek amendments to the document where possible to improve structure, formatting and style where appropriate.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.2	Layout & comprehension	Use consistent referencing throughout the document.	Noted, change recommended	Review and consider the format and structure of the document as per recommendations. Overall look to improve clarity and conciseness	Seek amendments to the document where possible to improve structure, formatting and style where appropriate.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.3	The bullet point formatting of Taiao types, threats and restorers is difficult to read.	Format the bullet points as a table to make it easier to interpret.	Noted, no change	Review and consider the format and structure of the document as per recommendations. Overall look to improve clarity and conciseness	Seek amendments to the document where possible to improve structure, formatting and style where appropriate.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.9.1	Benefits of Taiao (nature) (page 8)	Clarify 'Taiao' in this context or change wording to "benefits of conservation." This could be addressed by amending the Taiao definitions, as suggested in point 1.4 of this table.	Noted, change recommended	Clarify Taiao and benefits of conservation.	Seek the addition of a definition for Taiao and indigenous biodiversity should be added to the Glossary

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.9.2	Benefits of Taiao (nature) (page 8)	Expand on the benefits of 'Taiao' and take a more holistic approach that goes beyond economic benefits. Replace the image with something more relevant or adapted to fit the Waikato district more appropriately. The image or diagram needs to be clearer, with text large enough so that it is easier to read.	Noted, change recommended	Include better images related to the district.	Seek to update images.
-----------	--	--------	-------------------------------------	--	---------------------------	--	------------------------

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.18	Links to key documents (page 12)	Explain the draft strategy's connection to the legislative framework, perhaps through a diagram.	Noted, change recommended	Improve the format with a diagram	Seek to consider the inclusion of a diagram within the draft Strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.19	Move Section	Move this section to the beginning of the 'Our District' chapter, or closer to the 'Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao' section. This may involve separating the 'State of the environment and opportunities in the Taiao' sections into two (so that the state of the environment section is separate from the opportunities section).	Noted, change recommended	Improve the format of the document	Seek the restructure of the document to retain and remove relevant information.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.20	General comment	Review the location, format, and content of this section. It could be changed so that its intent is clear (whether they are considerations or tangible actions). If they are actions, they should link in with the action tables.	Noted, change recommended	Review the location, format, and content of this section. It could be changed so that its intent is clear (whether they are considerations or tangible actions). If they are actions, they should link in with the action tables.	Seek a review of the first part of the Strategy and the location, format, and content of this section.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.24	Links (Page 35)	Incorporate the listed links into the action tables. Expand the list to reflect all activities and projects occurring in the district or clarify why these projects have been specifically noted.	Noted, change recommended	Incorporated listed links into the action tables.	Seek an amendment to the wording and links where required so they are consistent across the document.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.25	Reference to "outcomes" (pages 29-34)	Provide clarification on wording. If necessary, change the wording so that either "outcome" or "goal" is used consistently throughout the document, or each are defined so it is clear to the reader what they mean.	Noted, change recommended	Provide clarification on wording. If necessary, change the wording so that either "outcome" or "goal" is used consistently throughout the document, or each are defined so it is clear to the reader what they mean.	Seek an amendment to the wording and links where required so they are consistent across the document.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.26	Visual timeframe	Add a visual timeline to the plan to demonstrate how the actions will be implemented over time (alongside one another). We suggest incorporating the lead agencies into this timeline as well.	Noted, no change	Add a visual timeline on how the actions will be implemented	Seek to consider adding in a timeline, although timeframes are included in the draft Strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.26	WRPS	Clarify the purpose of this paragraph. Either omit this paragraph or consider moving it to a different part of the draft strategy, where the importance of biodiversity is discussed. We suggest moving it to the What is Taiao or Why Protect Taiao sections.	Noted, change recommended	Clarify the purpose of this paragraph. Either omit this paragraph or consider moving it to a different part of the draft strategy, where the importance of biodiversity is discussed. We suggest moving it to the What is Taiao or Why Protect Taiao sections.	Seek to omit the paragraph.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.27	Pest	Change the definition of 'pest' or review the way it is used throughout the document to see if changes are required to reflect the definition in the Biosecurity Act 1993.	Noted, change recommended	Pest should reflect the definition in the Biosecurity Act 1993.	Seek the addition of a definition for Pest.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.28	Natural range	Add the definition for natural range to the glossary	Noted, no change	Add in definition for natural range	WDC do not consider this definition is required in the glossary as it is shown in the main part of the document.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.29	Biodiversity	Add the definition for Biodiversity to the glossary	Noted, change recommended	Add in definition for Biodiversity to the glossary	Seek the addition of a definition for Biodiversity
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.30	Rewilding	Remove all references to 'rewilding.' Use "facilitating natural succession" instead and define this phrase in the definitions section.	Noted, change recommended	Remove all reference to rewilding and replace with facilitating natural succession.	Seek to use an alternative term instead of "rewilding" to a more appropriate New Zealand context.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.31	Waikato District Lakes and Wetlands Memorandum of Agreement	Recognise the Waikato District Lakes and Wetlands Memorandum of Agreement in this strategy.	Noted, no change	Recognise the Waikato District Lakes and Wetlands Memorandum of Agreement in this strategy.	This relates to aquatic parts of the district that sit outside WDC regulatory functions e.g. land based versus the WRC water regulatory requirements. However, the intent is to improve the indigenous biodiversity of adjacent land to wetlands and lakes.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.32	Steering Group	Provide further details on the steering group.	Noted, change recommended	Provide more detail on the steering group	Seek an amendment to the wording for the steering group to an advisory group or similar. Also, seek to provide a description of this group and the reporting lines withing WDC.
-10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.33	Pet Ownership	No specific relief sought.	Noted, no change	Pet ownership	No relief was sought.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.34	Gerry Kessel's Technical Report	Include further references and use the Gerry Kessel's technical report throughout the document and make clear references to its recommendations.	Noted, no change	Include further references and use the Gerry Kessel's technical report throughout the document and make clear references to its recommendations.	Given the report is a point in time and the recommendations are generally in line with the Strategy, no amendment is recommended.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.2.35	Waikato Biodiversity Forum Reports	No specific relief sought.	Noted, no change	Waikato Biodiversity Forum	No relief was sought.

11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	1.1	General	However, there are some actions that I cannot see how they will be achieved when we are already not delivering on these areas.	Noted, no change	How will the actions be achieved when we are not delivering in similar areas.	The draft Strategy is aspirational and high-level and seeks to influence an improvement in indigenous biodiversity.
-----------	----------------	-----	---------	--	------------------	---	---

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.5.1	Links to key documents (Page 12)	1. The 2008 Settlement Act also provided for the creation of an environmental plan by Waikato-Tainui. This plan is called Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao and sets out Waikato-Tainui's position on environmental issues and policies. The plan makes	Noted, change recommended	Seek that the strategy recognise Waikato-Tainui's Environmental Plan Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, which sets out Waikato-Tainui's position on environmental issues and policies, and management methods.	The draft Strategy references the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, but will strengthen the links the environmental issues, policies, and management methods of Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao where they overlap.

				clear the integral part indigenous biodiversity holds within the whakapapa of Waikato-Tainui rivers and lakes as well as the ecosystem. Amongst other things, it affirms some methods in order to ensure that the full range of Waikato ecosystems found throughout the Waikato-Tainui rohe are robust and support representative native flora and fauna. Some of those methods are: · All permanent waterways within the rohe shall be fenced from livestock and planted, where appropriate, with indigenous vegetation to minimise the effects of land use practices and enhance biodiversity; · Remnant stands of indigenous vegetation shall be retained, enhanced, and extended by fencing and planting and by the encouragement of landowners to take out protective covenants; and · Waikato-Tainui involvement in local indigenous biodiversity strategies.			
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.5.2	Links to key documents (Page 12)	1. The creation of any policies or strategies relating to management and protection of indigenous biodiversity reflect the need to engage early with Waikato-Tainui in matters affecting the Waikato River, its ecosystem, its waters, or management over its waters.	Noted, no change	The development of any plans or strategies, including this strategy will be required to undertake engagement early with Waikato-Tainui in matters relating to the Waikato River, its ecosystems, waters and management over its waters.	The draft Strategy and WDC will continue to engage with Tangata whenua (including Waikato-Tainui) in relation to terrestrial environments where objectives align. WDC has little impact on aquatic environments in relation to Taiao, as this is the jurisdiction of the WDC.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.1.1	General	General comment – remove filler words such as ‘therefore’ and ‘thus’ which have been used at the start of some paragraphs. They add nothing and are not needed.	Noted, change recommended	General comment – remove filler words such as ‘therefore’ and ‘thus’ which have been used at the start of some paragraphs. They add nothing and are not needed. Check formatting on Pg 2, fourth and fifth paragraphs.	Seek to remove filler words where appropriate.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.6.1	Formatting (Page 23)	Page 23, first and second paragraphs need a line spacing between them.	Noted, change recommended	Formatting	Seek to add spacing.

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.5	Links to key documents (Page 12)	Commissioner for the Environment (Space invaders) not a key document?	Noted, no change	Commissioner for the Environment documents	WDC has restricted documents to legislative or iwi documents relevant to the Waikato.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.6	Scope, geographic spread, Taiao and iwi (Page 14)	Are SNA's really going to make any difference to this strategy intention. Where are the incentives to rehabilitate them and SNA process.	Noted, no change	What is the purpose of SNA's and are they really going to make a difference in the restoration of nature.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.
21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.7	Scope, geographic spread, Taiao and iwi (Page 14)	Pg 14 and 15 seem to have contradictions between them e.g., only a small % of notified owners who made a submission.	Noted, no change	Only a small percentage of notified landowners made submissions on the identified SNA areas on their properties.	WDC staff do not consider this a contradiction as only a subset of landowners submitted on the SNAs and requested changes or clarity. After inspections, some of the SNAs were retained or removed.

Monitoring and Review

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.3.1	Monitoring and Review (Pages 35 - 36)	Specific WDC staff could be familiarised with this strategy and empowered to implement appropriate areas in it.	Noted, no change	Assign Waikato District Council staff with becoming familiar with the strategy and implementing in appropriate areas.	Appropriate staff were included in the steering group for the Strategy.

8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.3.2	Monitoring and Review (Pages 35 - 36)	Several times this strategy refers to planting native plants. There are appropriate remnants which might be used as reference ecosystems to guide planting and help it contribute to Taiao in the Waikato.	Noted, no change	Recognise that there are appropriate remnants that may be used as a reference to guide planting and contribute to Taiao in the Waikato.	This is discussed in the document as the potential for supplying eco-sourced plants.
-----------------	----------------------	-------	---------------------------------------	--	------------------	---	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.15.1	Monitoring and operational data	Pair the actions with specific biodiversity targets and environmental baseline data (e.g., number of native plantings undertaken by WDC annually, density of flora and fauna (see Policy 11.1(i) of WRPS), number of sites where animal pest species are monitored, number of hours worked by volunteers, survival of plants in WDC plantings).	Noted, no change	Pair actions with specific biodiversity targets and environmental baseline data.	It is noted that this will require additional funding to determine the specific biodiversity targets in the Action table. The is also covered in other information.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.15.2	Monitoring and operational data	Although a net gain goal is preferable, we recommend – at a minimum – aligning targets with a goal of 'no net loss' as stated in the WRPS.	Noted, no change	The submitter recommends aligning the targets with the goal of "no net loss" as stated in the WRPS, although a net gain goal is preferable.	WDC does need better baseline information on the indigenous biodiversity in its district before setting appropriate targets as requested.

11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.3.1	Monitoring and Review (Page 35)	Link good ground-truthed SNAs and conservation covenants to A1.2 and A1.3 to existing information. Managed areas could be complemented voluntarily with legal protection through other mechanisms such as covenants or designations. Include unique linkage to other funders, including Waikato Regional Council, QE II Trust, and Waikato River Authority. Explore a programme to identify key native areas (logged over time) and how these could be captured, logged, and monitored over time.	Noted, no change	Greater protection through the identification and protection of SNA's.	SNA provisions are being progressed through the Proposed District Plan process and the Proposed National Policy Statement - Indigenous Biodiversity, which will require Local Government to further consider SNAs and their identification.
11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.3.2	Monitoring and Review (Page 35)	I have found in my time working within council as part of the monitoring team that there is a lack of expertise in the topic of restoration / and conservation and a gap in knowledge leading to a lack of monitoring of our current Conservation Covenants. Monitoring for appropriate 'tick box's' is only carried out in the initial stage of creating a conservation covenant but there is little ongoing monitoring from there so there is no check that the promised conservation efforts are being adhered to. For fauna pest control the district council and land owners rely heavily on the Regional Council possum control and all other pests are generally not managed - Deer, goats, stoats, ferrets and rats are not managed as they should.	Noted, no change	Recognise that the current monitoring processes are not sufficient and existing processes are not concerned with managing a wide range of pests.	This will sit with WDC and the Steering group or alternative and be reflected in the Score card process.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.6.2	Monitoring (Page 22)	Monitoring should in all cases be based on current best practice and overseen by those qualified in the field.	Noted, no change	Monitoring based on best practice.	This is provided for in the draft Strategy.

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.14.1	Monitoring and Review (Page 36)	Illustrate best practice template	Noted, no change	Illustrate best practice template	A best practice is demonstrated on page 36 of the draft Strategy.
--------------	-----------	---------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------	-----------------------------------	---

Opportunities and Implementation

1 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.7.2	Opportunities in Taiao (and Monitoring) (Page 22)	Monitoring should in all cases be based on current best practice and overseen by those qualified in the field.	Noted, no change	Monitoring should in all cases be based on current best practice and overseen by those qualified in the field.	There is an opportunity for mātauranga Māori knowledge and citizen science to augment the current processes. This is being explored under new Central Government legislation, reference Te Oranga o te Taiao.
-------------	--	-------	---	--	------------------	--	---

3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.4.1	Opportunities (Page 22)	Forest and Bird support the proposed Opportunities for improving Te Taiao. a. Community-led projects can sometimes be under-resourced, so support such as event coordination, advertising of community volunteer opportunities and equipment support from council is encouraged.	Noted, no change.	a. Community-led projects can sometimes be under-resourced, so support such as event coordination, advertising of community volunteer opportunities and equipment support from council is encouraged.	Focus Area 3 and Actions seek collaboration opportunities, including working with the community.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.4.2	Opportunities (Page 22)	b. Collaborating with the Waikato Regional Council (may include relationships with Biosecurity NZ and Te Tira Whakamātaki / Māori Biosecurity Network) may help with ensuring effective and updated pest control education and implementation methods.	Noted, no change.	b. Collaborating with the Waikato Regional Council (may include relationships with Biosecurity NZ and Te Tira Whakamātaki / Māori Biosecurity Network) may help with ensuring effective and updated pest control education and implementation methods.	The submitter is supportive, and the change requested is greater collaboration. The Strategy stays the same, given the relationships with WRC. But there is an opportunity to explore further relationships with Biosecurity NZ and Te Tira Whakamātaki / Māori Biosecurity Network.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.4.3	Opportunities (Page 22)	c. Rural promotion of information with pest control would work well with resources from platforms such as the Weed busters website. Printed guides have worked well and proved popular in other regional rural communities.	Noted, no change.	c. Rural promotion of information with pest control would work well with resources from platforms such as the Weed busters website. Printed guides have worked well and proved popular in other regional rural communities.	The submitter is supportive. WDC will investigate the promotion of this information.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.6.1	Bringing it to life and consideration (Page 34)	Forest and Bird encourage the alignment and implementation of Feral and Domestic cat management control measures to further protect Te Taiao. a. Forest & Bird encourages councils to adopt meaningful cat management policies and regulations to support responsible domestic cat ownership, to minimise risk to human health and to minimise the risk of nuisance cats to biodiversity. We have been	Noted, no change.	Cat management policies and regulations to support responsible domestic cat ownership. Including feral cat management working with WRC.	This submission point is out of the Strategy's remit.

				pleased to see considerable leadership being demonstrated in district and city councils in recent years and a willingness to address the feral and nuisance cat issues that are increasingly commonplace across New Zealand. b. Forest and Bird encourage Waikato District Council to work with Waikato Regional Council to address issues around feral cat management and ensure alignment. c. Implementing a cat management system will align with the statement that WDC seeks to “showcase best environmental management processes.” d. This implementation would align with “Biosecurity – preventing or reducing the spread of pest plants, animals and other organisms that might work comfortably in natural ecosystems” and “New Indigenous Biodiversity Initiative”.			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5 (4733)	Adam Daniel/Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	5.1.1	Opportunities (Page 15)	Trout have been omitted from the Waikato district council Taiao ‘Nature’ in the Waikato Draft Strategy (Taiao Strategy) Section 7(h) of the RMA states “In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon”	Noted, no change	Trout have been omitted from the Strategy.	Trout is a freshwater species, and their management would sit under Waikato Regional Council jurisdiction.
-----------------	---	-------	-------------------------	--	------------------	--	--

6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.2.1	Considerations (Pages 20-21)	WDC publish a management plan for each native species that has a national threat listing that grows on WDC-managed land (including road reserves).	Noted, no change	Seek the development of a management plan for each native species identified on the national threat listing that grows within the Waikato District.	WDC will do this indirectly in collaboration with other partners and through education.
6 (4732)	Jo Wrigley / Waikato Environment Centre Trust	6.5.1	Other	WDC hosts field trips to their own reserves to share best practices	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council undertake field trips to share best practices	WDC will do this indirectly in collaboration with other partners and through education.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.11.1	Opportunities in the Taiao (and monitoring (Page 22)	Clarify whether WDC is intending on leading the management of the CAMS system for new groups.	Noted, change recommended	Clarify whether WDC is intending on leading the management of the CAMS system for new groups.	WDC is in discussions with HCC to amend the section relating to a "Computer Aided Management System (CAMS)"
------------------	---	---------	--	---	---------------------------	---	---

Other

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.10.1	Submission 17	I am aware Clare Jackson is submitting and she has copied me her main points.	Noted, no change	Refer Submission 17	No change requested.

7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.10.2	Submission 17	I support her points on information gathering and monitoring, applying best practise evidence-based guidelines. Sharing with the community so we can see how much you value what is here and the community is imbued with the same value allowing groups of landowners to apply to the Conservation fund.	Noted, no change	The submitter supports the idea of gathering and monitoring information using evidence-based guidelines and sharing it with the community. They believe that valuing the local environment will inspire the community to participate in conservation efforts, and suggest that groups of landowners should apply to the Conservation fund.	Refer to points addressed in Submission 17 on monitoring (17.6.2) and best practice (17.14.1).
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.10.3	Submission 17	All and every effort at restoring and enhancing native biodiversity is going to have value in carbon sequestration and mitigate climate change which lies at the heart of my decision to spend my time caring for nature.	Noted, no change	The submitter believes that restoring and enhancing native biodiversity can help with carbon sequestration and mitigate climate change, and this is their motivation for dedicating time to caring for nature.	WDC agree with the submission point of the value in restoring and enhancing native biodiversity in carbon sequestration and mitigate climate change. .
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.10.4	Submission 17	Again, I reiterate my sincere hope council is honest in the intent to carry enact this strategy. I respectfully request a response to my submission in any case.	Noted, no change	Support enactment of the strategy and requests a response to the submission.	Changes made to the document are to be referred to the submitter.

9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.2.1	Other	Waiwhakareke (Horseshoe Lake) near Hamilton. No. We are seeing local plant species extinctions all along the Western Waikato coast, and it is not clear what strategies are in place to remedy this.	Noted, no change	Local species loss and extinctions, what is the solution.	WDC will do this through the actions identified within the draft Strategy.
-------------	---------------------	-------	-------	--	------------------	---	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.1	General use of the word "Taiao"	Consider and clarify the definition for Taiao at the beginning of the document and in the glossary. Ensure that the definition and understanding of the word Taiao is consistent throughout the document.	Noted, change recommended	Put a definition in the Glossary for Taiao, define conservation and biodiversity	Seek the addition of a definition for Taiao to be added to the Glossary.
--------------	--	--------	---------------------------------	---	---------------------------	--	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.2	General use of the word "Taiao" Section-specific Comments	Consider including stories and statements that recognise the uniqueness of biodiversity and the environment in the Waikato District (e.g., the significance of the Waikato River).	Noted, change recommended	Consider including stories about biodiversity and the environment	Seek the addition of another story.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.3	What is Taiao? (Page 1)	Define and introduce conservation and biodiversity.	Noted, change recommended	Define and introduce conservation and biodiversity.	Seek the addition of a definition for indigenous biodiversity; conservation is further introduced in the wider document.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.4	What is Taiao? (Page 1)	Restructure the list of good Taiao catchment sites, for example: "Waikato River/awa at Tuakau bridge, Tainui bridge, Komakorau, Rangiriri, Mercer bridge, and Port Waikato."	Noted, change recommended	Restructure the list of good sites.	Seek the restructure of the sites identified.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.5	Why protect Taiao (nature)? (Pages 5 & 7)	Replace the image on page 5 and ensure that the arrow is on the same page. Change the location of 'fencing' from the passive section to the active section.	Noted, change recommended	Reconsider the images that have been used and terminology	Seek the addition of clarifying matters in relation to the image on page 5.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.4.6	Why protect Taiao (nature)? (Pages 5 & 7)	Remove the reference to Pinus radiata or amend the section so that it is not discussed in the same section as eco-sourcing and add discussion around the specific circumstances that would apply for the	Noted, change recommended	Remove the reference to Pinus radiata or amend the section so that it is not discussed in the same section as eco-sourcing, and add discussion around the specific circumstances	Seek the addition of clarifying matters around Pinus radiata.

				planting of Pinus Radiata to be considered appropriate for conservation purposes. Examples of these circumstances include whether the intent is for an area to be predominantly indigenous, whether the forest is in a state of transition from exotic to indigenous forests, whether the use of pines is temporary (e.g., to enable cover for native species to grow), whether there are any factors that make the planting of indigenous species not feasible, and other matters.		that would apply for the planting of Pinus Radiata to be considered appropriate for conservation purposes. Examples of these circumstances include whether the intent is for an area to be predominantly indigenous, whether the forest is in a state of transition from exotic to indigenous forests, whether the use of pines is temporary (e.g., to enable cover for native species to grow), whether there are any factors that make the planting of indigenous species not feasible, and other matters.	
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.13.1	App reference on (Page 26 - 27)	Clarify the app that is referenced. Link this to an action in the action tables.	Noted, change recommended	Clarify current apps mentioned	Agree. Seek to update the apps mentioned.
------------------	---	---------	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------	--------------------------------	---

11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.1.1	General	However there are some actions that I cannot see how they will be achieved when we are already not delivering on these areas.	Noted, no change	WDC is not delivering on existing areas how will it achieve the actions.	This illustrates the importance of implementing the Strategy.
------------------	-----------------------	--------	---------	---	------------------	--	---

11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.5.1	Appendix 3 (Page 47)	A strategy is only a strategy the true measure is the processes put in place and the ongoing dedication of resource to set the strategy into a reality.	Noted, no change	Recognise that processes are needed to ensure that the strategy is put into effect.	This will sit with the WDC, Steering group and be reflected in the Score cards.
------------------	-----------------------	--------	----------------------	---	------------------	---	---

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.1	Other factors for consideration	Summarise below: ·The value to the community of WDC accepting new esplanade areas by creating new public access to and alongside watercourses, i.e. extending the “Queen’s Chain.”.	Noted, no change	Acknowledge the benefit of extended recreational access to and within watercourses using esplanade reserves and strips or access strips. The contribution facilitating public use of esplanade areas can mitigate climate change and reduce vehicle use.	No amendments be made to the document, however, investigation of amendments to the Proposed District Plan via a plan change process will be more appropriate.
------------------	--	--------	---------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.2	Other factors for consideration	· The benefit of extended recreational access within watercourses by creating new esplanade reserves and strips. Esplanade reserves and strips provide access not only to the land they sit over but also an entitlement of public use to the midpoint of the adjacent watercourse.	Noted, no change	The submission indicates that the creation of new esplanade reserves and strips can provide extended recreational access within watercourses, offering not only access to the land but also to the midpoint of the adjacent watercourse for public use.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document, as not all esplanade reserves and strips are usable and connected at this stage.
------------------	--	--------	---------------------------------	---	------------------	---	---

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.3	Other factors for consideration	· Ensuring that WDC has a framework to facilitate the acceptance of new esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips to meet the demands of a rapidly increasing population and mitigate the impacts of green space being converted into housing.	Noted, no change	The submission recommends establishing a framework that allows for the acceptance of new esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips to meet the needs of the growing population and counteract the conversion of green spaces into housing.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document.

12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.4	Other factors for consideration	· Having the ability to accept esplanade strips even though there may not be enduring public access to the strip. The easement still has the possibility of delivering conservation benefits, and public access may come over time as land ownership or land use changes.	Noted, no change	The submission suggests accepting esplanade strips even if there is no immediate public access. The easement may still provide conservation benefits, and public access could be possible in the future due to changes in land ownership or use.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document, as the intent of the Strategy is to highlight the opportunities of esplanade reserves and strips for public access.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.5	Other factors for consideration	· Ensuring that where esplanade areas are being created by subdivision, the applicant bears the cost of surveying to confer a public benefit.	Noted, no change	The submission suggests that the cost of surveying to create esplanade areas for public benefit should be borne by the subdivision applicant.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document, as this is a resource consenting process that sits outside the Strategy.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.6	Other factors for consideration	· Recognising how esplanade areas can contribute positively to providing non-vehicular connectivity. Esplanade areas can offer safe, dedicated cycling and walking routes for commuter connectivity or recreational use (or both).	Noted, no change	The submission highlights the positive contribution of esplanade areas in providing non-vehicular connectivity. These areas can offer safe cycling and walking routes for both recreational and commuting purposes.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document, as the Strategy highlights the potential for esplanade areas for access.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.7	Other factors for consideration	· How this Strategy interacts with the proposed WDC Connectivity Strategy (revised 2016 Tracks and Trails Plan) to achieve the best outcome for landscape connectivity and access to recreational facilities for local communities?	Noted, no change	The submission suggests that the applicant should pay for surveying costs to establish esplanade areas created by subdivision to confer a public benefit.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document; however, WDC to investigate potential of amendments to the Proposed District Plan via a plan change process will be more appropriate.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.8	Other factors for consideration	· The contribution facilitating public use of esplanade areas can mitigate climate change and reduce vehicle use.	Noted, no change	The submission highlights the provision of public access to esplanade areas as helping mitigate climate change and decrease the use of vehicles.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document, as WDC staff are not sure that recreation on esplanade reserves is an alternative transport option.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.9	Other factors for consideration	· Utilising esplanade areas to facilitate connectivity to open spaces, tracks, and trails to facilitate pest management.	Noted, no change	Utilising esplanade areas to facilitate connectivity to open spaces, tracks, and trails to facilitate pest management.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document; however, WDC will seek to investigate changes to the proposed district plan as part of a plan change and a customised or streamlined process.
12 (4724)	Felicity Brough / Herenga Nuku Aotearoa - The Outdoor Access Commission	12.3.10	Other factors for consideration	· How esplanade areas can complement the growth in cycling as a form of active transport and recreational pursuit.	Noted, no change	How esplanade areas can complement the growth in cycling as a form of active transport and recreational pursuit.	Seek that no amendments be made to the document as the Strategy highlights the potential for esplanade areas for access.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.4.1	Other (Page 17)	One thing that is NOT a threat but appears to read that way in the strategy are long-tailed bats!! On page 17: "To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g., linked to land development applications. Non-regulatory policies are supported in this document. Includes assistance with establishing protective covenants, service delivery, education, funding ecological assessment with WRC and helping to manage the threats of Kauri Dieback and Long-Tailed Bats." Is Myrtle rust not considered a threat anymore?	Noted, change recommended	Add Myrtle rust as a threat on Page 17	Seek the addition of Myrtle rust as a threat on Page 17 if that wording is retained.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.12.1	Categories of Taiao (Economics) (Page 8)	Controlling pests has direct economic benefits for the district in several ways: Possum, deer, goat and pigs costs farmers and growers in lost pasture production, fence damage, illegal hunting, and diseases. Ask Federated Farmers.	Noted, no change	Economic benefits to controlling pest species	WDC supports the Regional Pest Management Plan, which covers these issues.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.12.2	Categories of Taiao (Economics) (Page 8)	Also, possums, deer, goats, and pigs eating native plants costs everyone in lost carbon sequestration. Protecting and restoring biodiversity will reduce the district's carbon emissions and following from this, climate change and the damage it causes is reduced.	Noted, no change	By controlling pests you improve biodiversity opportunities, improve carbon sequestration and reduce the districts carbon emissions.	WDC supports the Regional Pest Management Plan, which covers these issues.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.9.1	Additional Comments	1. Waikato-Tainui support Action 5.2. However, it is important that there is express specification of marae, hapū and iwi for this point. It is not adequate to be broadly grouped into "community groups."	Noted, change recommended	Express specification of marae, hapū and iwi in Action 5.2. Consider a monthly hui to communicate new and existing Taiao work with iwi and mana whenua. Go back to Waikato Tainui and discuss how and what this might look like, progress this together.	Seek to discuss with Waikato Tainui setting up regular engagement with a council group including Councillors and staff. This could be quarterly or agreed upon by both parties as semi-regular.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.9.2	Additional Comments	2. Waikato-Tainui further support the methods proposed on communication and engagement should iwi and mana whenua be actively included in all engagement. Towards this purpose, Waikato-Tainui proposes the establishment of monthly hui between Waikato District Council, Waikato-Tainui, and mana whenua representatives.	Noted, no change	Waikato-Tainui recommends active inclusion of iwi and mana whenua in all engagement efforts, and proposes establishing monthly meetings between the Waikato District Council, Waikato-Tainui, and mana whenua representatives to support effective communication and engagement.	Seek to discuss with Waikato Tainui setting up regular engagement with a council group including Councillors and staff. This could be quarterly or agreed upon by both parties as semi-regular.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.9.3	Additional Comments	3. Whilst recognising that it is a draft document, Waikato-Tainui recommends that a brief review is done of the spelling of all Te Reo Maaori within the document, such as the correct use of macrons. I.e.: Ngāruawāhia, Waipā, Ngāti Maniapoto.	Noted, change recommended	Review spelling of all Te Reo Maaori within the document, such as the correct use of macrons. I.e.: Ngāruawāhia, Waipā, Ngāti Maniapoto.	Seek to review the spelling of Te Reo Maaori with the final document, and check with Waikato Tainui before finalising the document that this is appropriate.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.9.4	Conclusion (Page 12)	1. In conclusion, Waikato-Tainui support the intention and vision of the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy. However, there are a number of issues present which Waikato-Tainui requires to be addressed. 2. Te Ture Whaimana and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan must be entrenched and given the appropriate weighting within the Strategy.	Noted, change recommended	Te Ture Whaimana and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan must be entrenched and given the appropriate weighting within the Strategy.	It is noted that there needs to be a better connection with the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao. Staff note this is a standalone document and has statutory weight outside of the Taiao in the Waikato Strategy.

Policy and Scope

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.2.1	Policy and Planning (Pages 23-24)	Forest and Bird support the acknowledgment and integration of international, national and local context provided in the strategy consultation document. a. Forest and Bird encourage the Waikato District Council to continue aligning all actions associated under the strategic plan with these legislative policies to ensure the integrity, effectiveness, and continued relevance of the strategy.	Noted, no change.	Aligning all of the actions with other legislative policies.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.5.1	Scope, geographic spread (Pages 14-15)	1. Forest and Bird supports the enforced protection of mapped SNAs. a. While Forest and Bird understands the council's stance that "The NPSIB exposure draft and other legislation must consider incentives for landowners to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity" ¹ , Forest and Bird encourages the council to take responsibility in supplementing incentives with their own resources (education, promotion, community volunteer opportunities) and advocating for landowners at central government to collaboratively support the active protection of SNAs.	Noted, no change.	F&B encourages the council to take responsibility in supplementing incentives with their own resources (education, promotion, community volunteer opportunities) and advocating for landowners at central government to collaboratively support the active protection of SNAs.	The submitter is supportive, no change has been requested, or the point is already captured in the Strategy.
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.5.2	Scope, geographic spread (Pages 14-15)	b. An example of where WDC could advocate for this type of support is advocating for continued funding of Jobs for Nature (DOC) positions where they can continue to supplement any conservation work by WDC.	Noted, no change.	b. An example of where WDC could advocate for this type of support is advocating for continued funding of Jobs for Nature (DOC) positions where they can continue to supplement any conservation work by WDC.	The submitter is supportive, no change has been requested, or the point is already captured in the Strategy.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.1.1	Document scope and purpose	Add a purpose statement to the draft strategy to define the scope and intent of the draft strategy more clearly. Given that it is intended to act as a conservation strategy, making this clear in the purpose (and even the title) of the draft strategy is important.	Noted, change recommended	Addition of a purpose statement defining the scope and intent of the draft Strategy.	Seek to make changes to the document, but staff do not consider that a purpose statement is needed for the document.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.1.2	Document scope and purpose	Clarify who the intended audience of the document is (i.e., policy advisors, the community, decisionmakers, community groups, mana whenua) and ensure that this is reflected in the purpose and scope, and the way it is written and formatted.	Noted, no change	Addition that clarifies who the intended audience is.	Given the strategy is a draft and for the WDC, it is inherent as to who the audience is; no change has been made.
15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.4.2	The District Plan (Page 25)	There is mention of copper skink specifically, what about other native and threatened herpetofauna species? Should Australasian bittern present throughout the district get special mention in this document?	Noted, no change	Consider other native and threatened herpetofauna species as threats in the strategy.	It is noted that copper skins have specifically been identified by DOC as an endangered species measure.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.6.1	Scope and Purpose Response (Page 20 and 21)	1. Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise some issues regarding the draft Taiao Strategy. Particularly, the very limited reference to Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Te Ture Whaimana and a general need for further inclusion of iwi and hapū within the document.	Noted, change recommended	Greater reference to the Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Te Ture Whaimana and more inclusion of inclusion of iwi and hapū within the document	The draft Strategy references the Environmental Plan Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, but will seek to link the environmental issues, policies and management methods where they overlap.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.6.2	Scope and Purpose Response (Page 20 and 21)	2. Waikato-Tainui principally support the draft's vision of creating a liveable, thriving, and connected environment where the district values our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga.	Noted, no change	Support the principle of the vision of creating a liveable, thriving and connected environment where the district values our natural systems and kaitiakitanga.	No change is required.

Private Landowners

13 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.6.1	Working with private landowners (page 21)	Forest and Bird would like to add the following: WDC encourages landowner collaboration and the creation of ecological corridors by allowing groups of 2 or more nearby landowners to apply to the Conservation Fund as a group. It is recognised that sponsors and groups come and go, but the landowner/farmer is ultimately left with the responsibility for preserving the bush fragments on their land. In many cases directly funding the landowner is the most effective route as there is not a complex and changing group structure to deal with. The landowner's object is to get the job done, not provide ongoing work for a community group	Noted, no change	F&B retain the conservation fund and allow groups of two or more landowners to access it. Community groups are transient and landowners as they are semi-permanent and there is less complexity in the interactions.	This will be explored with the WDC through the LTP process. We note that the Conservation Fund has been absorbed into a community fund.
-----------	--	-------	---	--	------------------	--	---

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.11.1	Working with private landowners (Page 21)	The district has many small forest remnants scattered in farmland. Their size and shape make them expensive to fence and restore. If fenced and restored, we would have a wonderful, connected corridor across the district, allowing birds, bats and insects to move between e.g. Pirongia and Karioi. WDC should encourage and help fund farmers to work together on projects like this.	Noted, no change	The district has many small forest remnants scattered in farmland. Their size and shape make them expensive to fence and restore. If fenced and restored, we would have a wonderful, connected corridor across the district, allowing birds, bats and insects to move between e.g. Pirongia and Karioi. WDC should encourage and help fund farmers to work together on projects like this. The farmer/landowner just wants the job done, efficiently.	WDC will partner with landowners around the restoration; at this stage, though, it will be non-financial support.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.11.2	Working with private landowners (Page 21)	Directly funding a landowner towards fencing important ecological areas on their land is an effective way of preserving te taiao. The farmer/landowner just wants the job done, efficiently. Dealing directly with a landowner avoids that extra layer of bureaucracy that a group may present. There can sometimes be an expectation for ongoing funding to keep a community group going, especially if it has many paid staff or a large structure.	Noted, no change	The direct funding of landowners to fence important ecological areas on their land is an efficient way of preserving the environment. Dealing directly with landowners eliminates the bureaucracy that a group may present and the need for ongoing funding to keep a community group going.	Seek to investigate other ways of helping landowners and possible Long Term Plan funding.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.11.3	Working with private landowners (Page 21)	Community restoration and pest control groups have an important role in our district. It would be great to see these groups planning for the time when the pests are eradicated and the areas restored, and what that would look like. Predator free - that is what we are all working for. That might be introducing kokako and kiwi, or guiding visitors around our amazing restored natural areas and telling their stories.	Noted, no change	Planning for pest eradication, what does that look like and what species could be reintroduced.	Predator-free may be realistic for WDC to achieve with landowners and community groups.

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.11.4	Focus areas- Timeframes (Page 28)	On private land near WDC natural reserves, the WDC ecology team could extend their WDC natural area management plans to include the nearby landowners' ecologically significant sites and support biodiversity plan holders to improve the condition of their sites, working alongside WDC staff.	Noted, no change	Extending WDC management plans to adjacent landowners.	It is noted that WDC only has control of its land, and there is the uncertainty of landowner relationships. Therefore, engagement should sit under Focus Area 5 Education and Community engagement.
-----------	-----------	---------	-----------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---

Recreation and Reserves

2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.4.1	Recreation (Page 32)	Active Recreation includes all other forms of activity, other than sport, which require some level of physical exertion as a core element. It is undertaken by people for enjoyment in their own free time with a reasonable expectation that participation will increase physical fitness and may typically include indoor or outdoor activities including walking, recreational cycling, and horse riding. Increasingly, there are examples of people combining conservation opportunities with physical activity such as "Good Gym" initiatives (e.g. gaining physical activity outcomes through native tree planting, gardening, laying pathways and cleaning areas of bush). These types of initiatives could be implemented to support the strategy's outcomes.	Noted, no change	Consider using "Good Gym", initiatives (physical activity outcomes through native tree planting, gardening, path laying and clearing bush areas.	The submitter is supportive; no change has been requested.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.4.2	Reserves (Page 13)	Sport Waikato has made recent submissions to both the General Policy Reserves Management Plan, as well as the pre-engagement draft version of the upcoming Trails Strategy. Both of these documents speak to items related to supporting active recreation opportunities.	Noted, no change	Promote active recreation through our reserves documents.	The draft Strategy does promote better use of Esplanade reserves.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.4.3	Reserves (Page 13)	a. General Policy Reserves Management Plan (extract of relevant points – see full document): i. We recommend increased focus on active recreation opportunities (bike paths and walkways) - the affinity that New Zealanders have with the outdoors and the rising popularity of outdoor recreation (e.g., walking, tramping, cycling, micro-mobility) needs to be considered in future planning. ii. Provision of opportunities should be equitable and meet the needs of users and communities. This includes attending to all aspects of accessibility, diversity and inclusion such as gender, sexuality, culture, ability, and ethnicity (among others). iii. We recommend considering new and emerging trends in play, active recreation and sport that may need to be included in time. The WRASP mentions a need for “appropriate technology systems to collect and document facility utilisation data to inform future decision making based on current utilisation and future optimisation.”	Noted, no change	Promote active recreation for all through our reserves documents.	The draft Strategy does promote better use of Esplanade reserves.

Reporting

10 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.4.1	Reporting (Pages 15, 26, 35)	Protection and management of native flora and fauna (vision). Forest and Bird would like to see the reporting informed by good data and evidence from agencies and research centres known for their expertise in this area, for example the University of Waikato, Manaaki Whenua, Forest and Bird.	Noted, no change	Utilise data and evidence from other agencies and research centres (University of Waikato, Manaaki Whenua and F&B)	The draft Strategy seeks to partner with a number of groups, and these relationships can be explored outside of this process.
--------------	--	-------	------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---

Restoration and Riparian plantings

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.7.1	Restoration (Page 18)	Forest and Bird support eco-sourced local seed collection for local planting projects to preserve local genetic diversity of species. This could be an example of effectively working with local Iwi and Hapū to integrate local knowledge with the development of planting and biosecurity initiatives.	Noted, no change.	Forest and Bird supports eco-sourced local seed collection for local planting projects to preserve local genetic diversity of species. This could be an example of effectively working with local Iwi and Hapū to integrate local knowledge with the development of planting and biosecurity initiatives.	The submitter is supportive; no change has been requested. An area for further investigation.
13 (4756)	Anonymous	13.3.1	Riparian Planting (Page 32)	At the moment lack of support for determining, and trying to minimise, flooding, erosion (and likely tree death) in covenanted native bush caused by volume of water from a non 'hydraulically neutral' road in a new developing subdivision.	Noted, no change	Seek amendments that recognise and seek minimising flooding and erosion in covenanted native bush caused by water accumulated from a non-hydraulically neutral road in new developments and subdivisions.	This is provided for under the Proposed District Plan.
15 (4743)	W Montemezzani	15.2.1	Resourcing (Pages 27 and 47)	In part. If a district-wide nature connectivity plan gets drawn up, the right people are engaged to guide restoration, and ongoing maintenance and management of all those areas are supported, then yes, the plan will help guide towards an improved state of nature.	Noted, no change	Correct district-wide connectivity plan, stakeholders, maintenance and management are undertaken, this will lead to an improved state of nature.	The intent of the draft Strategy is to have the right expertise to guide management and improve the state of nature wherever possible.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.2.1	Restoration	1. Waikato-Tainui seeks to ensure that these rights and interests are recognised and protected with any policy development.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise that Waikato-Tainui have signed the Kingitanga Accord to work with the Crown as a Treaty partner in the development of legislation, policies and any other decisions affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters, with importance placed over the principle of Te Mana o te Awa.	Clarify the role of iwi/hapu in the draft strategy, with linkage to existing iwi management plans.
20 (4746)	QEII Representative	20.1.1	QEII reference (Page 16)	Reference to 'QEII' should probable say 'QEII National Trust' (at least at the start). QEII can be many things. Also we are trying to move towards "National Trust" as QEII indicates we are crown owned and maybe a covenant is 'owned' by the crown all sorts of myths to bust out there!	Noted, change recommended	Addition of QEII National Trust at the start, abbreviated to QEII.	Clarifies the official name of QEII.

Rewilding (Passive)

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
7 (4737)	Katherine Hay/Waikato Branch Forest & Bird	1.2.1	Passive rewilding (Page 6)	P6 'Leave things alone'. Forest and Bird would like to see the following added: It is well documented that only fencing off native ecosystems is not enough to prevent biodiversity decline. Fencing only prevents stock browsing. Pest plants and animals can and do invade fenced areas, requiring active control to ensure the biodiversity can have a chance of recovering.	Noted, no change	Direct changes to page 6, leaving things alone does not increase biodiversity (fencing) pest plants and animals can still invade and need active control.	The provision of fencing is the first thing to do to keep out grazing of the undergrowth. Animal pest control and weed control would follow from this.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.2.1	Rewilding (Page 6)	I do however utterly disagree with the strategy of passive (rewilding) management adopted by council to manage reserves, pg 6 of your doc. There is nothing about this strategy that is working for most reserves.	Noted, change recommended	Do not support with the strategy of passive (rewilding) management adopted by Waikato District Council to manage reserves, as noted on page 6 of the strategy.	WDC have used this as an example to indicate the benefits of fencing but acknowledges that additional things need to happen, including pest and weed control. Seek minor amendments as per other submitters' comments.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.3.1	Other	Kaitoke Walkway in Whaingaroa Raglan is an example. Council staff I encountered on here told me the strategy for management was to let the bush manage itself. We were standing amongst stunted native trees, unable to reproduce effectively, draped in climbing asparagus, tradescantia and Kahili ginger interspersed with emerging woolly nightshade, privet, Japanese spindleberry, among others. I asked how that was working out?	Noted, no change	Council staff have suggested let the bush manage itself Kaitoke Walkway in Whaingaroa Raglan as the example.	WDC will pass the submitter's comments on to the Open Spaces team. Look for opportunities to collaborate more with local community and restoration groups.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.3.2	Other	I am aware this pathway (which is an awesome 2.5km long amenity in the middle of town visited frequently by locals and visitors) had weed control a few years ago but it's narrow strip of bush with private gardens along the edges making it un-resilient to incursions of pest plants. The passive strategy is not patently unworkable on sites like this.	Noted, no change	Council staff have suggested let the bush manage itself Kaitoke Walkway in Whaingaroa Raglan as the example.	WDC will pass the submitter's comments on to the Open Spaces team. Look for opportunities to collaborate more with local community and restoration groups.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.3.1	Leave things alone (Page 6)	This is a nice photo, but anyone who has fenced off some bush knows that fencing is not enough. Letting nature take its course means pests and weeds move in and displace the native species.	Noted, change recommended	Direct changes to page 6, leaving things alone does not increase biodiversity (fencing) pest plants and animals can still invade and need active control.	Seek the inclusion of a more detailed description of the photo or alter the image.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.3.2	Pests (Page 16)	Please give the full information. Third point: Target pest control to both pest plants and animals. You can't have one without the other because they are interdependent.	Noted, no change	Please give the full information. Third point: Target pest control to both pest plants and animals. You can't have one without the other because they are interdependent.	The minimum of undertaking weeding or pest control is required.

Significant Natural Areas

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.9.1	SNA's (Page 17)	I would like to see more protection and monitoring of SNA's. I live adjacent to one.	Noted, no change	Greater protection through the identification and protection of SNA's.	The SNA rules are being progressed through the Proposed District Plan process and the Proposed National Policy Statement - Indigenous Biodiversity, which will require Local Government to further consider SNAs and their identification.
7 (4731)	Leanne Steel	7.9.2	SNA's (Page 17)	I have watched my neighbours fell parts of it for buildings, remove the understory entirely with assistance from a local landscape company who should have known better and cut down mature nikau without any consequence.	Noted, no change	The submitter has watched as their neighbours cut down parts of the forest to make buildings, removed the understory with the help of a landscape company, and cut down mature nikau trees without any consequences.	No change is requested. The Strategy intends to improve collaboration to highlight the importance of native vegetation, and the Proposed District Plan does protect large areas of native vegetation clearance.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.7.1	Significant Natural Areas	No specific relief sought. However, we support the approach to not require ground-truthing for an area with indigenous biodiversity, for it to be considered an SNA. We advocate for the use of the criteria in Section 11A of the WRPS to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.	Noted, no change	No specific relief sought. However, we support the approach to not require ground-truthing for an area with indigenous biodiversity, for it to be considered an SNA. We advocate for the use of the criteria in Section 11A of the WRPS to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.	The submitter is supportive; no change has been requested.
11 (4725)	Crystal Walker	11.2.1	SNA Identification (Page 30)	Action 2.2– Identify pockets of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Conservation Covenants and Esplanade opportunities		Identify SNAs, Conservation Covenants and Esplanades.	This is currently being addressed in the Proposed District Plan provisions.
13 (4756)	Anonymous	13.2.1	SNAs (Page 17)	Erosion, invasive weeds, feral cats, rats, possums.	Noted, no change	Consider matters such as erosion, invasive weeds, feral cats, and possums.	Erosion is being addressed in the Proposed District Plan provisions. Weed and pest control are managed under the Regional Pest Management Plan.
13 (4756)	Anonymous	13.2.2	SNAs (Page 17)	Also, less obviously, the newly discovered shocking effects of Glyphosate on worms and bees, plus the findings on the elements of this weedkiller in human populations and foods around the world. (Not normally prone to accepting similar scare mongering, but this looks like a valid issue. Monsanto will be pushing back.)	Noted, no change	Consider matters such as the effects of Glyphosate on worms and bees and the effects of weedkiller on people.	The application of herbicides is regulated under Standards New Zealand, NZS 8409:2021 Management of agrichemicals.
14 (4746)	Chris Harvey	14.1.1	SNAs (Page 17)	We live at 7 Marlborough St and there used to be native trees down by the stream BUT now, no stream and the only trees are Yuccas, Privet, Deadly Nightshade...the privet even jumped over the fence and our boys had to pull them down early January. Also...gorse is all over the Hood...another toxic plant	Noted, no change	Recognise the extent of pest plants infiltrating our urban environments.	, Weed and pest control are managed under the Regional Pest Management Plan.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.8.1	SNAs (Page 14-15)	1. Whilst recognising that Waikato District Council has identified certain SNAs Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise the need to further protect Waikato-Tainui cultural areas of natural significance.	Noted, change recommended	Further protection of cultural areas of natural significance. Increase the funding pool for restoration so protection of the Taiao under current and future pressures can be ensured.	Seek to ensure WDC partners with Waikato Tainui to protect cultural areas of natural significance. Staff note the funding pool will come via the Long Term Plan process.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.8.2	SNAs (Page 14-15)	2. The current funding pool for restoration by Waikato District Council is inadequate and will require more expansive investment if the protection of the Taiao under current and future pressures is to be ensured.	Noted, no change	Funding for Taiao in the Waikato	Staff note the funding pool will come via the Long Term Plan process.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.8.3	SNAs (Page 14-15)	3. Waikato-Tainui further recommend that future ecological assessments require a cultural component to provide an accurate reflection of taonga that once thrived in the relevant area to be used as the baseline to target local endemic species.	Noted, no change	Waikato-Tainui further recommend that future ecological assessments require a cultural component to provide an accurate reflection of taonga that once thrived in the relevant area to be used as the baseline to target local endemic species.	The draft Strategy cannot influence a statutory process but notes that sections 5 and 6 of the RMA should cover the concerns raised in this submission point.

19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.4.1	SNAs (Page 17)	Page 14, first line of paragraph 4, include reference to where the SNAs are found in the PDP.	Noted, change recommended	Page 14, first line of paragraph 4, include reference to where the SNAs are found in the PDP. Pg 15 line spacing.	Seek reference to the WDC District Plan Version
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.4.2	SNAs (Page 17)	Page 15, line spacing needed between first and second paragraph.	Noted, change recommended	Page 15, line spacing needed between first and second paragraph.	Seek to amend the formatting on Page 15

21 (4747)	Leo Koppens	21.2.8	SNAs (Page 17)	SNA finding support, how and when outside land development applications	Noted, no change	What is the purpose of SNA's and are they really going to make a difference in the restoration of nature.	The actions outlined in the draft Strategy require WDC to show best practices for its reserve areas.
-----------	-------------	--------	----------------	---	------------------	---	--

Strategic Context

2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.5.2	Strategic Context (Pages 12 & 13)	As this is currently in a pre-engagement form, it is not appropriate to highlight specific submission points. However, Sport Waikato would strongly encourage Council documents to collectively reflect and support any individual aims and intentions. Having the Trails and Nature strategy documents speak to one another will strengthen the outcomes of both.	Noted, no change or add in linkage to Trails Strategy	Linkage to the Trails and Nature Strategy, balancing the accessible tracks, trails and bridle paths required to access bush settings, alongside the footpaths and cycleways of urban settings.	The submitter is supportive; however, staff note that WDC documents do cross multiple areas of the business and seek to be consistent.
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.5.3	Strategic Context (Pages 12 & 13)	A successful Trails Strategy document will address the range of active recreation and connectivity needs of communities, understanding multi-modal travel options, with the purpose of connecting people, places, and purposes all the while increasing physical activity and health outcomes. Importantly, this would also balance the accessible tracks, trails and bridle paths required to access bush settings, alongside the footpaths and cycle-ways of urban settings.	Noted, no change or add in linkage to Trails Strategy	The submitter requests that the Trails Strategy should cater to various active recreation and connectivity needs, incorporating multi-modal travel options to connect people, places, and purposes while promoting physical activity and health outcomes. It should balance accessible tracks, trails, and bridle paths for accessing bush settings with footpaths and cycle-ways for urban settings.	The submitter is supportive; no change has been requested. These points are captured in other WDC Strategies.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
2 (4736)	Sport Waikato	2.5.4	Strategic Context (Pages 12 & 13)	Opportunity exists to combine these also, through programmes such as Cities with Nature and Hamilton City Council's Nature in the City initiative	Noted, add in Nature in the City linkage	Opportunity exists to combine these also, through programmes such as Cities with Nature and Hamilton City Council's Nature in the City initiative.	The submitter is supportive, and WDC will seek to partner with HCC where possible to support each council role to provide more opportunities for nature and its protection and restoration.

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.12.1	Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies (LIBS)	Amend the LIBS section in the draft strategy to note that LIBS should: - establish biodiversity targets in the district; Establish biodiversity targets in the district; determine the appropriate mix of regulatory and non-regulatory methods; clarify how no net loss is to be achieved in each district; address how WDC will build capacity in the community to implement LIBS; Discuss how LIBS will be implemented; We recommend adding the use of LIBS into the action tables at the end of the draft Strategy.	Noted, no change	Amend the LIBS section, establish biodiversity targets, sites of importance, the mix of regulatory and non-regulatory methods, how WDC will build capacity in the community to implement LIBS and its implementation.	Establishing biodiversity targets will be further investigated and linked to the NPS - Indigenous Biodiversity.
-----------	--	---------	---	---	------------------	---	---

Vision and Goals

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
3 (4735)	Elvisa Van Der Leden/Forest and Bird	3.1.1	Vision and Goals (Pages 11-12)	Forest and Bird support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy and encourages the following considerations in this feedback.	Noted, no change.	Forest and Bird support the vision, goals and focus areas in the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy and collaboration between Iwi, hapu, community, and landowners.	The submitter is supportive, and no change has been requested.

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.1.1	Vision and Goals (Page 11 & 12)	The general intent of the vision and goals is along the right lines but the wording of these key strategic elements could be considerably improved. [Wording from draft strategy in italics, suggested wording underlined] A Vision should paint a picture of what something will look like in the future. It should not include an action. Therefore, the first statement in the vision should start with "A liveable, thriving and connected community where our district values and understands the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga. There is nothing the glossary defining "District". It is usually associated with defining the boundaries of the area administered by WDC so it may be better, in this instance, to refer to "the people of the District".	Noted, no change	Support the intent of the vision and goals in the strategy, but the wording of the key strategic elements could be improved.	The vision and goals to remain unchanged, apart from minor ones that do not alter their intent.
----------	--	-------	---------------------------------	---	------------------	--	---

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.1.2	Vision (Page 11)	The second two sentences of the vision should be connected as one statement.	Noted, no change	Amend the second two sentences in the vision to become one statement.	The vision and goals to remain unchanged, apart from minor ones that do not alter their intent.
----------	--	-------	------------------	--	------------------	---	---

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

4 (4734)	Jan Simmons / Waikato Ecological Restoration Trust	4.1.3	Vision (Page 11)	The fourth statement is not achievable or desirable as worded. You do not want the full range of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems and species – you just need those that belong in the District. Suggested rewording is: "A full complement of indigenous ecosystems and species are thriving across their natural range in the Waikato District from the mountains to the sea". This then ties in with Goal 1 where there is reference to 'their natural range'. The Goals can be essentially grouped into four categories – protection/restoration, resource use, working together and access/recreation. A further goal relating to education could be appropriate. Applying these categories, we suggest that reference to ecological linkages should be removed from goal two (use) and be included in goal one (protection/restoration).	Noted, no change	Amend the Vision statement as follows: "To create.... The full range of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems and species thrive <u>A full complement of indigenous ecosystems and species are thriving across their natural range in the Waikato District</u> from the mountains to the sea."	The vision and goals to remain unchanged, apart from minor ones that do not alter their intent.
8 (4730)	Wayne Bennett	8.1.1	Vision and Goals (Page 11 & 12)	Vision, goals and focus benefit from being specific realistic and achievable.	v Noted, change recommended	Seek the development of vision, goals and focus to be specific, realistic and achievable.	Seek to review the introduction, no change to the vision and goals. Incorporate diagrams, including the linkages to the overall legislation.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.1.1	Vision and Goals (Page 11 & 12)	I support the broad vision, but I believe that the present draft is insufficiently clear with respect to a) present challenges facing Taiao in the district and b) concrete strategies to address these challenges.	Noted, change recommended	Support the overall vision of the strategy, however, seek further clarification on the present challenges facing the environment within the district, and specific strategies that will address these challenges.	The submitter is supportive, and changes will be made to the document to clarify actions and the development of report cards.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.4.1	Vision (Page 11)	1) The vision of the document (" <i>To create a liveable, thriving and connected environment where our district values understand the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga</i> ") is admirable. However, the draft is lacking in facts and data. For a strong conservation strategy, we need concrete figures on the challenges currently facing nature in the Waikato:	Noted, no change	Support the vision of the document, however, seek facts and figures that acknowledge the environmental and conservation challenges being experienced in the Waikato District.	Seek no change to the Strategy. It is noted that these figures are reported nationally and regionally and will be used to update the Strategy over time and through the report card process.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.4.2	Vision (Page 11)	What is the number of native species in the Waikato with a national threat level? How has this number changed in recent decades? What is the trend? WDC should commit to a goal of no further biodiversity loss in the district.	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council work with Waikato Regional Council, private landowners, Iwi, Department of Conservation, and community groups to identify conservation priorities.	No changes to native species are highlighted in the document, and we will continue to discuss this with WRC, DOC, iwi and landowners outside the Strategy where gains can be made. Some individual species and habitats have been identified, and work is progressing around these species.
9 (4729)	Paul Newton-Jackson	9.4.3	Vision (Page 11)	To ensure no further local or national extinctions, WDC needs to work with Regional Council, private landowners, Iwi, DOC and community groups to share data and identify conservation priorities. WDC should a management plan for each native species with a national threat listing that grows on WDC-	Noted, no change	Seek that Waikato District Council develop a management plan for native species with reference to a national threat listing and those at risk of extinction, including the Department of Conservation.	It is noted that WDC will do this indirectly in collaboration with other partners and through education.
No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation

				managed land (including road reserves). WDC should aim to collaborate with DOC to put together a 'regional threat status' document, which lists species that may not be nationally threatened, but are at risk of extinction within the Waikato District.			
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.6.1	Strengthening the vision and goals	Reconsider the vision, goals and actions in the draft strategy so they align with the goal of "no net loss" of biodiversity in the Waikato District. An even better approach would be working towards a goal of "net gain."	Noted, no change	Amend the Vision, Goals and Actions to align with the goal of "no net loss" or a net gain of biodiversity in the Waikato District	It is noted that WDC only has control of its land, and the uncertainty of the climatic factors, the restoration of biodiversity within private land ownership cannot be directly controlled by WDC.
-----------	--	--------	------------------------------------	---	------------------	---	---

10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.1.3	Our District (page 9)	Review the "Where we have come from" section and include environmental data that provides an understanding of what the current state of biodiversity and conservation is in the Waikato District.	Noted, change recommended	Review "Where have we come from", the introduction, vision and goals. Incorporate diagrams, including the linkages to the overall legislation.	Seek amendments clarifying matters around vision and goals and incorporating diagrams where possible instead of text.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.10.1	Vision and Goals	Review the location of this section in relation to "Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (nature)" in the Introduction– there is potential cross over and repetition between these two sections.	Noted, change recommended	Review the Strategy and avoid repetition and cross-over	Seek amendments to the draft Strategy to ensure it is streamlined and avoids duplication.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.10.2	Vision (Page 11)	Change the vision to: "To create a liveable, thriving and connected environment where our district values understand reflect the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga." Review and update the formatting and sequence of sections in the document. Update the "Vision" section to be more visual and prominent in the draft strategy.	Noted, change recommended	The submission recommends a review and update the formatting and sequence of sections in the document, and to make the "Vision" section more visual and prominent in the draft strategy. This is to ensure that the document reflects the importance of natural systems and Kaitiakitanga in creating a sustainable and connected environment in the district.	Seek that the draft Strategy be reformatted to make these improvements without changing the text of the vision.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.10.3	Goals (page 12)	Number the goals to ensure consistency throughout draft strategy.	Noted, no change	Number the goals for consistency.	Seek to retain the goals without numbers.
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.10.4	Goals (page 12)	Change the wording to: "Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve <u>enhance</u> healthy ecosystems <u>and their</u> ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction."	Noted, change recommended	"Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve <u>enhance</u> healthy ecosystems <u>and their</u> ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction."	Seek to amend by replacing remove, improve and replace with the <u>restoration of... and their</u>
10 (4727)	Hannah Craven / Waikato Regional Council	10.10.5	Goals (page 12)	Consider whether the goals should be broken down further.	Noted no change	Consider breaking the goals down further	The goals within the draft Strategy were developed as part of an internal process and support the Strategy at a high level. The actions are the breakdown and implementation parts of the goals.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
-----	----------------------------	-----------	---------	------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------

17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.4.1	Vision Scope, opportunities (Pages 11 and 15)	I would like to see WDC use an evidence-based approach to the district's ecology and its health. If the data is relevant, professionally collected and up to date, then people working and volunteering in the restoration area can make informed decisions. The Waikato district has special treasures, lets tell everyone about them and show we value what makes us unique.	Noted, no change	Undertake an evidence-based approach to the district ecology and health. The data should be open source, relevant and scientifically collected in real time and independently audited). This data can then be used by those involved in restoration to make informed decisions. Coordinate and consolidate ecological reporting across educational institutes, NGOs and government for best practice. Caution around using apps that are not industry standards and not utilising quality data.	Incorporating more robust monitoring and data around managing and restoring the Taiao will form part of the report card work.
17 (4738)	C Jackson	17.4.2	Vision Scope, opportunities (Pages 11 and 15)	When anyone is reporting on aspects of the districts' ecology it must always be done using current best practice. As well as the WDC ecology team, there is the University of Waikato, Manaaki Whenua, Forest and Bird who can share their expertise in this area.	Noted, no change	The submitter considers that the district's ecology should always be reported using current best practices, and experts such as the WDC ecology team, University of Waikato, Manaaki Whenua, and Forest and Bird should be consulted for their expertise.	This will be developed through the Report Card process.

19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.3.1	Vision (Page11)	The Vision on p11 of the draft strategy is supported.	Noted, no change	The vision is supported	No change is requested.
19 (4739)	Fed-Farmers / Jo-Morris	19.3.2	Goals (Page 12)	Under the goals listed on p12, we seek the inclusion of an additional goal which recognises existing uses in the rural environment and allows for these to continue in a sustainable manner	Noted, no change	Additional goal for use of the rural environment in a sustainable manner	This is a difficult term to define and will need further discussion.

Waikato Tainui – Environmental Plan

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.1.1	Overview of the Waikato-Tainui Position regarding the Draft	1 Waikato-Tainui has a range of rights and interests including, but not limited to, those that arise from the following:	Noted, change recommended	Seeks that the strategy recognise the 1995 Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement (and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995), the 2008 Settlement and Settlement Act, Tikanga and customary law, common law and the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.	Seek to clarify the role of iwi/hapū in the draft Strategy, as well as ensure appropriate linkage to existing iwi management plans and conservation opportunities.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.1.2	Overview of the Waikato-Tainui Position regarding the Draft	(a) The 1995 Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement (and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995), the 2008 Settlement and Settlement Act; (b) Tikanga and customary law; (c) Common law (including the common law relating to Aboriginal title and customary law); and (d) The Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.	Noted, change recommended	(a) The Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995 and the 2008 Settlement and Settlement Act; (b) Tikanga and customary law; (c) Common law (including the common law relating to Aboriginal title and customary law); and (d) The Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.	Seek to strengthen the links within the draft Strategy concerning (b) Tikanga and customary law, (c) common and customary law and (d) Treaty of Waitangi principles.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.1	Te Ture Whaimana, Action 1.2 (Page 29)	1. This is reinforced through Te Ture Whaimana – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. This is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato- River and any activities affecting the catchment. It prevails over any inconsistent national policy statements and national planning standards as set out under the River Settlement. Te Ture Whaimana clearly states as some of its objectives:	Noted, no change	Seek that the strategy seek to achieve the objectives outlined in the Te Ture Whaimana - The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, such as the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, the recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities, and the protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna, which prevail over the National Policy Standards and National Planning Standards.	The draft Strategy seeks to improve the terrestrial environments, which will have a corresponding improvement in the aquatic environments. WDC will work with Waikato Tainui and WRC to improve both areas. WDC is a district council with very little control over aquatic environments within the Waikato region, so it can only influence the land-based areas.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.2	Te Ture Whaimana, Action 1.2 (Page 29)	The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.	Noted, no change	The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.	The draft Strategy will indirectly help improve its health and well-being.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.3	Te Ture Whaimana, Action 1.2 (Page 29)	The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.	Noted, no change	The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.	It is noted that the draft Strategy is terrestrially focused, so it may indirectly reduce the degradation due to human activities.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.4	Te Ture Whaimana, Action 1.2 (Page 29)	The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora, and fauna.	Noted, no change	The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora, and fauna.	It is noted that the draft Strategy sets out to manage and restore flora and fauna on land and indirectly improve significant sites and fisheries.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.5	TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA O WAIKATO	1. As noted above, Te Ture Whaimana is the prime direction setting document for activities affecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Waikato-Tainui are concerned that, considering the real importance this strategy carries for the health of the Waikato River ecosystem, Te Ture Whaimana is only briefly noted twice in the whole document. Namely Actions 1.2 & 2.3.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise Te Ture Whaimana more prominently within the strategy, in addition to the references made in Actions 1.2 & 2.3	It is noted that the draft Strategy references the Environmental Plan Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao. This being said, there is a need to link the environmental issues, policies, and management methods where they overlap.

No.	Submitter Group/Individual	Point no.	Context	Submission Point	Staff Recommendation	Submission Points summarised	Reasons for Recommendation
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.6	TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA O WAIKATO	2. The Taiao Strategy must give effect to Te Ture Whaimana. This may be achieved in part by adding a further statement in the Goals section at pages 12 & 28 reading: Give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato through implementing its strategies and adopting its objectives.	Noted, no change	Addition in the Goals section at pages 12 & 28 reading: Give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato through implementing its strategies and adopting its objectives.	The draft Strategy references partnering with Tangata whenua, and this will continue in relation to terrestrial environments where objectives align. WDC has little impact on aquatic environments in regard to the Taiao.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.4.7	TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA O WAIKATO	3. Further work must be done to acknowledge the importance of Te Ture Whaimana in the Taiao Strategy. This includes the recognition of mātauranga Maaori in the monitoring of ecosystem health and the tracking towards achieving the Taiao Strategy's goals. Te Ture Whaimana must be put at the core of the Strategy.	Noted, change recommended	Acknowledge and build on the importance of Te Ture Whaimana in the Taiao Strategy. Recognition of mātauranga Maaori in the monitoring and ecosystem health in Taiao Strategies goals.	The draft Strategy references partnering with Tangata whenua and recognising mātauranga Maaori in relation to terrestrial environments where ecosystem health is under threat. Changes in the Strategy will be made to strengthen this wording.

18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.7.1	Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan (Page 12)	1. As with Te Ture Whaimana, Waikato-Tainui is concerned that the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, is only included in the section on links to key documents.	Noted, change recommended	Recognise the Environmental Plan and expand its connection with the Taiao Strategy. Embed it in sections so it brings the strategy to life.	The draft Strategy references the Environmental Plan Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao but will seek to link the environmental issues, policies and management methods where they overlap.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.7.2	Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan (Page 12)	2. Waikato District Council must recognise the Environmental Plan as one of Waikato-Tainui's environmental planning documents and accommodate such within the Taiao Strategy. The Plan includes responses and positions to a broad range of environmental management issues.	Noted, change recommended	The submitter suggests that the Waikato District Council should acknowledge and incorporate Waikato-Tainui's Environmental Plan as one of its environmental planning documents in the Taiao Strategy, as the plan addresses various environmental management issues.	Seek amendments to strengthen the references to Waikato-Tainui's Environmental Plan.
18 (4745)	Marae Tukere/Julian Svadlenak - Waikato Tainui	18.7.3	Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan (Page 12)	3. Waikato-Tainui seeks that the Environmental Plan is recognised and incorporated into the Taiao Strategy at a fundamental level. This includes embedding it into sections on bringing the strategy to life, achieving the vision and goals, and monitoring the progress of the strategy.	Noted, change recommended	As with 18.7.2 Waikato-Tainui wants the Waikato District Council to recognize and incorporate its Environmental Plan into the Taiao Strategy in a fundamental way. This includes embedding it into sections that deal with bringing the strategy to life, achieving the vision and goals, and monitoring the progress of the strategy.	Seek amendments to strengthen the references to Waikato-Tainui's Environmental Plan.