

Agenda for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019** commencing at **9.00am**.

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist the Committee in the decision making process and may not constitute Council's decision or policy until considered by the Committee.

- 1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA**

- 3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
Meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 2

- 5. STRATEGY REPORTS**
 - 5.1 Community Engagement Update 13
 - 5.2 Walking Access Act 2008 - Review Feedback 22
 - 5.3 Update on National Draft Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Review 31
 - 5.4 WLASS Governance Changes 95

- 6. FINANCE REPORTS**
 - 6.1 Financial Review of Key Projects 97
 - 6.2 Financial performance summary for the period ending 31 May 2019 102

- 7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** 104

GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	Gavin Ion Chief Executive
Date	18 June 2019
Prepared by	Lynette Wainwright Committee Secretary
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318
Report Title	Confirmation of Minutes

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To confirm the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

3. ATTACHMENTS

S&F Committee Minutes – 29 May 2019

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019** commencing at **9.02am**.

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson [*from 9.04am until 10.24am, and from 10.27am*]
Cr AD Bech
Cr JA Church
Cr DW Fulton
Cr SL Henderson [*from 9.16am*]
Cr SD Lynch
Cr RC McGuire
Cr FM McInally
Cr BL Main
Cr EM Patterson
Cr JD Sedgwick
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson

Attending:

Mr B MacLeod (Chair, Raglan Community Board)

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr R MacCulloch (Acting General Manager Service Delivery)
Mrs S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Mr P Ellis (Solid Waste Team Leader)
Ms J Bishop (Contracts & Partnering Manager)
Mr P McPherson (Community Projects Manager)
Ms K Overwater (Senior Policy Planner)
Mr G Boundy (Senior Environmental Planner)
Ms S Whybrow (Facilities Management Officer)
Ms M May (Community Connections Manager)
Ms J Dolan (Economic and Community Development Manager)
Mr C Bailey (Rates Team Leader)
Ms A d’Aubert (Consents Manager)
Ms D Dalbeth (Business Analyst)
Mr J Brown (Communications Advisor)
Mrs LM Wainwright (Committee Secretary)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**Resolved: (Crs Smith/Main)****THAT an apology for lateness be received from His Worship the Mayor.****CARRIED on the voices****S&F1905/01****CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS****Resolved: (Crs Thomson/Church)****THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 8 which shall be considered with the public excluded;****AND THAT all reports be received;****AND FURTHER THAT Mr MacLeod, Chair of the Raglan Community Board, be given speaking rights for the duration of the open section of this meeting.****CARRIED on the voices****S&F1905/02****DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillors Gibb, Sedgwick and Fulton declared a non-financial conflict of interest in item 5.3 [*District Plan Review – Project Update*] and would withdraw to the public gallery and not speak to, or vote on, this item when considered.

Councillor Thomson declared a non-financial conflict of interest in item PEX 2.1 [*Raglan i-SITE Update*] and would withdraw to the public gallery and not speak to, or vote on, this item.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Resolved: (Crs Sedgwick/Main)****THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee held on Wednesday 27 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.****CARRIED on the voices****S&F1905/03**

REPORTS

Consultation Results on the proposed Raglan Food Waste Targeted Rate Agenda Item 5.1

The Solid Waste Team Leader summarised the report and outlined the reasons for the staff recommendations. The Committee discussed the options detailed in the staff report and noted that Waikato District Council is conducting a solid waste service review this year where all services will be evaluated against the obligations under the WMMP and consistency with the LTP. Food waste will form part of this review.

Resolved: (Crs Smith/Patterson)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommend that Council does not implement the proposed targeted rate and the Raglan kerbside food waste collection discontinue as of 30 June 2019 (Option 2 in the staff report).

The Motion was CARRIED by a show of hands: 8 voting in favour and 6 voting against

S&F1905/04

For	Against	Abstention
His Worship the Mayor	Cr AD Bech	Nil
Cr DW Fulton	Cr JA Church	
Cr JM Gibb	Cr SL Henderson	
Cr SD Lynch	Cr RC McGuire	
Cr FM McNally	Cr BL Main	
Cr BL Main	Cr LR Thomson	
Cr EM Patterson		
Cr NMD Smith		

His Worship the Mayor entered the meeting at 9.04am during discussion on item 5.1 and was present when voting took place.

Cr Henderson entered the meeting at 9.16am during discussion on item 5.1 and was present when voting took place.

Consideration of Conservation Fund Applications

Agenda Item 5.2

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*] and the Senior Environmental Planner summarised the report.

Resolved: (Crs Church/Bech)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Conservation Fund application of \$5,280.00 from Wrights Bush Restoration Group be approved in full.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/05

District Plan Review – Project Update

Agenda Item 5.3

Cr Gibb declared a conflict of interest, vacated the Chair, withdrew to the public gallery and did not speak to, or vote on this item.

Cr Fulton declared a conflict of interest, withdrew to the public gallery and did not speak to, or vote on this item.

Cr Sedgwick declared a conflict of interest, withdrew to the public gallery and did not speak to, or vote on this item.

Cr Bech assumed the chair.

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*]. The Senior Policy Planner summarised the report and discussion was held on the following items:

- Budget for the District Plan process - costs for the process would be spread over the 10 year life of the plan.
- The Chairperson's use of a casting vote option when making a decision on the District Plan submissions.

Resolved: (His Worship the Mayor/Cr McGuire)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council that it approves the minor changes to the Terms of Reference for the District Plan Review Hearings Panel (Stage 1 and 2) as shown in Attachment I to the staff Report.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/06

Cr Gibb resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting following the conclusion of Item 5.3.

Economic & Community Development – Resourcing Update
Agenda Item 5.4

The report was received [S&F1905/02 refers]. The Economic and Community Development Manager summarised the report.

Economic & Community Development Update
Agenda Item 5.5

The report was received [S&F1905/02 refers]. The Economic and Community Development Manager summarised the report.

Financial Review of Key Projects
Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [S&F1905/02 refers]. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the report and discussion was held on the following items:

- Tuakau Cemetery – the crematorium consultation process.

ACTION: The Chief Financial Officer to investigate the crematorium consultation process and advise elected members.

- Budgets for the Library and Community Facility in Ngaruawahia.

Summary of Movements in Discretionary Funds
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [S&F1905/02 refers]. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the report.

Treasury Risk Management Policy – Compliance Report at 31 March 2019
Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [S&F1905/02 refers]. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the report and advised that the “fixed to floating interest rate controls” breach was for the final quarter of the 2018/19 financial year only.

Resolved: (Crs Church/Sedgwick)

THAT Council notes the non-compliance with the Treasury Risk Management Policy for fixed/floating interest rate control for the fourth quarter of the 2018/19 financial year.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/07

2019 Third Quarter Non-Financial Performance Report
Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*]. The Business Analyst took the report as read.

His Worship the Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 10.24am during discussion on the above item.

Development Contribution Levies for 2019/20
Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*]. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the report and discussion was held on the following:

- Legislation changes had recently been passed on development contribution levies. Staff would undertake work for the Council to meet legislative requirements.

Resolved: (Crs Thomson/McInally)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends to Council that Appendix I of the Development Contributions Policy be updated for 2019/20 to capture producer price index movements over the past financial year.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/08

His Worship the Mayor re-entered from the meeting at 10.27am during discussion on the above item and was present when voting took place.

The meeting adjourned at 10.29am and resumed at 10.56am.

Waikato Quarries Limited – Exemption from being classified as Council Controlled Organisation
Agenda Item 6.6

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*]. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the report and advised the Committee that the change to the Committee's previous resolution was to satisfy the Office of the Auditor-General.

Resolved: (His Worship the Mayor/Cr Fulton)

THAT the following Committee resolution (S&F1611/14) be altered, in part, from:

AND THAT pursuant to section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA") Waikato District Council exempt Strada Corporation Limited ("Strada") from being classified as a council controlled organisation, for the purposes of section 6(4) of the LGA;

AND FURTHER THAT on reaching its decision, the Council has taken the following matters into account:

- a. *Strada has ceased trading and is therefore no longer a council controlled trading organisation;*
- b. *Strada has realised almost all its assets and is in the process of returning its capital to Council;*
- c. *There is a cost benefit to Strada and Council not having to comply with the statement of intent and monitoring provisions set out in Part 5 of the LGA;*
- d. *When the asset realisation process is completed Strada will have no further activities to undertake. Its only asset will be a balance of \$625,000.00, receivable from Waikato Quarries Limited. Strada will have no liabilities other than contingent liabilities as guarantor under the Quarry Sale Agreement between Waikato Quarries Limited and Fulton Hogan Limited.*

to read:

AND THAT Pursuant to section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 Waikato District Council exempt both Strada Corporation Limited and its subsidiary Waikato Quarries Limited from being classified as council controlled organisations, for the purposes of section 6(4) of the LGA;

AND FURTHER THAT on reaching its decision, the Council has taken the following matters into account:

- a. **Strada Corporation Limited and Waikato Quarries Limited have ceased trading and are therefore no longer council controlled trading organisations;**
- b. **The companies have realised almost all assets and are in the process of returning capital to Council;**
- c. **There is a cost benefit to not having to comply with the provisions set out in Part 5 of the LGA;**

- d. When the asset realisation process is completed the companies will have no further activities to undertake. Strada Corporation Limited's only asset will be a balance of \$625,000 receivable from Waikato Quarries Limited. Strada Corporation Limited will have no liabilities other than contingent liabilities as guarantor under the Quarry Sale Agreement between Waikato Quarries Limited and Fulton Hogan Limited.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/09

Civic Financial Services Limited Annual General Meeting
Agenda Item 6.7

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*] and the Chief Financial Officer summarised the report.

Resolved: (Crs Smith/McGuire)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommend that Council support the reduction of directors on the Civic Financial Services Limited's Board from six to five as proposed in the special resolution below:

Special Resolution to Reduce the Maximum Number of Directors of the Board:

That the Company reduce the maximum number of directors from six to five pursuant to clause 15.1.2 of the Company's constitution, with effect from 1 July 2019.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/10

Replacement of Raglan Museum Air-Conditioning Units
Agenda Item 7.1

The report was received [*S&F1905/02 refers*]. The Facilities Management Officer summarised the report.

Resolved: (Cr Lynch/His Worship the Mayor)

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee recommends that Council approves:

- a. the funding to replace the three air-conditioning units at the Raglan i-SITE and Museum with the added protection of a salt resisting coating, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 plus GST (Option 2 in the staff report); and

- b. that the replacement costs be funded from the Properties Replacement Reserve.

CARRIED on the voices

S&F1905/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 8

Resolved: (Crs McGuire/Henderson)

THAT the public be excluded from the whole or part of the meeting to enable Council to deliberate and make decisions on the following items of business:

Confirmation of Minutes dated Wednesday 27 March 2019.

REPORTS

a. Raglan – i-SITE Update

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) and 48(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by sections 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part(s) of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution to withhold exists under: **Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution is:**

Section 7(2)(f)(i), (ii)

Section 48(1)(3)(d)

b. Water Rates and Penalties Write-off: Hakarimata Road, Ngaruawahia

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) and 48(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by sections 6 or 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part(s) of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution to withhold exists under: **Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution is:**

Section 7(2)(a)

Section 48(1)(3)(a)(i)

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	Clive Morgan General Manager Community Growth
Date	10 June 2019
Prepared by	Jodi Bell-Wymer Corporate Planner
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318 / 2262815
Report Title	Community Engagement Update

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Strategy & Finance Committee (“the Committee”) with an update on engagement initiatives that Council has completed since August 2018 or are currently being undertaken. It is also an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback on how these initiatives are progressing and to identify any other initiatives that should be noted.

Below is a list of some of the more recent engagement initiatives:

Completed

- Whatawhata Community Facility
- Port Waikato Community Hub
- Annual Animal Control Education Initiatives
- Northern Feasibility Program Study
- North Waikato Passenger Train Review
- Gambling Venues Policy
- Food Act Transition
- Representation Review

In Progress

- Annual Report 2018/2019
- Matariki Competition 2019
- Ngaruawahia Computer/CV sessions
- District Plan Review
- Mana Whenua Reps

Ongoing

- Daycare Centre Visits
- Reading Programme
- Resthome Visits
- Dog Smart Education Programme
- Growing Places E-Newsletter
- Tuakau Youth Centre support

Planned

- Liquor Control Bylaw
- Blueprint Community Workshops for Port Waikato, Newstead and Gordonton
- Future Proof Structure Meeting (August 2019)
- Tuakau Library Refurbishment

For a full list of engagement projects and their progress please refer to the attachment to this report, *Community Engagement register*.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the General Manager Community Growth be received.

3. BACKGROUND

An engagement register was initially developed for staff to be made aware of other engagement activities that were being undertaken throughout the organisation.

The register then formed the attachment to this report as a standing item to the Strategy & Finance Committee to keep Councillors informed of the engagement activities being undertaken by staff.

4. CONSIDERATION

4.1 FINANCIAL

There is no financial impact of continuing this reporting.

4.2 LEGAL

There are no legal implications.

5. CONCLUSION

An update on the more recent engagement activities has been provided.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Community Engagement Register June 2019

Project Name	Organisation Group	Staff member responsible	Service Catchment (e.g. area of influence, area you need to engage with)	Highest level of Engagement required (refer to page 7 of the significance and engagement policy)	Formal consultation required (Yes/No)	Iwi Engagement required (Yes/No)	Status	June 2019 Comment (e.g. what was the community engagement about, time spent, what was the outcome)
District Wide Toilets	Service Delivery	*	Tuakau and Ngaruawahia	Consult	No	No	In progress	
Raglan boat ramps - Wallis and Wainui	Service Delivery	*	Raglan	Inform	No	Yes	Planned	
Community Plan (all communities)	Community Growth	Betty	District Wide	Empower	No	No	In progress	It was my understanding that these were all being held in abeyance as there is a train of thought that these may not be needed after all the work on the blueprints. Fair to say that this is under review.
Matariki Competition	Customer Support	Cheryl Maskell	Whole District	Collaborate	No	No	annual	We are following the same plan as the previous couple of years on how we run things, but this year our competition is either to write a poem or create a picture up to A3 in size on what Matariki means to you. The competition is due to close on the 14th June
Whaingaroa-Raglan Affordable Housing project	Community Growth	Clive	Raglan	Collaborate	No	Yes	Ongoing	
Raglan Naturally community plan	Community Growth	Clive	Raglan	Collaborate	No	Yes	In progress	
Parking Review - Raglan	Customer Support	Craig Birkett	Raglan	Consult	Yes	No	In progress	
Daycare Centre Visits	Customer Support	Denise	Tuakau	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	This happens at all six of our library sites and is on going.
Local primary and highschool visits	Customer Support	Denise	Tuakau	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	This happens at all six of our library sites and is on going
Kimihia Rest Home Visit	Customer Support	Denise	Huntly	Inform	No	No	In progress	Work in progress - I intend to stay in touch with the manager and deliver library services that meet the needs of the residents and staff at this facility.
Book Chat	Customer Support	Denise	Huntly	Collaborate	No	No	Ongoing	This is on going at Ngaruawahia, Tuakau, Raglan, Huntly and soon to be introduced at Te Kauwhata Library.
Skoob	Customer Support	Denise	Huntly/Te Kauwhata	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	Currently these programmes are running at Tuakau and Te Kauwhata .
Author Visits	Customer Support	Denise	Huntly/Te Kauwhata	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	These are ongoing when the opportunities present them selves ..
Reading Together Visits	Customer Support	Denise	Huntly	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	These are offered at any of the library sites that have requests from the schools in the area.
Ngaruawahia Daycare/Kindy Bookswap	Customer Support	Elizabeth Saunders	Ngaruawahia and surrounds	Collaborate	No	No	Ongoing	05/06/19 – Bookswaps are happening once a month with 5 different Kohanga Reo/Childcare Centres (Kidstime; Turangawaewae; Te Kowhai; Galbraith; Active Discoveries) – still a wonderful service that the kids love and look forward too J
Assisi Home & Hospital and Tamahere Eventide Book Swap	Customer Support	Elizabeth Saunders	Tamahere/Matangi	Collaborate	No	No	Ongoing	05/06/19 – These Bookswaps are still happening once every 3 months (last one completed 2 weeks ago) – still doing extremely well with feedback always coming regarding what types of books residents want etc....
Ngaruawahia Computer/CV Sessions	Customer Support	Elizabeth Saunders	Ngaruawahia and surrounds	Collaborate	No	No	Ongoing	05/06/19 – We've just started this so will be able to provide more detail as we progress

Sunset beach erosion	Service Delivery	Elton	Port Waikato	Collaborate	No	Yes	In Progress	Josh Crawshaw Taken over but has not done any work on this to date - his focus has been RMPs
Te Kauwhata Walkway/Cycle ways	Service Delivery	Elton	Te Kauwhata	Consult	No	No	In progress	Josh Crawshaw Taken over but has not done any work on this to date - his focus has been RMPs
Natural Parks Reserve Management Plan	Service Delivery	Josh	District wide	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	The Natural RMP has been completed (Adopted in December last year) with help from Melissa and is in the final process of having responses sent out to submitters. It can be found online on the Council Website.
The Point Reserve Management Plan	Service Delivery	Josh	District wide - emphasis on Ngaruawahia	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	The Point RMP is currently still in progress and is awaiting further information before being put before the Hearings Committee to decide whether it should be amended or go out for further consultation. Still no exact timeframe on this but a recommendation is expected to go to the Committee in early July
Woodlands Reserve Management Plan	Service Delivery	Josh	District wide - emphasis on Ngaruawahia	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	Is due for INF approval in August before it can be sent out for further public consultation alongside the Concept Plan which is being developed. This timeframe is still subject to change however
Raglan Coastal Reserve Management Plan	Service Delivery	Josh	District wide - emphasis on Ngaruawahia	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	The first round of submissions have been received for the Raglan Coastal RMP and a Draft Plan is expected to be completed in late August/September. The first round of public consultation on the draft will then occur on its completion
2018 Speed Limit Bylaw Amendment to the 2011 Speed Limit Bylaw	Service Delivery	Gareth/Jodi	District Wide	Engage	Yes - next phase of project	No	In progress	
Longswamp WeX State Highway transfers to local road (will require some community engagement)	Service Delivery	Gary	Te Kauwhata - Hampton downs	Involve	Yes	Yes	In progress	
Hamilton WeX State Highway transfers to local road (will require some community engagement)	Service Delivery	Gary	Gordonton to Tamahere	Involve	Yes	Yes	In progress	
State Highway transfers to local road (will require some community engagement)	Service Delivery	Gary	TBC-depends on location impacted	Involve		No	In progress	
Wi Neera Street connectivity	Service Delivery	Gary	Raglan	Consult		Yes	On hold	
Spey me Baby	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District wide	Inform	No	No	In progress	Since 8th January 2019 we have had 7 dogs desexed through spey me baby
Dogs in Libraries	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	Since 8th January 2019 we have had 22 Dogs in Libraries sessions
Dogsmart Education Programme	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	Dog Smart – 55 sessions in schools - 2 sessions in early childcare - 1 session youth group - 1 session Enliven Waikato - 1 session Quotable Value
Dogsmart Education Programme	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	Since 8th January 2019 we have had 22 dogs desexed through PUP
Dogsmart Education Programme	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	This year we have attended; -Turangawaewae Regatta -Tuakau Library Day -1x Art in the Park Huntly
Dog events and activities	Customer Support	Zoey/Helen	District Wide	Inform	No	No	ongoing	2 pool parties held in the district this summer (Ngaruawahia and Tuakau)
Hamilton Bypass Stakeholder Meetings	Customer Support	Ian Boddington	Horsham Downs, Tamahere	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	
Community Liaison Group Meeting Genesis Energy	Customer Support	Ian Boddington	Huntly	Inform	No	Yes	Ongoing	Community meeting for Genesis now bi annual as interest in meetings had been waning:
Waste Water spill mitigation	Service Delivery	Karl	Raglan	Inform	No	Yes	In progress	
Holcim CLG Meetings	Customer Support	Leah Logan	Pokeno	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	CLG Meetings are ongoing, the last one attended was in December. Extraction activities have ceased at the site however Holcim have committed on continuing the CLG meetings until all conditions under the consent have been met (i.e. site remediation). Holcim are in the process of selling the site, after which compliance with consent conditions (and the running of these meetings) will become the responsibility of the new owners. Minutes received after each meeting and added to ECM

Perry's	Customer Support	Leah Logan	Tuakau	Inform	No	Yes	Ongoing	Meetings are ongoing and have a core group of attendees. Minutes received after each meeting and added to ECM
Yashili	Customer Support	Leah Logan	Pokeno	Inform	No	Yes	Completed	In the past we held Yashili community meetings as per their condition – but we stopped those as the community stopped coming once they were happy with what was up and running
Huntly Garden Place Place making	Strategy & Support	Lianne	Huntly	Collaborate	No	No	In progress	
Place making	Strategy & Support	Lianne	District Wide	Collaborate	No	No	In progress	
Huntly Bypass Stakeholder meetings	Customer Support	Margaret Glassey	Huntly	Inform	No	Yes	Ongoing	
Community Liaison Group Meeting Titoki Sands	Customer Support	Margaret Glassey	Tamahere	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	
Toddler Time	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	Engage	No	No	Ongoing	Done regularly so ongoing
SKOOB	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	Engage	No	No	Ongoing	Done regularly so ongoing
Reading program	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	Empower	No	No	Ongoing	Done regularly so ongoing
Stepping Up program	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	empower	No	No	Ongoing	Proposal delivered to Sue O'Gorman and Brian Cathro
SMINKSLABS workshop	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	Engage	No	No	Planned	Completed
Community co-design project	Customer Support	Nazreen	Tuakau	Collaborate	No	No	In progress	On hold due to staffing at the school and changes possibly with the contractors Waikato Alliance (Librarian Amanda Spencer to follow up)
Pokeno Waste Water Phase 2	Service Delivery	Paul White	Pokeno	Consult	No	Yes	In progress	
Onewhero/Te Akau Water Supply	Service Delivery	Pranavan	Onewhero/Te Akau	Collaborate	Yes	No	On hold	
Alcohol liaison statutory agency meetings	Customer Support	Tony Pipe	District Wide	Collaborate	No	No	Ongoing	Meetings of the alcohol licensing statutory reporting agencies continue to be held three times a year.
Food Act 2014 transition	Customer Support	Tony Pipe	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	Transition to the Food Act 2014 has been undertaken with ongoing education and engagement with customers to raise awareness and promote safe food. Direct contact with food business will continue on an individual basis.
Food Safety newsletter - stakeholder engagement	Customer Support	Tony Pipe	District Wide	Inform	No	No	Ongoing	A food safety newsletter has been developed to send to food business owners and Marae in WDC. Other informative material continues to be utilised on an ongoing basis.
Liquor Control Bylaw	Customer Support	Tony Pipe	District Wide	Consult	Yes	No	Planned	Work has been undertaken to progress. Given the upcoming Council elections this process is scheduled to be completed in 2020.
Gambling Venues Policy 2018	Customer Support	Tony Pipe	District Wide	Consult	Yes	no	In progress	After consultation a new policy was agreed by Council in 2018.
Pokeno Future Growth	Community Growth	Vishal	Pokeno	Involve	No	Yes	In progress	

Signage at Te Kopua Native Reserve	Community Growth	Vishal	Whaingaroa / Raglan	Collaborate	Yes	Yes	In progress	
MOU with Ngaati Tamainupoo	Community Growth	Vishal	Ngaruawahia and surrounds	Involve	no	Yes	In progress	
Waikato Plan	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	
Representation review	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	<p>In 2017, Council made two decisions in relation to its representation arrangements:</p> <p>i. The decision to retain the first-past-the-post electoral system (August 2017)</p> <p>ii. The decision not to include Maaori wards in the Waikato District (November 2017).</p> <p>Council's 2018 Representation Review Initial Proposal was publicly notified for submissions on 20 June 2018.</p> <p>At its meeting on 10 September 2018 Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act, its Final Proposal for representation arrangements that will apply to the local election to be held in October 2019.</p> <p>Council received 3 appeals to its Final Proposal; Council also made its own appeal by exceeding the fair representation criteria set out in the Local Electoral Act (see council report for the Final Proposal for details). Meaning that the whole review was sent to the Local Government Commission for their determination on the Waikato Districts representation arrangements.</p> <p>A hearing was held in Ngaruawahia in February, 2019, where the Commission listened to and considered all submitters that had made appeals to the Final Proposal.</p> <p>The Commission announced its decision in April, 2019, to largely endorse Councils Final Proposal, saying that the proposed arrangements, with some further minor boundary alterations provided a good balance between fair and effective representation arrangements set out in legislation. In response to an appeal, the Commission have made the following boundary alteration:</p> <p>- The meshblock containing the Mercer Airfield will be moved from the Whangamarino Ward to the Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward, where the village of Mercer is. This will keep the Mercer community of interest together.</p> <p>This means that for the 2019 local authority elections, Waikato District Council will continue to comprise of 13 Councillors elected from 10 wards, with the Mayor elected at large. The Commission also endorsed</p>
Invites for Formal Hui with Iwi Governance Groups	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Collaborate	no	Yes	In progress	
Joint Committee hui (Waikato Tainui and Maniapoto Maaori Trust Board)	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Collaborate	no	Yes	In progress	Two JMA meetings with Waikato-Tainui have been held since the last update. These took place on 17 November 2019 and 24 April 2019.
Mana whenua reps	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Consult	No	Yes	In progress	An Iwi Reference Group was established as part of the District Plan Review which includes representatives from the North Waikato iwi as well as from Waikato Tainui
North Waikato Passenger Transport Review	Service Delivery	Vishal	North Waikato	Involve	Yes - next phase of project	No	In Progress	<p>The outcome of the North Waikato Public Transport Review has been incorporated into the LTP 2018-2028. An update on its implementation was provided to the Infrastructure Committee on 28 May. We worked with our partners (Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, New Zealand Transport Agency and KiwiRail) in developing the Hamilton to Auckland Transport Connections Strategic Business Case which was approved by the NZTA Board mid-2018. This set the strategic context for the development of a Single Stage Business Case for the start-up passenger rail service between the two cities which was endorsed by Council in November 2018. The start-up passenger rail service is now expected to commence operation in mid-2019.</p> <p>Work has also started on the preparation of a strategic business case for rapid rail between Hamilton and Auckland.</p>
Northern Feasibility programme (Northern iSite, Pokeno Sports Park and Pokeno Library)	Service Delivery	Vishal	North Waikato	Involve	No	Yes	In progress	

North Waikato Integrated Programme Business Case	Community Growth	Vishal	North Waikato	Empower	Yes	Yes	In progress	<p>The North Waikato Integrated Growth Management Programme Business Case was endorsed by Council in February 2018. The Business Case has helped to inform the Long Term Plan and the Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>The Business Case will be reviewed in the new financial year pending the outcome of the spatial planning work being done for Pokeno and surrounds through the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan (government is interested in Pokeno due to its strategic location with regards to SH1 and SH2 and the amount of developer interest).</p>
Future Proof	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Consult	Yes	Yes	In progress	<p>The review of Future Proof is occurring in two phases. Council adopted Phase One of the Future Proof Strategy in November 2017. Phase One addresses growth management and updates the settlement pattern; confirms the guiding principles; incorporates the northern Waikato into the strategy and addresses cross boundary issues).</p> <p>Phase 2 of the review of Future Proof is in progress and will finish in early 2020 once the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan is sufficiently advanced. It will incorporate the Future Development Strategy (a requirement under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016 (NPS-UDC).</p> <p>A lot of emphasis over the last 6 months has been on the future of Future Proof in light of government's priority for a Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan. WDC has played a leading role in shaping these discussions by advocating for an expanded Future Proof partnership to provide governance ownership and oversight of the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan as opposed to a totally new structure that focusses solely on the Corridor Plan.</p> <p>Our Council subsequently approved evolving the current Future Proof partnership arrangements to bring in the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor work as a significant workstream of Future Proof. We have also endorsed expanding the structure and membership of Future Proof to include Central Government, Auckland Council, the Papakura Local Board, the Franklin Local Board and relevant iwi from northern Waikato/southern Auckland to join the Future Proof partnership as associate members.</p> <p>The inaugural meeting of the new expanded Future Proof structure is taking place on 15 August 2019.</p>
District Plan Review	Community Growth	Vishal	District Wide	Involve	yes	Yes	In progress	<p>An update was provided to the Strategy & Finance Committee on 29 May 2019.</p> <p>The Summary of Submissions for Stage 1 has been published however a small number of omissions and errors have been identified in the documents that were published. There is a need to correct these and as a consequence extend the associated timeframes.</p> <p>The Hearings Panel is now established and is working on initial directions and managing actual and perceived conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The next step for the Stage 1 process is for staff to prepare planner's reports for the hearings. This has been initiated in parallel to the further submissions period. As part of this process, submissions that are better heard alongside Stage 2 will be identified and moved to be heard alongside Stage 2 submissions.</p> <p>Staff are currently preparing for a Stage 2 update workshop to present to Council the results of two technical assessments (flood modelling and coastal hazard assessment). Staff will provide an update on the project timeline for Stage 2 as part of this workshop.</p>
Customer Survey in Growing Places E-Newsletter	Customer Support	Will Gauntlett	District wide	Consult	No	No	Ongoing	<p>Only 12 responses were received through the survey, however we also have the following stats: Open rate & click rate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42.5% open rate (average click rate for e-newsletters is 39.9%; the average for Government e-newsletters is 24.3%) • 21.2% click rate (average open rate for e-newsletters is 18.1%; the average open rate for Government e-newsletters is 3.4%) <p>Top links clicked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team update • What's happening (Pokeno Nutritional Park, Pokeno's Hitchin Road, the National Monitoring System) • Proposed District Plan Update • New Zealand Geotechnical Database • Processing stats <p>Audience</p> <p>We currently have 608 subscribers (grown from 424 in 2016)</p>

Local Area Blueprints	Community Growth	Melissa Russo	Port Waikato, Newstead, Gordonton	Collaborate	No	Yes	Planned	
Annual Report 2018/19	Community Growth	Stacey Solomon	District Wide	Inform	No	No	In progress	
Whatawhata Community Facility	Service Delivery	Donna Rawlings	Whatawhata community	Collaborate	Yes	No	Planned	
Library Refurbishment event	Amanda & Sally	Tuakau	Engage	No	No		ongoing	Feedback is with architect
Book rotation with Daycare centres	Amber	Tuakau	Engage	No	No		ongoing	Done regularly so ongoing
Tuakau Youth Centre	Lana	Tuakau	Collaborate	No	No		Ongoing	Done regularly so ongoing
Raglan Kerbside Food Waste Collection	Community Growth	Melissa Russo	Raglan	Involve	Yes	No	Complete	A Kerbside Food Waste Collection has been running in Raglan for the last two years. The consultation was to determine if there was an appetite for the service to continue at a cost of \$79 to the ratepayer.
Matangi Hall Targeted Rate Increase	Community Growth	Melissa Russo	Matangi	Consult	Yes	No	Complete	The Matangi Community Committee wanted to gauge the appetite from the community to increase the targeted rate for the Matangi Hall to be able to continue maintaining the hall to a high standard. The increase in targeted rate was signed off and will be implemented 1 July 2019.
Blueprint	Community Growth	Melissa Russo	District Wide	Collaborate	No	Yes	Complete	A series of community workshops were held throughout the district to identify aspirations from our community. The Waikato Blueprint is scheduled to be adopted by Council on 10 June.

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance
From	Clive Morgan General Manager Community Growth
Date	12 June 2019
Prepared by	Giles Boundy Senior Environmental Planner
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318 / 2267004
Report Title	Walking Access Act 2008 - Review Feedback

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present draft feedback on the Walking Access Act 2008 Review for the Committees consideration. The Ministry for Primary Industries, who administer the Act, have asked a series of questions on which they are seeking feedback. The questions and respective responses thereto, are appended as Attachment I.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the General Manager Community Growth be received;

AND THAT the Committee recommend that Council:

- a. approve the draft feedback on the review of the Walking Access Act 2008, as attached to the staff report; and**
- b. retrospectively approve the submission of that feedback to the Ministry for Primary Industries on 2 July 2019.**

3. BACKGROUND

The Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act) is about providing free access to the outdoors for walking and types of access that may be associated with walking, such as access with firearms, dogs, bicycles or motor vehicles. The Walking Access Act 2008 established the Walking Access Commission, a Crown entity, to fulfil the purpose of the Act and carry out functions thereunder.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is reviewing the Act and is seeking views about what is working well and what could be improved. MPI are open from feedback between 17 May and 2 July 2019.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will be assessing what changes might be needed to the Act – both for now and for the future of public access. This includes access to the outdoors in cities, towns, rural areas and further afield and access to waahi tapu and other areas of cultural significance.

A feedback paper (available here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/34548-walking-access-review-public-feedback2-pdf>) has been prepared by MPI which outlines the scope of the review. The review will consider:

- The need for the Act
- The operation and Effectiveness of the Act including:
 - Objective and functions of the Walking Access Commission
 - Effectiveness in opening up public access to priority areas
 - Administration and funding
 - Access for Maaori and Tikanga Maaori
 - Management of public access
 - Miscellaneous matters

The following matters have been deemed as out of scope for the review.

- Consideration of the ‘right to roam’ over private property.
- Changing the premise that the Walking Access Commission must negotiate access with landholders is specifically excluded from the terms of reference.

The feedback compiled by staff (Attachment 1) is based on the current working knowledge of the Act and interactions with the Walking Access Commission to date. The draft feedback was presented to elected members at a workshop on 10 June 2019.

4.2 OPTIONS

Option 1: Provide feedback on the review of the Act.

Merits of this option include:

- Ensuring Waikato District Council participates in this initial round of feedback which will inform any formal changes to the Act. It is likely that MPI will be particularly interested in feedback from Territorial Authorities, given their role administering significant portfolios of public land including Unformed Legal Roads and their understanding of local communities.
- Ensuring MPI is aware of the current aspects of the Act, which are working well and not working well from the perspective of Waikato District Council.

Option 2: Do not provide feedback on the review of the Act

Whilst this option would not limit further involvement in any formal changes to the Act, it would not enable council to inform any early drafting or “thinking” around possible changes to the Act.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 FINANCIAL

There are no financial considerations as part of the recommendations of this report.

5.2 LEGAL

There are no legal considerations as part of the recommendations of this report.

5.3 STRATEGY, PLANS, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

The Walking Access Commission consider Councils Trails Strategy (2016), when negotiating and facilitating public access in the District.

The Walking Access Commission also has a particular interest in the Unformed Legal Road Policy (2016) and any reviews thereof, given their functions to enable public access over such land.

Council's other operation plans and strategies relevant in the management of public land are also pertinent, these include Parks Strategy and Reserve Management Plan documents.

With the support of Waikato District Council and the Waikato Regional Council, the Walking Access Commission are engaging with communities in the north of the district as part of a project to link North Waikato and Franklin. This is known as the Connecting Franklin-North Waikato Project. The initial stage of the project aims to:

- Identify the current state of public access to the outdoors, in southern Auckland and northern Waikato, with an initial focus on connections between and within the towns of Pukekohe, Pokeno, Tuakau and along the Waikato river;
- Collate current plans, strategies and future project ideas, relating to public access and active transport connections, identifying shared outcomes; and
- Identify any missing elements, which could improve public access to the outdoors that are not currently in existence, planned or proposed.

Walking Access Commission staff will look to facilitate a workshop on this topic with councillors. For updates this project, see the walking access commission website: <https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/>

It is not anticipated that a review of the Walking Access Act 2008 would necessitate a review of the abovementioned council documents; however, staff will keep a watching brief on the review of the Act as it progresses.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by this report.

Highest levels of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by providing a brief explanation of the tools which will be used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	MPI will be consulting with the public.				

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

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
		X	Internal
			Community Boards/Community Committees
			Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi (provide evidence / description of engagement and response)
			Households
			Business
			Other Please Specify

Comment (if any):

Service Delivery and Community Growth staff have compiled the draft feedback, based on their working knowledge of the Walking Access Act 2008 and correspondence and dealings with the commission to date. No further engagement has taken place given this is a review that the Ministry of Primary Industries are consulting on.

6. CONCLUSION

This report has provided an overview of the review of the Walking Access Act 2008. Draft feedback is appended as Attachment I for the Committee's consideration. Council staff will keep as watching brief of the review of the Act as, and when, it progresses.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Walking Access Act 2008 – Draft Review Feedback

Walking Access Act 2008 – Draft Review Feedback

Are the Walking Access Act 2008 and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission needed?

Yes.

The Walking Access Act 2008 could be administered by a range of public authorities or entities similar to the Public Works Act, with the Department of conservation being the overall administering body.

There are other acts that also enable walking access include the Reserves Act 1977 and Resource Management Act 1991.

What's working well in your view? Can you provide evidence to support your view?

The ability to educate the public in regards to the rights of public access to the outdoors. The mapping system and the outdoor access code answer key questions and are great resources.

The commission providing leadership and facilitation on strategic projects relating to outdoor access (e.g. Connecting Franklin-North Waikato Project).

Are the purpose, priorities, objective and functions in the Act right?

Do you think the purpose of the Act should be changed? To what, and why?

The core purpose and role of the Walking Access Commission should be clarified. In regards to whether it is to be an advocate/educator, policy maker or provider.

The purpose of the Act does not, at current, adequately capture the education role of the Walking Access Commission as lead through the access code (a key function of the Walking Access Commission).

Do you think the New Zealand Walking Access Commission's name should be changed? To what?

Profile and name is becoming well known particularly with rural and farming audience. A name change could confuse matters resulting in the Walking Access Commission losing traction over a period of transition.

What changes, if any, are needed to the priorities in the Act? Should negotiating access to the following be made priorities:

– wāhi tapu, traditional sites and areas of cultural significance to Māori:

The Commission negotiating access to such sites is only appropriate when instigated and supported by mana whenua. The Commission would need further resourcing to support mana whenua in such discussions. The ultimate decision rests with mana whenua.

– land in or near urban areas:

A focus on land in, or near, urban areas would broaden the operations of the commission considerably, requiring additional budget and resourcing (e.g. for establishing, constructing and maintaining access ways). It would also require the Walking Access Commission to develop further strategic and operational relationships with Local Authorities, Community Boards and Groups across the country.

Consideration would be needed to ensure that extending any such role augments, and integrates with, the general functions and operations of Local Government. The Walking Access Act 2008 does not specify input in such strategic and operational planning documents, nor advocacy within processes under other acts e.g. participation in the public consenting processes.

– replacement access for public access which has been closed:

This would already be a function of the Commission if there is public interest in negotiating alternative access. The fundamental reasons for stopping public access need to be well canvassed if negotiating alternative access. Closing legal public access is not known to be a current issue in the Waikato District. Historically there has been significant road stopping in the north of the Waikato District and subsequent land development.

Should the priorities for negotiating access apply to public land as well as private land in the Walking Access Act?

The primary purpose of the Walking Access Commission first needs clarification as noted above. Walking Access Commission can assist in facilitating discussion between users and managers of public land. However, the relevant managers of public land (e.g. DOC, Local Authorities, LINZ, NZTA etc) are those ultimately responsible for managing public land within their portfolios, as well as engaging, consultation and decision making in regards to appropriate public access and levels of service.

The purpose for which public land is held needs to be recognised in any such negotiation. Not all land managed by public bodies is available for public use (i.e. may be leased or held for a specific purpose).

The establishment of walkways under the Walking Access Act 2008 currently recognises the above by requiring the written consent of the administering authority of the land to do so. This is fundamental and should be maintained in the review of the Act.

Are changes needed to the objective and functions of the Commission?

As noted above the core purpose of the Commission needs clarifying in regards to whether it is to be an advocate/educator, policy maker or provider of public access. Specific functions would then follow.

Working towards equal access

Do you see the outdoors being less accessible for some groups? If so, who? Can you tell us of any experiences you've had?

Certain forms of access to the outdoors, coasts, lakes and rivers, at times needs to be managed. Documents such as Regional Policy Statements and District Plans, as well as bylaws, address these factors (e.g. in regards to sensitive areas such habitats of threatened flora and fauna). Protecting public health and safety is also a key consideration along with physical and operational constraints. Given the above some forms off access are at times limited or controlled, and this is appropriate.

What role do you see the Commission playing in relation to equity of access?

Equity of access needs to be considered alongside environmental constraints and public health and safety.

Coping with very high numbers of visitors

What should the Commission's role be in managing the impact of high visitor numbers?

Before negotiating legal access, clear consideration needs to be given to current and likely visitor numbers. High visitor numbers and increasing demands for high quality, formed trails, have cost implications which are ultimately born on the ratepayer when not externally funded. Maintenance costs need to be clearly considered. The development of MOUs and other formal agreements should be considered in any cases of cost sharing.

Potential conflicts between users should also be considered up front and these should be considered in any access agreements.

Addressing barriers to landowners providing access

What are the barriers to landowners providing public access?

Overall the concept of undisturbed property rights of private land owners and further:

- Potential impacts on the day to day operations and management of property and businesses (such as disturbance of stock, leaving gates open, loss of grazing potential if areas are formed, disturbance to general farm operations (shifting stock, arable farming and so on).
- Effects on property values (perceived or potential).
- Loss of privacy and amenity due to use of trails and use and location of car parking areas.
- Inability to temporary limit or close access.
- Health and safety concerns.
- Cost in providing legal and practical public access such as erecting gates, fences, re-surveying, maintaining and repairing tracks.
- Security risks.

- Private cost and public benefit.

Can you provide any evidence of which barriers are the most significant?

Public use conflicting with farming activities such as lambing and calving.

What should the Walking Access Act and/or the Commission's role be in addressing these barriers?

Walking Access Commission could have a more active role in contributing towards to the costs of addressing the barriers.

Encouraging positive visitor behaviours

Do you have any information that could help us understand the scale of good and poor visitor behaviour on tracks and trails on private land?

What's the Commission's role in improving visitor behaviour? For example, provide the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code in different languages, link this Code to other guidance?

What do you think about the information in the Act and the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code on responsible behaviour at wāhi tapu and other sites of cultural significance?

Organisations working together

Do you have examples where a lack of coordination between government agencies and/or different pieces of legislation have got in the way of maintaining and improving public access?

Should the Commission have a role in assessing unformed legal road closures?

As noted above the overall functions of the Walking Access Commission need clarification. Amendments would be required to Local Government Act 1974 (in regards to Schedule 10), if the Walking Access Commission was to play a role in this regard. Primarily the issues raised by the Walking Access Commission in regards to road stopping currently relate to access to waterways.

Is information about public access to the outdoors comprehensive and easy to use?

Yes the outdoor access code is comprehensive and easy to use. This saves on other agencies duplicating such work. The mapping systems and mobile apps are also user friendly and informative.

Would a more flexible means of defining a public access way under the Act, in addition to the gazetted walkway instrument, be a useful addition to the Commission's tool box? What are the risks of this approach?

The Local Government Act 1974 definition of "access way" in s315 could be extended to include a public access way with particular specifications.

How could we ensure adequate infrastructure, like toilets, bins and carparks?

These need to be upfront considerations prior to opening and promoting trails. This needs to be well scoped as part of an overall project. Carparks, toilets and bins require capital expenditure. Funding streams external to councils should be investigated, particularly when there is a broader public use than residents and ratepayers.

What relationship should the Commission have with Nga Haerenga Cycle Trust and with Te Araroa?

Should the types of organisations that can be controlling authorities be extended, for example to trusts, iwi, hapū or other community groups? What might be some of the positives and negatives of having a non-public body as a controlling authority?

What should controlling authorities be called?

Governance for the Act and Commission

Do you think the Ministry for Primary Industries should remain the administrator of the Act? If yes, why?

No.

If no, do you think this role should be carried out by another government agency (please say which and why)? See Attachment E, for a description of the current role in public access of the Department of Conservation, Department of Internal Affairs, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Ministry of Transport.

The Department of Conservation would be a more logical public body to administer the act. Then appropriate delegations could be made to Local Authorities and other bodies. Such an approach could be augmented through amendments to the Reserves Act 1977 and a new reserves act guide.

Requirements for the Board of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission

Is the required number of Board members right?

Should the Act specify the spread of background, skills and knowledge that Board members should have? If so, what should these be?

Funding

Should the Commission supplement its Government funding with private funding and/or cost recovery? What are the pros and cons of these?

Open Meeting

To	Strategy and Finance
From	Clive Morgan General Manager Community Growth
Date	24 May 2019
Prepared by	Giles Boundy Senior Environmental Planner
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318 / 2262308
Report Title	Update on Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Review

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB), as well the review the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. A draft NPSIB (*Attachment 1*) has been developed by a collaborative group. A high level comparison compiled by the Waikato Regional Council (contained in *Attachment 2*) shows general alignment between the Draft NPSIB and Waikato Regional Policy Statement. This report also provides background on the review of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2008, being led by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the General Manager Community Growth be received.

3. BACKGROUND

Draft NPSIB

In 2010, Cabinet approved the first proposed NPSIB and in January 2011 it was released for public consultation. 426 Submissions, including that of Waikato District Councils, were received - this version was not progressed due to a lack of stakeholder agreement on its content.

In 2016, the then Minister for the Environment announced that a collaborative group would be formed to develop a new draft NPSIB to replace the proposed NPSIB released in 2011. A Biodiversity Collaborative Group was established in March 2017 to develop a draft NPSIB as

well as recommendations for complementary and supporting measures. The core group membership group included:

- Forest & Bird, Federated Farmers
- Iwi leaders
- Forest Owners Association
- Environmental Defence Society
- Extractive/infrastructure industries
- A group of observers - Ministry for the Environment (MFE)
- Department of Conservation
- Land Information New Zealand
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Te Puni Kokiri
- Local Government New Zealand.

In October 2018, the Biodiversity Collaborative Group delivered its report to the Associate Minister for the Environment. The report contains the group's Draft NPSIB and recommendations for complementary and supporting measures. The report can be found on the group's website (<https://www.biodiversitynz.org>).

The Draft NPSIB framework is guided by a Whakataukii – Hutia Te Rito. Furthermore, it contains 6 objectives and 22 Policies addressing:

- Tangata whenua and kaitiakitanga
- Climate change
- Identification of SNA
- A precautionary approach
- Effects within and outside significant natural areas
- Providing for social, cultural and economic wellbeing
- Replacement consents
- Existing activities
- Providing for Maori cultural activities and Maori land
- Protecting and enhancing wetlands
- Freshwater biodiversity
- Managing taonga
- Protecting highly mobile indigenous fauna
- Assessing environmental effects on indigenous biodiversity
- Integrating decision-making
- Enhancing and restoring through regional biodiversity strategies
- Maintenance, enhancement and restoration of significant natural areas, connectivity, and buffering
- Restoring indigenous biodiversity depleted environments
- Restoring and enhancing through transferable development rights
- Monitoring, reporting and implementation timeframes.

The Draft NPSIB currently holds no legislative weight. For policy direction on terrestrial biodiversity in the Waikato District and Region, the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) is the highest order planning document. Waikato Regional Council staff have

prepared a high level policy comparison of the NPSIB and WRPS (*Attachment 2*) which highlights general alignment between the two with the following exceptions:

- *Identification of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)*
 - Both the Draft NPSIB and WRPS seek identification and mapping/scheduling of SNAs. However, there is some difference in regards to criteria.
- *Protecting highly mobile indigenous fauna*
 - There are no WRPS policies that specifically refer to identifying highly mobile fauna (e.g. Bats). The Draft NPSIB asks Regional and District councils to collaborate to identify and map likely areas of highly mobile indigenous fauna that is at risk or threatened and to manage the adverse effects on these species.
- *Monitoring and Reporting*
 - WRC have identified that this could have significant implications for WRC in regards to developing a robust monitoring system that meets their needs and those of district councils.

Along with other case study Councils, Waikato District Council staff have provided background on SNAs identification, to assist with cost benefit reporting and option consideration which will augment the development of a Proposed NPSIB.

The Draft NPSIB is due for consultation as a Proposed National Policy Statement in July or August 2019. Staff will keep a watching brief on this and will likely prepare a draft submission for the Committees consideration.

Complementary and supporting measures to the NPSIB

The Biodiversity Collaborative Groups report recommends a range of complementary and supporting measures for indigenous biodiversity under the following objectives:

1. Coordinated, strategic leadership of the biodiversity management system is provided to ensure protection and enhancement actions are focused on where they are needed most and that the different agencies, businesses, and communities involved are working together;
2. Local communities and tangata whenua are empowered to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity at home and within their rohe;
3. Private landowners and land managers are supported to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity on their properties;
4. Nationally consistent approaches to monitoring, reporting, data management and prioritisation to improve biodiversity management decision-making;
5. Alignment of central government decisions and direction to maximise benefits and to minimise risks to indigenous biodiversity; and,
6. Resourcing and implementation of compliance, monitoring and enforcement functions by local authorities to ensure activities are managed to avoid biodiversity loss.

New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Review

New Zealand's first, and current, Biodiversity Strategy (the Strategy) was finalised in 2000 and created a vision, goals and actions to guide biodiversity management through till 2020. The Strategy was prepared in response to the state of decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity and to support New Zealand's commitment under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to stem the global loss of biodiversity. The primary focus of the Strategy is indigenous biodiversity and there is regular reporting as part of obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In October 2018, the intention to develop a new Strategy was announced and early engagement took place through till March 2019 via reference groups, regional hui, workshops and online forums.

In June 2019, a discussion document will be released for formal consultation. Following consultation it is intended that the Strategy will be finalised and approved by Cabinet between October and December 2019.

More information on the current Biodiversity Strategy and the review can be found here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2018/new-zealand-biodiversity-strategy/>.

4. CONCLUSION

This report has provided an update on the development of a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, as well the review the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. A Proposed NPSIB and a reviewed New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy are due for release and consultation in the period of June to August 2019, at which point staff will look to prepare a submissions for the Committees consideration.

5. ATTACHMENTS

- A Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
 - a. https://www.biodiversitynz.org/uploads/110/7/9/1107923093/report_of_the_biodiversity_collaborative_group.pdf (Pages 49 - 83)
- B Report to Waikato Regional Council Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting 14 November 2018
 - b. <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/Community/Council-Meetings-and-Agendas/Strategy-and-policy-committee/2018/reduced-agenda-package-6-12-18.pdf> (Pages 156 - 176)

Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group

Excerpt from pages 49 – 83

- The Biodiversity Collaborative Group's Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Embargoed until 25 October 2018

Note: Formatting issues may present this document from appearing as per the actual Report.

Preamble

This national policy statement sets out objectives and policies to manage natural and physical resources so as to maintain indigenous **biological diversity** ('**biodiversity**') under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Aotearoa New Zealand's **biodiversity** is in decline. An urgent nationally coordinated response is required to halt that decline and ensure native species, **habitats** and ecosystems can thrive. Addressing this decline is an issue for all New Zealanders.

Aotearoa New Zealand has a unique natural heritage. That heritage defines what it means to be a New Zealander. Our land is young and geologically unstable. It has been separated from other major land masses for some 80 million years. In this isolation and geological instability, a unique ecology evolved. We have high endemism (species found nowhere else) and, in the absence of land mammals, highly distinct and internationally significant ecosystems.

Yet in just 700 to 800 years, humans have wrought huge change through our use of land and other natural resources, and through our introduction (deliberate or otherwise) of exotic species that have become pests outside their natural environments.

As a consequence, many indigenous species and ecosystems have been lost and many that remain are now highly vulnerable. More will be lost unless we intervene to protect them from the many threats they face.

This national policy statement uses *Hutia Te Rito* as the framework to achieve the integrated and holistic well-being of the natural environment. This framework recognises that the health and well-being of our natural environment, its ecosystems and unique indigenous flora and fauna, are vital for the health and well-being of our land, fresh water, coast and marine environment, and communities.

Some of the most important ecosystems and **habitats** are found within Aotearoa New Zealand's large conservation estate. However, much of Aotearoa New Zealand's remaining **biodiversity** is on privately owned and managed land. Indeed, private land hosts many ecosystems that are poorly, if at all, represented within the public conservation estate. Hence private landowners have a vital role in meeting our national **biodiversity** objectives, and partnerships between those landowners, their

communities and public agencies will be critical to success.

Achieving the purpose of this national policy statement will involve retaining as many of our remaining species, populations, **habitats** and ecosystems as we possibly can, placing value not only on the pristine, but also on the more modified and degraded ecosystems that make an important contribution to maintaining **biodiversity**. We must recognise the importance of species and ecosystems that are locally rare but nationally abundant, as well as those that are locally abundant but nationally rare. Similarly, maintaining indigenous **biodiversity** will require retention of species across their natural range.

Yet stopping loss and arresting degradation will not in itself be sufficient. Maintaining **biodiversity** long-term will also involve taking positive steps to more effectively manage the ongoing and pervasive threats from plant and animal pests, as well as the emerging threat of climate change. It will also often necessitate enhancement of remaining ecosystems and even **reconstruction** of indigenous cover in the most modified environments.

While it is important to identify and protect **significant natural areas**, it is also important to understand that informed and sympathetic management is required of all New Zealanders across the landscape - not just in defined **significant natural areas**. This includes a concern for highly mobile fauna that do not necessarily limit themselves to areas easily defined on maps.

As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, New Zealand has committed to the conservation of **biodiversity**, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding. Aotearoa New Zealand is also a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This national policy statement is an important part of New Zealand's response to meeting those international obligations.

Regional and district councils have a statutory function under the Resource Management Act 1991 to maintain **biodiversity** and that is complemented by Part 2 principles including the need to:

- Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems
- Protect significant **indigenous vegetation** and significant **habitat** of indigenous fauna
- Provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their taonga
- Have particular regard to kaitiakitanga, and the ethic of stewardship
- Take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This national policy statement states objectives and policies for those matters of national significance. It does so while recognising the traditional relationship of Māori with Aotearoa New Zealand's indigenous **biodiversity**. It acknowledges the role that Māori have as kaitiaki in all aspects of **biodiversity** management. Recognising those relationships will assist in developing stronger working relationships between Māori and the Crown.

While this national policy statement supports the existing good work of local authorities and looks to secure the gains already made in terms of regional and local planning responses, it seeks a step change in management recognising the opportunity before us to secure the distinct identity of Aotearoa New Zealand for generations to come.

Review

This will include a statement on the date this national policy statement is to be reviewed by central

Scope of National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Biodiversity is relevant to the terrestrial, freshwater and marine domains. The application of this national policy statement to each of those domains is as follows:

Terrestrial domain

This national policy statement applies to all land regardless of tenure.

Freshwater domain

This national policy statement does not apply to fresh water other than provisions relating to wetlands. In relation to wetlands this national policy statement does not deal with water quantity or quality. It applies to the banks or beds of rivers to the extent that they support terrestrial ecology.

The application of this national policy statement to freshwater is to be reviewed by the Ministry for the Environment prior to notification.

Marine domain

Provisions of this national policy statement relating to identification of **significant natural areas** apply to the coastal marine area. This national policy statement does not otherwise apply to the coastal marine area.

Hutia Te Rito

Hutia te rito o te harakeke	When the centre of the flax bush is picked
Kei hea te Kōmako, e kō?	Where will the bellbird sing?
Kīmai ki ahau	You ask me
He aha te mea nui o te ao?	What is the greatest thing in the world?
Māku e kīatu	My reply is
hetangata, he tangata, he tangata	It is people, it is people, it is people

This whakataukī recognises the impact people have on our natural environment and its survival; our actions can determine whether it is destroyed or degraded or whether it thrives. This requires recognition of the interconnected and whakapapa (familial) relationship between the natural environment and communities; people are part of and dependent upon the natural environment and its ecosystems.

In this national policy statement, Hutia Te Rito provides a framework to achieve the integrated and holistic well-being of the natural environment. It recognises that the health and well-being of our natural environment, its ecosystems and unique indigenous flora and fauna, is vital for the health and well-being of our land, our fresh water, our coast, our marine environment, and our communities.

Upholding Hutia Te Rito acknowledges and protects the mauri (life force) of our indigenous **biodiversity**. This requires that in using the natural environment and its resources and providing for te hauora o te tangata (the health of the people), we have a responsibility to provide for the te hauora o te koiroa (the health of indigenous **biodiversity**), te hauora o ngā taonga (the health of taonga species and ecosystems) and te hauora o te Taiao (the health of the wider environment). Resource use and development which degrades the mauri and hauora of our indigenous **biodiversity** will also degrade the hauora of our people.

Hutia Te Rito incorporates the values of tangata whenua and the wider community in relation to indigenous **biodiversity** and the natural environment. The engagement promoted by Hutia Te Rito will help regional and district councils to develop meaningful, tailored responses to maintaining and enhancing indigenous **biodiversity** that work within their region.

By recognising and providing for Hutia Te Rito as the framework for managing indigenous biodiversity, it is intended that the health and well-being of indigenous **biodiversity** is front of mind in decision-making about the natural environment, including the identification and protection of **significant natural areas** and of taonga, restoring and enhancing depleted ecosystems as part of achieving landscape-scale ecosystem **restoration**, and halting the decline of our indigenous **biodiversity** to ensure it is maintained for the health, enjoyment and use of and by all New Zealanders now and for future generations.

Interpretation

Terms defined in the Resource Management Act 1991 and used in this national policy statement have the meaning given in the Act.

Where the following terms defined in this interpretation section are used in this national policy statement they are denoted in bold.

In this national policy statement:

“At risk or threatened species” means those species accorded the status of “At Risk” or “Threatened” using the New Zealand Threat Classification System and which are listed as having that status by the Department of Conservation.

“Biodiversity” has the same meaning as “biological diversity” as defined in the Resource Management Act 1991.

“Biodiversity compensation” means positive measurable outcomes for indigenous biodiversity resulting from actions designed to counter any [significant] residual adverse effects of a subdivision, use or development on indigenous biodiversity values after application of appropriate avoidance, remediation and mitigation measures, [where the overall result is no net loss of impacted ecological values], including measures to continue or extend existing biodiversity-related actions.

“Biodiversity offset” means an action to achieve a positive measurable outcome for biodiversity that adheres to the principles in Appendix 4.

“Bonus development rights” are rights to, or to seek resource consent to, subdivide land, or use or develop a natural or physical resource on a landholding, conditional upon a specific biodiversity enhancement or **restoration** action being undertaken, where that right is expressly provided for in the relevant regional or district plan and provided it is exercised on the same landholding as that where the biodiversity enhancement or **restoration** action occurs.

“Ecological district” means the ecological districts as shown in McEwen, W. M. (ed.), 1987. *Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand*. Wellington: Department of Conservation.

“Ecological integrity” means the ability of an ecosystem to support and maintain its composition, structure and function, where:

- composition means the natural diversity of indigenous species, **habitats** and communities
- structure means the physical features (biotic and abiotic)
- function means the ecological and physical processes.

“Ecological reconstruction” means re-introducing and maintaining appropriate biota to re- create an ecosystem that would not regenerate or recolonise even with best practice **restoration** interventions. **Reconstruction** has the corresponding meaning.

“Ecological restoration” is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or otherwise lost as a result of human activity. **Restoration** has the corresponding meaning.

“Ecosystem function” is the property of an ecosystem that occurs where that ecosystem retains ecological integrity allowing it to undertake its natural processes. **Ecosystem functioning** has a corresponding meaning.

“Ecosystem services” are the benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include:

- Supporting services (e.g., nutrient cycling, soil formation, **habitat** creation)
- Provisioning services (e.g., food, fresh water, wood, fibre, fuel)
- Regulating services (e.g., water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, disease regulation)
- Cultural services (e.g., aesthetic, spiritual, educational, recreational).

“Functional need” means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because the activity can only occur in that environment.

“Habitat” means the area or environment where an organism or ecological community lives or occurs naturally for some or all of its life cycle or as part of its seasonal feeding or breeding pattern.

“Indigenous biodiversity depleted environment” means any urban, peri-urban, or other heavily modified area where remaining indigenous cover is below 10 per cent.

“Indigenous vegetation” means vascular and non-vascular plants that are native to the ecological district or marine biogeographic region.

“Land Environment” is a land environment as identified by the Land Environment New Zealand terrestrial environment classification system, (Leathwick et al., 2003, as maintained by Landcare Research).

“Maintenance and upgrading of activities and structures” means works required for the continued safe and efficient operation of an activity or structure, or upgrades to those activities or structures where the activity or structure was lawfully existing as at the date of gazettal of the national policy statement or is an activity or structure approved (or otherwise lawfully established) in accordance with a plan after gazettal of the national policy statement.

“Māori land” means Māori customary land and Māori freehold land as defined in Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

“Marine biogeographic area” means an area that is defined according to patterns of ecological and physical characteristics in the seascape.

“Natural range”, in relation to species, refers to the geographical area within which that species can be expected to be found naturally (without human intervention).

“Operational need” means the need to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because of technical, logistical or operational characteristics.

“Peri-urban area” in relation to identification of **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments**, means an area immediately adjoining any urban area which has a mixed rural and urban character.

“Significant natural area” means:

- an area identified in accordance with Policy 4; or
- prior to complete implementation of Policy 4 includes an area identified in an operative regional or district plan or regional policy statement as a **significant natural area** or an area that has been identified as a **significant**

natural area in accordance with Appendix One through an assessment undertaken as part of a resource consent application.

- **“Subdivision, use and development”** means any activity that is controlled by sections 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and includes maintenance and upgrading of activities and structures.
- **“Transferable development rights”** are rights to, or to seek resource consent to, subdivide land, or use or develop a natural or physical resource within a recipient area, conditional upon a specific biodiversity enhancement or **restoration** action being undertaken within a donor area where the recipient area, donor area and specific action are all specified in the relevant regional or district plan.
- **“Urban area”** in relation to identification of **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments**, means an area of land containing or intending to contain a concentrated settlement of 10,000 people or more and any associated business land, irrespective of local authority or statistical boundaries.

Objectives

Objective 1: Hutia Te Rito

1. To recognise and provide for Hutia Te Rito in managing te Taiao.

Objective 2: Te Tiriti o Waitangi

1. To take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by:
 - a) Recognising the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki;
 - b) Providing for tangata whenua involvement in the management of indigenous **biodiversity** by:
 - i. supporting the ongoing and enduring relationship of tangata whenua over their lands, waters, rohe, and resources;
 - ii. building meaningful relationships and partnerships between tangata whenua and persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA;
 - iii. incorporating mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori into indigenous **biodiversity** decision-making and management;
 - iv. identifying and protecting the values of indigenous species and ecosystems that are taonga to tangata whenua; and
 - v. recognising that only tangata whenua can identify and demonstrate their relationships and that of their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and taonga.

Objective 3: Maintaining indigenous biodiversity and enhancing ecosystems

1. To maintain the indigenous **biodiversity** of New Zealand such that there is no reduction in the following ecological attributes from their state at the gazettal of this national policy statement:
 - a) Species occupancy across their **natural range**;
 - b) Indigenous character – to maintain the attributes of ecosystems and **habitats**;
 - c) Ecosystem representation – to maintain a full range of ecosystems and **habitats**;
 - d) Ecosystem connectivity, buffering, resilience, and adaptability – to mitigate vulnerabilities across the landscape;

By
:

 - i. identifying and protecting areas of significant **indigenous vegetation** and significant **habitats** of indigenous fauna;
 - ii. safeguarding the life supporting capacity of ecosystems and their **biodiversity**, functioning and adaptability;
2. To enhance the sustainability of **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments** through the **restoration** and **reconstruction** of a representative range of **indigenous vegetation** and **habitats**.

3. To restore and enhance the **ecosystem function** and **ecological integrity** of degraded **significant natural areas**, and areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions.
4. To reduce the vulnerability of indigenous **biodiversity** of New Zealand to the effects from climate change.

Objective 4: Integrated and evidence-based management

1. To improve the integrated management of New Zealand's land, fresh water and coastal environments to promote the objectives of this national policy statement, including the coordination and alignment within and across local authority boundaries, between central government, regional councils and territorial authorities, and between methods (including non-regulatory methods and methods under other legislation).
2. To improve the scope and detail of information collected on the state of indigenous **biodiversity** and on the pressures on **ecological integrity** and **ecosystem functioning**.
3. To achieve decision-making by those exercising functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 that is based on suitable information on the actual and potential effects of existing and proposed activities on **biodiversity** and on the actual and potential effect of existing and proposed activities on the promotion of the objectives of this national policy statement.

Objective 5: People and partnerships

1. To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development, while recognising:
 - a) The need for resource use and development to occur within appropriate constraints to promote the objectives of this national policy statement;
 - b) That people are critical to the maintenance and **restoration** of indigenous **biodiversity** and the importance of respecting and fostering the contribution of landowners as stewards/kaitiaki of their land;
 - c) That active management is often necessary to protect **indigenous vegetation** and fauna from non-anthropogenic threats and the importance of forming partnerships with people and communities to support and encourage such management;
 - d) The value of supporting people and communities in their understanding of, connection to, and enjoyment of nature; and
 - e) That the protection of indigenous **biodiversity** and taonga contributes to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities.

Objective 6: Wetlands

1. To protect wetlands and their significant values, and encourage wetland **restoration** and **reconstruction**.

Policies

Policy 1: Hutia Te Rito

1. When preparing regional policy statements and plans, every regional council and territorial authority shall recognise and provide for Hutia Te Rito noting that:
 - a) Hutia Te Rito recognises the broader connections between:
 - i. te hauora o te koiora (the health of indigenous **biodiversity**);
 - ii. te hauora o te Taiao (the health of the wider environment);
 - iii. te hauora o te tangata (the health of the people).
 - b) Maintenance and enhancement of mauri is achieved through kaitiakitanga and stewardship.

Policy 2: Tangata whenua as kaitiaki

1. By every regional council and territorial authority:
 - a) Involving tangata whenua in the preparation of regional policy statements, regional and district plans, and regional biodiversity strategies by:
 - i. undertaking early, effective consultation, that is in accordance with tikanga Māori as far as practicable;
 - ii. working with tangata whenua to:
 - identify indigenous species and ecosystems that are taonga in accordance with Policy 13, and develop objectives, policies, and methods to protect values of identified taonga, recognising that tangata whenua have the right to choose not to identify taonga;
 - develop objectives, policies, and methods to recognise and provide for Hutia Te Rito;
 - incorporate mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori into indigenous **biodiversity** decision-making and management in policy statement, plans, effects assessments of resource consents and notices of requirement where appropriate, and environmental monitoring.
 - b) Taking all reasonable steps to:
 - i. provide for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga over indigenous **biodiversity** and ecosystems, in particular taonga, identified in accordance with Policy 13;
 - ii. provide opportunities for tangata whenua involvement in decision-making on regional policy statements, plans, notices of requirement, and resource consents;
 - iii. provide opportunities for sustainable customary use and take.

Policy 3: Consideration of climate change

1. By every regional council and territorial authority adopting a precautionary approach to the management of indigenous **biodiversity** that is potentially vulnerable to effects from climate change so that:

- a) Natural adjustments to maintain **ecological integrity** of ecosystems, **habitats**, and species are allowed to occur;
- b) **Restoration** and **reconstruction** activities will persist;
- c) Pressure from mammalian and plant pests and pathogens is reduced;
- d) Connectivity between ecosystems and **habitats** remains to enable migrations and allow ecosystem adjustment in order to provide for species to find viable niches as the climate changes.

Policy 4: Identification of significant natural areas

1. By every territorial authority applying the criteria set out in Appendix 1 to assess all areas of **indigenous vegetation** and **habitat** of indigenous fauna within its district to determine its ecological significance.
2. By every regional council applying the criteria set out in Appendix 1 to assess the ecological significance of the whole of the coastal marine area within its region.
3. By territorial authorities and regional councils considering the following matters at all relevant points in the assessment process:
 - a) Partnership – councils should seek to engage with landowners and share information about **biodiversity** values, potential management options, and support and incentives that may be available.
 - b) Transparency – councils should clearly inform landowners about how information gathered will be used, making existing information, draft assessments and other relevant information available to the relevant landowners for review.
 - c) Quality – wherever practicable, the values and extent of **significant natural areas** assessed as potentially meeting the Appendix 1 criteria should be verified by physical inspection unless the council and landowner are satisfied with a desktop approach.
 - d) Access – where permission to access a property on a voluntary basis is not provided, councils should first rely on a desktop assessment. Powers of entry under section 333 of the RMA should be used as a last resort.
 - e) Equity – **significant natural area** identification should be based on the presence of **biodiversity** attributes, identified through the consistent and tenure-neutral application of the criteria set out in Appendix 1.
4. By territorial authorities and regional councils:
 - a) Preparing a schedule itemising each **significant natural area** and the attributes associated with each area with reference to the criteria of Appendix 1;
 - b) Mapping each area scheduled in accordance with Policy 4 a); and
 - c) Making or changing district plans and regional plans to identify **significant natural areas**.

[Policy 5: Precautionary approach

1. By every regional council and territorial authority adopting a precautionary approach towards proposed activities with effects on indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems that are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse.]

Policy 6: Managing effects within a significant natural area

1. By every regional council and territorial authority ensuring that any **subdivision, use and development** within a **significant natural area**:
 - a) Avoids:
 - i. fragmentation;
 - ii. loss of extent;
 - iii. disruption to sequences, mosaics, or processes;
 - iv. loss of buffering or connectivity within and between ecosystems;
 - v. a reduction in population size of any **at risk or threatened species**.
 - b) Protects **ecological integrity** of **significant natural areas**, including by also managing the following adverse effects:
 - i. degradation of mauri;
 - ii. degradation of the quality of an ecosystem, or a reduction in the natural diversity of vegetation communities or species' **habitats**, or a reduction in a **habitat's** species richness or viability;
 - iii. pest plant or animal incursions, and changes that result in increased risk of such incursions;
 - iv. disruption to indigenous fauna by people, their pets or livestock, and changes that increase the risk of that disruption;
 - v. a reduction in people's ability to connect with and benefit from nature, including:
 - historical, cultural or spiritual relationships of mana whenua with their taonga;
 - scientific, educational, amenity, historical, cultural, landscape or natural character values of **indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** of indigenous fauna;
 - **ecosystem services**.
 - vi. cumulative adverse effects on ecosystems.

Policy 7: Providing for social, cultural and economic wellbeing

2. Despite Policy 6, every regional council and territorial authority must provide for:
 - a) Existing activities in accordance with Policy 9;
 - b) Use and development for the purpose of protecting or enhancing a **significant natural area**;

- c) Use and development that addresses an immediate risk to public health or safety;
- d) Replacement consents in accordance with Policy 8;
- e) Where the **indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** was established for a purpose other than the maintenance or enhancement of indigenous **biodiversity**, activities that are necessary for that purpose to be met must be provided for when managing effects;
- f) Plantation forestry activities within a plantation forest that are not provided for by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2018;
- g) The adverse effects of the **subdivision, use and development** within a **significant natural area** on attributes assessed as medium value in accordance with Appendix 2 to be avoided, remedied, mitigated, offset or compensated where:
 - i. the **subdivision, use and development** is associated with either:
 - nationally important infrastructure;
 - mineral and aggregate extraction that is essential to provide a domestic supply for New Zealand's mineral or aggregate needs;
 - the provision of papakāinga, marae and ancillary community facilities and associated customary activities on **Māori land**; and

the activity is locationally constrained because it has a **functional or operational need** to operate in a particular location and there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity that would provide for its **functional or operational needs** to be met; or

- ii. the use and development is a single dwelling on an allotment created before the date of gazettal of this national policy statement and there is no location within the existing allotment where a single residential dwelling and essential associated on-site infrastructure can be constructed in a manner that avoids the adverse effects specified in Policy 6;

h) the adverse effects of the subdivision, use and development within a **significant natural area** that supports attributes assessed as having high value to be avoided where practicable, or otherwise remedied, mitigated, offset, or compensated where:

- i. The subdivision, use and development comprises, or relates to an activity that is locationally constrained because it has a functional or operational need to operate in a particular location and there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity that would provide for its functional or operational needs to be met, and,

- ii. It is an activity that would promote recognition of a matter of national significance as specified in any national policy statement set out in another national policy statement:

- The National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation);
- The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission)],

i) despite Policy 6, where activities referred to in a (ii) are undertaken in an identified geothermal system and have an adverse effect on a significant natural area comprising indigenous species and habitats that have a geothermal association, such activities shall be managed so as to:

- i. remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate for significant adverse effects on such species and habitats in geothermal systems classified as 'Development' in a regional policy statement or plan.
- ii. avoid where practicable, or otherwise remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate for significant adverse effects on such species and habitats in geothermal systems classified as 'Conditional Development' in a regional policy statement or plan.
- i. avoid significant adverse effects on such species and habitats in geothermal systems classified as 'Limited Development' in a regional policy statement or plan, and remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate any other adverse effects.

2. Despite Policy 6, where an area of production forest is identified as a **significant natural area** the effects of plantation forest activities (other than afforestation) on the **significant natural area** are to be managed in accordance with the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2018.

Policy 8: Replacement consents

1. When an application is made for resource consent for subdivision, use and development associated with:
 - a) An activity affected by section 124 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - b) It is not feasible that the activity and its effects will cease to continue at the expiry of the existing consent,

that application shall be assessed, and conditions imposed, to give effect to Policy 6 or Policy 7 (as is relevant) except that adverse effects on **biodiversity** resulting from that activity, which have occurred in a more or less continuous manner since that activity was first lawfully established, need not be avoided, provided reasonable steps are taken to mitigate those effects as far as practicable in the circumstances.

Policy 9: Existing activities

1. In respect of **subdivision, use, and development** that was lawfully established as at the date of gazettal of this national policy statement:
 - a) Section 10 and section 20A of the Resource Management Act 1991 apply according to their terms;
 - b) Regional councils must provide direction in regional policy statements on the management of adverse effects of those activities which ensures that the activities do not compromise the achievement of the objectives of this national policy statement, while recognising the social, cultural and economic wellbeing that the activities provide;
 - c) Except as required by b) above, regional policy statements and plans should provide for those activities to continue, provided that:
 - i. the adverse effects of the activity are no greater in character, intensity, and scale; and
 - ii. if the activity takes place within a **significant natural area**, it will not lead to loss of **ecological integrity** or degradation of the attributes for which the **significant natural area** was identified.
 - a) Regional councils and territorial authorities must provide for use and development for the purpose of **maintenance and upgrading of activities and structures** where the adverse effects of the activity or structure on **ecological integrity** are no greater in terms of character, intensity or scale;
 - b) Policy 8 applies to replacement resource consents rather than this policy.
 - f) Where indigenous vegetation or habitat has naturally re-established within improved pasture, activities necessary for that improved pasture to be maintained for animal grazing purposes must be provided for when managing effects, except that, where improved pasture is within a **significant natural area** the clearance of indigenous vegetation shall avoid the loss of **ecological integrity** of the **significant natural area**.

Policy 10: Providing for Māori cultural activities and Māori land

1. In addition to the circumstances specified in Policy 7, regional councils and territorial authorities must, when preparing regional policy statements and plans, have regard to:
 - a) Opportunities for the development of **Māori land** and the associated potential to enhance the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Māori; and
 - b) The benefits of providing for papakāinga, marae and ancillary community facilities and associated customary activities on **Māori land**; and
 - c) Opportunities to provide planning incentives, including **transferable development rights**, that recognise the opportunity costs associated with protecting **biodiversity** on **Māori land**.

Policy 11: Managing effects outside significant natural areas

1. Without limiting Policies 7, 8, and 9, by regional councils and territorial authorities recognising that maintaining **biodiversity** requires more than protecting **significant natural areas** and providing across regions and districts for:
 - a) Control of cumulative adverse effects to ensure there is no reduction in:
 - i. Species occupancy across their **natural range**.
 - ii. Indigenous character – to maintain the attributes of ecosystems and **habitats**.
 - iii. Ecosystem representation – to maintain a full range of ecosystems and **habitats**.
 - iv. Ecosystem connectivity linking, buffering, resilience, and adaptability – to mitigate vulnerabilities across the landscape;
 - b) Control of pest plants or animals;
 - c) Opportunities to incentivise **restoration** or enhancement of areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions and of **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments**;
 - d) *The BCG considers that a provision relating to subdivision may be appropriate within this policy.*

Policy 12: Protecting and enhancing wetlands

1. When preparing relevant regional plans regional councils must:
 - a) Identify wetlands within their region which retain **ecological integrity** in accordance with Appendix 3.
 - b) Recognise that all wetlands identified in accordance with Appendix 3 exhibit significant values, which may include but are not limited to:
 - i. presence of indigenous wetland vegetation;
 - ii. providing **habitat** for indigenous wetland fauna;
 - iii. provision of wetland **ecosystem services**;

- iv. connectivity between terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater) ecosystems;
 - v. cultural value as taonga in accordance with Policy 13;
 - vi. significant value in accordance with Policy 4.
2. Avoid loss or degradation of any wetland or part of any wetland identified in accordance with Policy 12 1a) above and Appendix 3, or any wetland identified in accordance with Appendix 3 through an assessment undertaken as part of a resource consent application.
 3. Provide for activities that are necessary for:
 - a) The intended purpose of the wetland to be met where that wetland was established for a purpose other than the maintenance or enhancement of indigenous **biodiversity**.
 - b) The protection of the wetland.
 4. Regional councils must include in regional plans provisions (including, in particular, non- regulatory methods) that promote, and where possible, incentivise:
 - a) The enhancement of wetlands in which **ecological integrity**, presence of indigenous wetland vegetation, or indigenous wetland fauna **habitat** viability are degraded; and
 - b) The **reconstruction** of areas of historical wetlands which no longer retain **ecological integrity, indigenous vegetation**, or provide **habitat** for indigenous fauna, where **reconstruction** is likely to result in those values being regained.

Policy x: Freshwater and biodiversity

Explanatory comment only

The need for, and content of, a policy in relation to the biodiversity of freshwater bodies should be revisited by the Ministry for the Environment in accordance with the BCG's recommendations as set out in the Covering Report.

Policy 13: Managing Taonga

1. Regional council and territorial authorities together shall work with tangata whenua to identify species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga by:
 - a) Describing and mapping the taonga and its values; or
 - b) Describing the taonga and its values.
2. Effects on identified taonga are to be addressed by:
 - a) Avoiding adverse effects as specified under Policy 6 where an identified taonga is also a **significant natural area** or within a **significant natural area**;
 - b) Otherwise managing adverse effects as necessary to protect identified taonga and their values; and
 - c) Considering opportunities for sustainable customary take and use in a

manner that is consistent with taonga protection.

Policy 14: Protecting highly mobile indigenous fauna

1. In order to protect indigenous fauna species that:
 - a) Are highly mobile;
 - b) Are likely to depend on **habitat** beyond identified **significant natural areas**;
 - c) Are at risk or threatened species; and
 - d) Whose presence in the environment may be difficult to detect;
 every regional council and territorial authority shall collaborate to:
 - e) Where practicable, undertake region-wide surveys or use existing information to indicate the likely presence or absence of the highly mobile indigenous fauna, and include maps in regional and district plans of areas of likely presence where this will assist their protection;
 - f) Provide information about these species and their **habitat** requirements to people and communities, and encourage actions to protect them, including working to develop best practice; and
 - g) Ensure that any activities within areas of likely presence that may adversely affect these species are managed by incorporating policies and methods in regional and district plans to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on these species and their **habitat** as necessary to protect viable populations of these species across their **natural range**.

2. An area identified in accordance with this policy is not a **significant natural area**, unless the area also meets the criteria in Appendix 1.

Policy 15: Assessing environmental effects on indigenous biodiversity

1. Regional councils and territorial authorities must ensure an assessment of environmental effects provided in association with any resource consent:
 - a) In accordance with Schedule 4 clause 1, is specified in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required.
 - b) In accordance with Schedule 4 clause 3 includes such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects that the activity may have on the environment.

2. In providing a description of the site at which the activity is to occur in accordance with Schedule 4 clause 2(b), consideration must be given to identification, where relevant, of:
 - a) **Significant natural areas** and other **indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** of indigenous fauna.
 - b) Where the site is within an area of likely presence of highly mobile fauna identified in accordance with Policy 14, the use of the site by relevant fauna species.
 - c) The site's role in maintaining connections between the indigenous **biodiversity** of the site and the wider ecosystem.

3. In assessing any effects in accordance with Schedule 4 clause 7(c), address where relevant:
 - a) Any effects on:
 - i. **significant natural areas** and other **indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** of indigenous fauna.
 - ii. highly mobile fauna within identified areas of likely presence.
 - b) Measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate for adverse effects, including:
 - i. if remediation is proposed, sufficient information to enable an assessment of the likelihood of success of remediation measures;
 - ii. if a **biodiversity offset** is proposed, sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with Appendix 3;
 - iii. if **biodiversity compensation** is proposed, sufficient information to demonstrate its intended outcomes;
 - iv. how those outcomes are intended to be secured; and
 - v. an assessment of residual adverse effects that takes into account the likelihood of success of remediation or **biodiversity offset** or **biodiversity compensation** measures.

4. In assessing any effects in accordance with Schedule 4 clause 7(d), address, where relevant, effects on identified taonga, **ecosystem services**, and the site's role in maintaining the mauri of the site and the wider ecosystem.

5. Use methodology consistent with best practice for the ecosystem type or types present. Consider including a mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori assessment methodology where relevant, in particular in respect of identified taonga.

Policy 16: Integrating decision-making

Explanatory comment only

The issue this policy seeks to address is compartmentalised decision-making by territorial and regional authorities in relation to indigenous biodiversity. The issue arises because both local authorities have functions relating to indigenous biodiversity. The undesirable outcomes of compartmentalised decision-making include:

- *impacts of activities on biodiversity not being fully recognised, or not being addressed effectively.*
- *additional costs and unexpected outcomes for applicants who believe they have all necessary approvals.*

The intent of this policy is to ensure that decision-making on aspects of activities that relate to district and regional functions occurs holistically, by:

- *Requiring that where activities will require consent from another local authority, this is identified when an application for consent is lodged*

- *Encouraging contemporaneous applications to both authorities*
- *Ensuring that when consent authorities are considering whether to hold a joint hearing in accordance with section 102, they have particular regard to combined effect of the required resource consents on indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems.*

Policy 17: Enhancing and restoring through regional biodiversity strategies

1. By every regional council preparing, in conjunction with territorial authorities, tangata whenua and the community, a regional biodiversity strategy that:
 - a) Has as its purpose the promotion of a landscape-scale enhancement and **restoration** vision for the region's indigenous **biodiversity**.
 - b) Addresses the principles set out in Appendix 4.

Policy 18: Maintenance, enhancement and restoration of significant natural areas, connectivity, and buffering

1. By regional councils and territorial authorities promoting the maintenance, enhancement and **restoration** of **significant natural areas**, and other areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions, including in the following ways:
 - a) Including objectives for the enhancement of **ecosystem function** and **ecological integrity** of degraded **significant natural areas**, and other areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions in regional and district plans.
 - b) Specifying in a regional biodiversity strategy actions to achieve those objectives.
 - c) Ensuring policies and methods in regional and district plans promote voluntary **restoration** or **reconstruction** actions.

Policy 19: Restoring indigenous biodiversity depleted environments

1. By every regional council in a relevant regional plan, identifying as **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments** any **urban, peri-urban**, and other heavily modified areas within a region where remaining indigenous cover is below 10 per cent.
2. For all **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments**, identified in accordance with Policy 19(1), establish in regional plans:
 - a) A target for indigenous cover, which in **urban areas** and **peri-urban areas** must be at least 10 per cent.
 - b) **Restoration** and **reconstruction** objectives for indigenous cover that prioritise:

- i. representation of ecosystems naturally and formerly present, in particular nationally threatened ecosystem types and **indigenous vegetation** in threatened land environments;
 - ii. species richness;
 - iii. connectivity between, and buffering of, existing **habitats**; and
 - iv. **ecological restoration** at a landscape scale across the region.
- c) Timeframes for achieving the indigenous cover target and **restoration and reconstruction** objectives.
3. Specify in each regional biodiversity strategy, actions to achieve the objectives of the relevant regional plan established in accordance with Policy 19(2)(b).

Policy 20: Restoring and enhancing through transferable development rights

1. By regional councils and territorial authorities considering the use of **transferable development rights**, in preference to **bonus development rights**, where necessary and appropriate to:
 - a) Promote the **restoration** and enhancement of:
 - i. **significant natural areas** identified in accordance with Policy 4; and
 - ii. **ecological integrity** in the areas identified in a regional biodiversity strategy prepared in accordance with Policy 17; and/or
2. To ensure that **transferable development rights** contribute effectively to the objectives of this national policy statement, regional councils and territorial authorities will:
 - a) Require that the enhancement and **restoration** required to qualify for the creation of a **transferable development right**:
 - i. is designed by an suitably qualified ecologist;
 - ii. uses eco-sourced plant material where practicable; and
 - iii. is of a scale that makes a meaningful and enduring contribution to objectives for the area identified in the regional biodiversity strategy.
 - b) Require that the interest registered on any certificate of title, covenants the owner to take all reasonable steps to preserve and protect the area of enhanced or restored **indigenous vegetation** and **habitat** on a continuing basis.
 - c) Ensure that the recipient area for the **transferred development right** excludes any location that is:
 - i. **a significant natural area**;
 - ii. an area identified for enhancement or **restoration** in a regional biodiversity strategy;
 - iii. in such proximity to any area identified in i) or ii) above, as may result in adverse effects to the **ecological integrity** of such areas;
 - iv. likely to result in significant adverse effects on ecological processes including connections and corridors between areas identified in i) and

ii) above.

- d) Maintain a register of **transferable development rights** in use of sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with this national policy statement.

Policy 21: Monitoring and reporting

Explanatory comment only

The issue this policy seeks to address is the need to strengthen the depth and consistency with which biodiversity (state of the environment) and biodiversity interventions (the effectiveness of the NPS, plans and regional biodiversity strategies) are monitored and the results of that monitoring reported around the country.

The recommendations made in the CSM report assist in conveying the BCG's thinking on the monitoring requirements but there has been insufficient time to develop the NPS policy to a standard that the BCG can confidently promote as appropriate and practicable.

In broad terms, the policy should:

- *Require regional councils, in cooperation with territorial councils, to monitor the condition and state of indigenous biodiversity and significant natural areas in their regions*
- *Require monitoring to be undertaken according to nationally agreed standards*
- *Require the reporting of information at appropriate intervals.*

Policy 22: Implementing this national policy statement

1. This policy applies to the implementation by a regional council or territorial authority of a policy of this national policy statement.
2. In accordance with section 55 (2D) of the Resource Management Act 1991, except as provided for in Policy 22(3)–(6), every regional council and territorial authority is to implement this national policy statement as promptly as is reasonably practicable.
3. Unless Policy 22(4) applies, every regional council or territorial authority must:
 - a) Implement Policy 4(1) and 4(4)(a) and (b) of this national policy statement within [five] years of the gazettal of this national policy statement; and
 - b) Notify a plan change to implement Policy 4(4)(c) within [six] years.
4. Regional councils and territorial authorities need not comply with Policy 22(3) if their relevant plan contains mapped **significant natural areas** that are demonstrated, following an evaluation of the plan, to have been identified in substantial conformance with the criteria of Appendix 1 of this national policy statement.
5. Where Policy 22(4) applies, each regional council and territorial authority must implement:
 - a) Policy 4 at the next scheduled review of the district plan or by [2028], whichever is sooner; and
 - b) Policies 6 and 7 as if reference to **significant natural areas** in those policies was reference to **significant natural areas** identified in the district plan or proposed district plan as at the date of gazettal of this national policy statement.
6. Every regional council must implement Policy 17 within [three years] of gazettal of this national policy statement.

Appendix 1: Criteria for identifying significant natural areas in accordance with Policy 4

Terms defined in the Interpretation section of this national policy statement also apply to Appendices 1 to 4.

Direction on approach

In accordance with Policy 4 of this national policy statement, regional councils in the coastal marine area and territorial authorities in the terrestrial domain must, through a suitably qualified ecologist, use the following four criteria for assessment of significant **indigenous vegetation** and significant **habitats** of indigenous fauna:

- Representativeness
- Diversity and Pattern
- Rarity and Distinctiveness
- Ecological Context.

The frameworks for assessment of significance are ecological districts or land environment, [except for geothermal vegetation assessments for the Taupo Volcanic Zone in which case the ecological district is the Taupo Volcanic Zone], and marine biogeographic areas.

A site should be regarded as significant if it meets any one of the four criteria.

Physical identification of each **significant natural area** must be accompanied by a description of its significant attributes. For each criterion that description must include the attribute statement from the 'site attribute' that applies to that site. Under that attribute statement the **significant natural area** description must identify the specific **indigenous vegetation**, fauna, **habitat**, and ecosystems present. Additional description may be included.

Representativeness

The extent to which the vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.

Guidance

Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that would be expected to occur at undeveloped¹⁸ sites in the ecological district or marine biogeographic area in the present-day environment (e.g., landform, soils, substrate, climate), including seral (regenerating) **indigenous vegetation**. Representativeness includes commonplace vegetation/**habitats**, which is where most indigenous **biodiversity** is present. It is not restricted to the best or most representative examples. And, it is not a measure of how well that vegetation or habitat is protected elsewhere in the ecological district.

¹⁸ 'Undeveloped' sites mean those sites at which the soil/substrate has not been cultivated/dredged

Assessment

Significant vegetation has structure and composition (**biodiversity**) typical of the **indigenous vegetation** of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area in the present-day environment. This includes secondary or regenerating vegetation that is recovering following natural or induced disturbance, provided species composition is typical of that type of vegetation. Significant fauna habitat is that which supports the typical suite of indigenous animals that would occur in the present-day environment.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have any of the following attributes:

- Vegetation which has structure and composition (**biodiversity**) that is highly typical of the **indigenous vegetation** of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.
- Intact habitat that supports a highly typical suite of indigenous animals.
- Vegetation which has modified structure and/or composition (**biodiversity**) though is still typical of the **indigenous vegetation** of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.
- Modified habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous animals.

For the avoidance of doubt, **indigenous vegetation** or habitat that is not typical of the **indigenous vegetation** or habitat of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area will not qualify as a **significant natural area** under this criterion.

Diversity and Pattern

The diversity and pattern of biological and physical components at the site.

Guidance

Diversity has biological components, such as species/taxa, communities, and ecological variation. It also has physical components, such as geology, soils/substrate, aspect/exposure, altitude/depth, temperature, salinity, turbidity, and waves/currents. Pattern includes changes along environmental gradients, such as ecotones and sequences. Some communities or **habitats** are uniform, with naturally low species diversity; that attribute is assessed under the representativeness criterion.

Assessment

Significance is the extent to which the biological range and environmental variation at a site reflects that present in the ecological district. Sites that have a wider range of species, **habitats**, or communities, or wider environmental variation due to ecotones, gradients and sequences, rate more highly.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have any of the following attributes:

- A high diversity of indigenous species, **habitats** or communities, and/or presence of important ecotones, or complete gradients or sequences.
- A moderate diversity of indigenous species, **habitats** or communities, and/or presence of ecotones, or partial gradients or sequences.

For the avoidance of doubt, a site with low diversity of indigenous species, **habitats** or communities, and lack of ecotones, gradients or sequences will not qualify as a **significant natural area** under this criterion.

Rarity and Distinctiveness

The presence of rare or distinctive species, habitats, vegetation or ecosystems.

Guidance

Rarity is the scarcity (natural or induced) of indigenous species, habitats, vegetation, or ecosystems. Rarity includes things that are uncommon, and things that are threatened. 'Threatened' and 'at risk' (including 'naturally uncommon') species at a national scale are listed in publications (for plants, mammals, birds, and reptiles) prepared and regularly updated by the Department of Conservation. Rarity at a regional or local scale is defined by local lists or determined by expert ecological advice. Further effort is needed to prepare regional and local lists, especially for fauna. The significance of nationally-listed species should not be downgraded if they are locally common.

Historically rare (or naturally uncommon) terrestrial ecosystems are defined and listed by Williams et al (2007). These ecosystems, along with wetlands and sand dunes, are proposed as a priority for protection on private land by the Ministry for the Environment (2007).

Two national frameworks that are available for the assessment of depletion of terrestrial **indigenous vegetation** or ecosystems are in common use: Ecological Districts, as defined by McEwen (1987); and Land Environments, as defined by Leathwick et al. (2003). Rarity of **indigenous vegetation** in each Land Environment has been assessed by Walker et al. (2006) and Cieraad et al. (2015). Land Environment data should be interpreted with caution. These are based on physical attributes which may not accurately reflect vegetation (or habitat) patterns at a local scale.

Distinctiveness includes distribution limits, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, and special ecological or scientific features.

Assessment

Vegetation/habitat is significant if it supports any of the following:

- 'threatened', 'at risk' or 'data deficient' indigenous species (as defined by national lists)
- regionally or locally uncommon indigenous species, **habitats**, vegetation or ecosystems
- terrestrial **indigenous vegetation** depleted to less than 20 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment
- **indigenous vegetation**/habitat on sand dunes, wetlands, or estuaries
- biogenic **habitats**¹⁹ in the marine environment

¹⁹ "biogenic habitats" are **habitats** created by the physical structure of living or dead organisms or by their interaction with the substrate

- **indigenous vegetation** in historically rare/naturally uncommon ecosystems
- an indigenous species at its distributional limit
- the type locality of an indigenous species
- a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species (such as on unusual substrates)
- a special ecological or scientific feature.

Application of the recently published list of the threat status of indigenous plants (de Lange et. al., 2018) should be guided by expert ecological advice. Species within the Myrtaceae family that are relatively common in many areas (kānuka, mānuka, and rata species) are listed as 'threatened' or 'at risk', due to the threat posed by myrtle rust. These species are listed with the qualifiers DP (data poor) and De (taxa) that do not fit the criteria so are designated to the most appropriate listing).

With respect to fauna habitat, professional ecological judgement should be used when assessing significance, such as a golf course that has the occasional presence of a mobile 'threatened' species (e.g., black stilt), compared with a shrubland that has the presence of a relatively sedentary 'at risk' species (e.g., southern grass skink). The golf course should not be rated as significant habitat; whereas the shrubland should.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have any of the following attributes:

- Provides habitat for a nationally 'threatened', or several 'at risk', indigenous plant or animal species
- An indigenous species or plant community at its distributional limit
- **Indigenous vegetation** or habitat of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to less than 10 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment
- **Indigenous vegetation**/habitat occurring on sand dunes, wetlands, or estuaries
- Biogenic **habitats** in the marine environment
- **Indigenous vegetation/habitat** occurring on 'originally rare' ecosystem types.
- Provides habitat for an 'at risk', 'data deficient', regionally uncommon, or locally uncommon indigenous plant or animal species.
- An indigenous species or plant community near its distributional limit
- **Indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to between 10 and 20 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment
- The presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species, or special ecological or scientific feature.

For the avoidance of doubt, sites with the following attributes do not qualify as **significant natural areas** under this criterion:

- Supports no 'threatened', 'at risk', 'data deficient', regionally or locally uncommon indigenous species, and no indigenous species near distribution limits

- Is not **indigenous vegetation/habitat** on sand dunes, wetlands, estuaries or 'originally rare' ecosystems.
- Is not **indigenous vegetation** or **habitat** of indigenous fauna that has been reduced to less than 30 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment
- Has no distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species, or special ecological or scientific features.

Ecological context

The extent to which the size, shape, and position of an area within the wider environment (land, fresh water or marine) contributes to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity.

Guidance

Ecological context has two main attributes: the characteristics that help maintain indigenous **biodiversity** at the site (such as size, shape and configuration); and the contribution the site makes to protection of indigenous **biodiversity** in the wider landscape (such as by linking or buffering other sites, providing 'stepping stones' of **habitat**, or maintaining ecological and hydrological processes).

Assessment

Higher value is placed on sites that: have features (such as size, shape, configuration or buffering) that help maintain indigenous **biodiversity** at the site; support large numbers of, or provide important **habitat** for, indigenous fauna; provide a buffer to, or link between, other significant areas; or play an important role in the biological/natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.

Attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have any of the following attributes:

- A site that is large, has a good shape, and is well-buffered
- A site that provides a substantial buffer to, or link between, other significant sites and/or is very important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system
- A site that supports large numbers of and/or provides critical **habitat** for indigenous fauna
- A site that is of moderate size, and has a good shape and/or is well buffered
- A site that provides a partial buffer to, or link between, other significant sites and/or is moderately important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.

For the avoidance of doubt, sites with the following attributes do not qualify as **significant natural areas** under this criterion:

- A small and/or poorly-buffered site
- A site that does not buffer or link other sites, and is unimportant for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.

Appendix 2: Tool for managing effects on significant natural areas

Direction on approach

General

This appendix supports application of this national policy statement's policies relating to effects management in **significant natural areas** (Policies 6 and 7).

Pursuant to Appendix 1 and Policy 4, local authorities are required to map **significant natural areas** and to include a description of the specific attributes that contribute to the areas qualifying as **significant natural areas**. That description must include the relevant attribute from the 'site attribute list' under each criterion. This management tool includes the same 'site attributes' as those used in Appendix 1. It then allocates a 'high' or 'medium' rating to each attribute. The rating applying to a particular **significant natural area** will determine the effects management policies that apply to it. Some of the policies are worded in generic terms (i.e., they apply to all **significant natural areas**). Where that is the case, the policy applies irrespective of the **significant natural area's** rating. Some of the policies are worded to specifically apply to **significant natural areas** with a 'high' rating or with a 'medium' rating.

Where that is the case then that policy only applies to **significant natural areas** with that rating.

A **significant natural area** qualifies as having a 'high' rating if it has one or more attributes that rate as 'high' in respect of any one of the four criteria.

Mānuka and Kānuka

Species within the Myrtaceae family that are relatively common in many areas (e.g. kānuka, mānuka, and rata species) are listed as 'threatened' or 'at risk', due to the threat posed by Myrtle Rust.

If a **significant natural area** is identified **only** because of the presence of mānuka and kānuka that is considered threatened on the **sole** basis of the threat posed by Myrtle Rust, that area should not be identified in planning maps as a **significant natural area** and Policy 6 does not apply. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not apply to species of mānuka and kānuka that are considered threatened for reasons other than Myrtle Rust, or which are present within a **significant natural area** that is identified as significant due to other attributes.

This exception must be reviewed within five years of gazettal.

Management framework

Representativeness

Site attributes	Rating
Vegetation which has structure and composition (biodiversity) that is highly typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.	H
Intact habitat that supports a highly typical suite of indigenous animals.	H
Site attributes	Rating
Vegetation which has modified structure and/or composition (biodiversity) though is still typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.	M
Modified habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous animals.	M

Diversity and Pattern

Site attributes	Rating
A high diversity of indigenous species, habitats or communities, and/or presence of important ecotones, or complete gradients or sequences.	H
A moderate diversity of indigenous species, habitats or communities, and/or presence of ecotones, or partial gradients or sequences.	M

Rarity and Distinctiveness

	Rating
Provides habitat for a nationally 'threatened', or several 'at risk', indigenous plant or animal species.	H
An indigenous species or plant community at its distributional limit.	H
Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to less than 20% of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment.	H
Indigenous vegetation/habitat occurring on sand dunes, wetlands, or estuaries.	H
Biogenic habitats in the marine environment.	H
Indigenous vegetation/habitat occurring on 'originally rare' ecosystem types.	H
Provides habitat for an 'at risk', 'data deficient', regionally uncommon, or locally uncommon indigenous plant or animal species.	M
An indigenous species or plant community near its distributional limit.	M
Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to between 20% and 30% of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment.	M
The presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species, or special ecological or scientific feature.	M

Ecological context

Site attributes	Rating
A site that is large, has a good shape, and is well-buffered.	H
A site that provides a substantial buffer to, or link between, other significant sites and/or is very important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.	H
A site that supports large numbers of and/or provides critical habitat for indigenous fauna.	H
A site that is of moderate size, and has a good shape and/or is well buffered.	M
A site that provides a partial buffer to, or link between, other significant sites and/or is moderately important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.	M

Appendix 3: Wetland identification and delineation

In accordance with Policy 9 of this national policy statement, regional councils must, through a suitably qualified ecologist, use the following procedure for identification and delineation of wetlands. Defined terms relevant to this Appendix are set out below the procedure steps.

1. Determine general project area i.e., putative wetland.
2. Confirm that 'regular' circumstances are present (i.e., typical climatic and hydrologic conditions for the time of year, no recent disturbances such as flooding).
3. Determine whether **off-site methods** or **on-site methods** are to be used.
4. Undertake Hydrophytic vegetation determination by **Rapid Test** to determine if all dominant species are **OBL** or **FACW**.
 - a) If the **Rapid Test** finds all **dominant species** are **OBL** or **FACW** the assessed area is a wetland/part of a wetland. Further analysis is not required.
5. If the **Rapid Test** finds not all dominant species are **OBL** or **FACW** then undertake a **Dominance Test**:
 - a) If **Dominance Test** finds **OBL**, **FACW**, or **FAC** species are >50% the assessed area is a wetland/part of a wetland. Further analysis is not required.
6. If the **Dominance Test** finds:
 - a) All or most **dominant species** are **FAC**; or
 - b) **OBL**, **FACW**, or **FAC** species are <50%, then assess soil type and hydrology.
7. If an assessment of soil type and hydrology confirms:
 - a) That **hydric soils** are present; and
 - b) That wetland hydrology is present,

then undertake a **Prevalence Index Test**. If an assessment confirms that **hydric soils** and wetland hydrology are not present the assessed area is not a wetland/part of a wetland.
8. If the **Prevalence Index Test** finds that **hydrophytic** vegetation is ≤ 3.0 the assessed area is a wetland/part of a wetland. Further analysis is not required
9. If the **Prevalence Index Test** finds that **Hydrophytic** vegetation is > 3.0 the assessed area is not a wetland/part of a wetland.

Supporting definitions for Appendix 3

Dominant Species: The most abundant plant species (when ranked in descending order of abundance, e.g., in a plot, and cumulatively totalled) that immediately exceed 50% of the total cover for the stratum, plus any additional species comprising 20% or more of the total cover for the stratum. Known as the 50/20 rule. Calculated for three stratum: tree, sapling/shrub, herb.

Dominance Test: More than 50% of dominant species across all strata are rated OBL, FACW, or FAC using the 50/20 rule.

Hydric Soils are soils that have been formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding and that have caused anaerobic (low oxygen) conditions in at least the upper 30cm of the soil.

Hydrophytes (hydrophytic vegetation): plant species capable of growing in soils that are often or constantly saturated with water during the growing season. The hydrophyte categories are:

- **Obligate (OBL):** Occurs almost always in wetlands (estimated probability >99% in wetlands)
- **Facultative Wetland (FACW):** Occurs usually in wetlands (67–99%)
- **Facultative (FAC):** Equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (34–66%)
- **Facultative Upland (FACU):** Occurs occasionally in wetlands (1–33%)
- **Upland (UPL):** Rarely occurs in wetlands (<1%), almost always in 'uplands' (non-wetlands)

Off-site methods: Methods by which wetland identification and delineation can occur away from the project area. Ability to use off-site methods will depend on:

- Amount and quality of data including aerial photographs, maps, previous reports
- Wetland ecological expertise to interpret data.

On-site methods: Methods by which wetland identification and delineation can occur at the project area:

- For small areas (≤ 2 ha), establish a representative plot in each major vegetation type. Record plot vegetation in 3 strata: tree, sapling/shrub, herb
- For large areas (> 2 ha) establish representative plots along transects as per Clarkson et al., 2014. Record vegetation in 3 strata: tree, sapling/shrub, herb

Prevalence Index Test: A plot-based algorithm derived from the unique combination of OBL– UPL plants and their cover. The vegetation is considered to be hydrophytic if $PI \leq 3.0$, but values around 3.0 should be used alongside other wetland indicators.

Rapid Test: All dominant species across all strata are rated OBL and/or FACW.

Appendix 4: Principles for offsetting effects on indigenous biodiversity

The following framework for the use of **biodiversity offsets** should be read in conjunction with the New Zealand Government Guidance on Good Practice Biodiversity Offsetting in New Zealand, New Zealand Government et al., August 2014 (or any successor document):

1. **Restoration**, enhancement and protection actions will only be considered a **biodiversity offset** where it is used to offset the [significant] residual effects of activities after the adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated.
2. **Restoration**, enhancement and protection actions undertaken as a **biodiversity offset** are demonstrably additional to what otherwise would occur, including that they are additional to any avoidance, remediation or mitigation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.
3. **Biodiversity offset** actions should be undertaken close to the location of development, where this will result in the best ecological outcome.
4. The values to be lost through the activity to which the offset applies are counterbalanced by the proposed offsetting activity, which is at least commensurate with the adverse effects on indigenous **biodiversity**. The overall result should be no net loss, and preferably a net gain in ecological values.
5. The offset is applied so that the ecological values being achieved through the offset are the same or similar to those being lost.
6. There are situations where residual impacts cannot be fully compensated for by a **biodiversity offset** because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the **biodiversity** affected.

Appendix 5: Principles for Regional Biodiversity Strategies

1. The purpose of the regional biodiversity strategy is to promote a landscape-scale enhancement and **restoration** vision for the region's indigenous **biodiversity** that:
 - a) Recognises and provides for Hutia Te Rito;
 - b) Restores and enhances **significant natural areas**, connectivity and buffering;
 - c) Enhances the sustainability of **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments**;
 - d) Increases or strengthens biological or physical connections with identified taonga and between terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal marine ecosystems;
 - e) Supports achievement of any national priorities for **biodiversity** protection;
 - f) Is resilient to biological and environmental changes associated with climate change.

2. To achieve its purpose the regional biodiversity strategy shall:
 - a) Spatially identify the components of the region's landscape-scale enhancement and **restoration** vision including:
 - i. existing **significant natural areas** and identified taonga to be protected;
 - ii. areas within **indigenous biodiversity depleted environments** that are intended to be reconstructed or restored; and
 - iii. any other components to be enhanced or restored.
 - b) Specify:
 - i. actions that will be undertaken by local or central government;
 - ii. actions that the community including tangata whenua will be supported or encouraged to undertake; and
 - iii. how those actions will be resourced

to assist the achievement of indigenous cover targets, and **restoration**, **reconstruction** and enhancement objectives set in accordance with Policies 16–18.

 - c) Specify milestones for achieving the Strategy's purpose and the objectives of this national policy statement.
 - d) Specify how progress on achieving the Strategy's purpose is to be monitored and reported on and measures to be taken if milestones are not being met.

3. In developing the regional biodiversity strategy, take into account:
 - a) Opportunities to engage the community including tangata whenua in conservation, and in particular to connect urban people and communities to the natural environment.
 - b) Opportunities for partnerships with the QEII Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and other
 - c) Considering incentive opportunities specific to Māori Land.

- d) Co-benefits, including for water quality and freshwater **habitats**, carbon sequestration, and hazard mitigation.
 - e) Alignment with strategies under other legislation.
4. The regional biodiversity strategy may include measures that are intended to implement other objectives such as biosecurity, climate mitigation, amenity, or improved freshwater outcomes as well as **biodiversity** outcomes.

Report to Strategy and Policy Committee

Date: 07 November 2018

Author: Leslie Vyfhuis, Senior Policy Advisor, Integration and Infrastructure

Authoriser: Tracey May, Director Science and Strategy

Subject: **Mandatory Change to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement**

Section: B (For recommendation to Council)

Purpose

1. This report advises of a mandatory change to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) required by the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016 (the NPS-UDC). That being the inclusion of targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing.
2. The report seeks that the Committee recommend that Council resolves to amend the WRPS to include these targets.

Executive Summary

3. The NPS-UDC requires Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and the district councils in the high-growth Future Proof area to set minimum targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing, and include these as an objective in the relevant district plans and the WRPS by 31 December 2018.
4. Once the Council, on recommendation of the Strategy & Policy Committee, has approved the change, the WRPS will be amended to meet the NPS-UDC's requirement.

Staff Recommendation:

1. That the report "*Mandatory Changes to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement*" (Doc # 13344978 dated 07 November 2018) be received
2. Council resolves to amend the Waikato Regional Policy Statement to include a new objective, as stated below in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, in accordance with the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016.

3.27 Minimum housing targets for the Future Proof area

The minimum targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing in the Future Proof area are met, in accordance with the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC) 2016.

Hamilton City	13,300	23,600	36,900

	Waipa District	5,700	8,200	13,900	
	Waikato District	7,100	12,300	19,400	
	Future Proof Sub-Region	26,100	44,100	70,200	

Background

5. The NPS-UDC directs councils on planning for growth and change in urban environments, and places new requirements on local authorities with a high-growth urban area within their district or region. The NPS identifies the Future Proof sub-region, comprised of Hamilton City, Waipa and Waikato Districts, as a high-growth urban area.
6. The NPS-UDC requires all local authorities in New Zealand identified as having a high-growth urban area to:
 - **Complete a Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA) by 31 December 2017**, and update these on an at least three-yearly basis. The HBA is to estimate the demand and supply for dwellings, business land and floor area for businesses in the short, medium and long terms, and assess interactions between housing and business activities.
The HBA for the Future Proof area has been completed. The reports, and a summary document are available below:
 - [Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment 2017 Summary Report](#)
 - [Business Development Capacity Assessment 2017](#)
 - [Housing Development Capacity Assessment 2017](#)

- **Set minimum targets for the medium and long term, for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing** in accordance with the HBA. The NPS-UDC requires the set housing targets to be inserted as an objective in the relevant district plans and the regional policy statement by 31 December 2018. This requires amendments to the WRPS, as well as to the Hamilton City District Plan (HDP), Waikato District Plan (WDP), Franklin District Plan (FDP) and Waipa District Plan (WaiDP) to include the new objective. The NPS-UDC provides for insertion of the objective in plans without the usual public submissions and hearing process required under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Staff from all the Future Proof councils are scheduled to report this requirement to their respective council committees in late November and early December, in time to change the various plans by 31 December 2018, in accordance with the NPS-UDC's requirements.

- **Monitor, on a quarterly basis, a range of indicators that assess development capacity in the short, medium and long term.**
This monitoring is ongoing through the Future Proof partnership, and the quarterly reports can be viewed at <http://www.futureproof.org.nz/page/13-background-reports>
- **Produce a future development strategy (FDS) by 31 December 2018** that demonstrates sufficient, feasible development capacity in the medium and long term.
It is anticipated that the FDS for the Future Proof area will be incorporated into an updated Future Proof Growth Strategy document. A working draft of the Future Proof Strategy will be provided to the Ministry for the Environment which will satisfy this requirement. The substantive review will be initiated in light of the outcomes of the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Spatial Plan.

7. The insertion of the new objective containing minimum targets for housing in the medium and long terms is an amendment to the operative WRPS. Although the change is required by the NPS-UDC and cannot

be avoided, any amendment of the WRPS must be approved by the Council, on recommendation of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Options and analysis

8. Under Section 62(3) of the RMA, a regional policy statement (RPS) must give effect to a national policy statement (NPS). In addition, Section 55 states that a local authority must amend its RPS if directed by a NPS to include specific objectives and policies set out in the statement, and must do this without using the usual plan change process.
9. The NPS-UDC's direction in respect of the insertion of the minimum targets objective is consistent with the RMA, is mandatory and therefore cannot be avoided. Failure to insert the new objective in the WRPS would result in a misalignment of the regional policy framework with both the national, direction that the NPS-UDC establishes in respect of urban environments, and amended district plan policies.
10. The minimum targets for each of the districts with high growth areas - Hamilton City, Waikato and Waipa Districts - have been developed and agreed through the work of the Future Proof partnership, and the targets for each district are to be inserted in each area's district plan as an objective before 31 December 2018.

The new Objective

11. The Ministry for the Environment's guidance on setting minimum targets indicates that the targets inserted into a regional policy statement should be framed so that they:
 - state the minimum number of dwellings to be enabled and made feasible to develop
 - state the years covered by the minimum targets (medium and long term)
 - relate to a specified geographic area of focus.
12. In accordance with this guidance, a proposed new Objective 3.27 for the WRPS has been drafted and is included in **Attachment A** to this report. The objective is to be inserted in the WRPS' Chapter 3: *Objectives*, and, as directed by the NPS, sets out the minimum number of dwellings for both the medium and long term for all district councils in the Future Proof area that are identified as having a high growth area. As directed by the NPS-UDC, these minimum targets include a margin of 20 percent for the medium term and 15 percent for the long-term. The minimum targets for each district council will be inserted in their respective district plans, and it is anticipated that the text accompanying each district's targets will be very similar to that of the WRPS.

Public Notification of the change to the WRPS

13. As advised, the NPS-UDC directs that the insertion of the new objective in the various planning documents should occur without the usual public notification and submissions process. A public notice will be issued by the Council to advise the general public and parties who have copies of the WRPS of the change. Notice of the change will also be provided through the next edition of the Future Proof partnership's newsletter.

Next Steps

14. The policies in Chapter 6 of the operative WRPS provide strong direction for integrated growth management in the region, particularly in the Future Proof sub-region. The existing policy framework for growth and development does not relate well with the new objective, or indicate how the objective will be achieved. A further change to the WRPS will be needed to achieve alignment between the WRPS' policies and the FDS/updated Future Proof Strategy. The completion of the updated Future Proof Strategy is currently planned for mid-2019, though timing will be influenced to a degree by the implementation of the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan.
15. This 'second phase' of change required to the WRPS to give effect to the NPS-UDC will require the usual public notification and submission process set out in Schedule 1 of the RMA. This change will also require the Council to engage with iwi as set out in the various River Settlement legislation. There will be further

reports to the Committee on this change once the timeframe for and scope of the necessary changes is better understood.

Assessment of Significance

16. Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is not considered to have a high degree of significance.

Legislative context

17. The decision to recommend to Council that the WRPS be amended to include a new objective is to be considered and made under section 62(3) of the RMA and the direction of the NPS-UDC 2016.
18. The NPS-UDC's Policies PC5 –PC9 require regional councils to set minimum targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing and incorporate these as an objective in the operative RPS. The NPS sets a timeframe of 31 December 2018 for insertion of the objective in the RPS.
19. Under Section 62(3) of the RMA a regional policy statement must give effect to a national policy statement, a New Zealand coastal policy statement, or a national planning standard.

Policy Considerations

20. To the best of the writer's knowledge, this decision is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Conclusion

21. The insertion of the new Objective 3.27 in the WRPS is a requirement of the NPS-UDC 2016 that must be completed by 31 December 2018. The new objective sets out minimum targets for sufficient, feasible development capacity for housing for the high-growth areas of Hamilton City, Waikato and Waipa Districts. The minimum targets for each of these areas will also be reflected in the new objective that the NPS directs be included in the district plans for each of these areas within the same timeframe.

References

[National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016](#)

[National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity: Responsive planning - Guide on setting minimum targets for sufficient feasible development capacity for housing](#)

[Future Proof Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment Summary Report 2017](#)

[Business Development Capacity Assessment 2017 Future Proof Partners: Hamilton City, Waikato District, Waipa District](#)

[Housing Development Capacity Assessment 2017 Future Proof Area – Waikato District, Hamilton City and Waipa District](#)

Report to Strategy and Policy Committee

Date:	15 November 2018
Author:	Mark Tamura, Manager Integration and Infrastructure
Authoriser:	Tracey May, Director Science and Strategy
Subject:	Regional growth management and regional relationships update
Section:	A (Committee has delegated authority to make a decision)

Purpose

1. To update the committee on key urban growth management activities and regional relationships.

Executive Summary

2. In response to significant population growth, particularly in North Waikato and the greater Hamilton areas, the Waikato Regional Council (the Council) is involved in several significant and related growth management projects.
3. This report provides updates on the following:
 - Future Proof and implementation of the National Policy Statement Urban Development Capacity
 - Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan
 - Waikato Plan
 - Upper North Island Strategic Alliance
 - District planning activities around the region.
4. These initiatives are progressing in collaboration with partner Councils, the government and other agencies. This includes with neighbouring regions, in particular Auckland and the wider UNISA network.

Staff Recommendations:

That the report '*Regional growth management and relationships update*' (Doc # 13361746 dated 15 November 2018) be received.

Background

5. Recognition of the importance of coordinating land use planning and the provision of infrastructure has led some councils experiencing growth pressures to work together on initiatives such as Future Proof in Waikato and Smart Growth in the Bay of Plenty.
6. The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the announcement of Minister Twyford's 'urban growth agenda' (UGA) signal a significant shift in government expectations for integration across land use planning and infrastructure investment). The urban growth agenda

also suggests that government will be more directly involved in spatial planning and coordination at a local level and has an appetite for considerable reform.

7. The urgency of the parties involved, and the significant direct involvement of government agencies in the work set out in this report, demonstrates a recognition of the importance of making timely progress and also demonstrates the shift in government policy and priorities.

Key updates

Future Proof

Future Proof Strategy Update Phase 2/Future Development Strategy (FDS)

8. The NPSUDC requires housing and business feasible development capacity assessments, the setting of feasible development capacity targets for housing, and the preparation of a Future Development Strategy (FDS) that sets out the broad location and timing of new development capacity and infrastructure. In addition, ongoing monitoring of market indicators of demand and supply is required.
9. The FDS is required to be 'produced' by 31 December 2018. This will be met through Phase 2 of the review of the Future Proof Strategy, an initial draft of which is expected by December 2018. The FDS will be subject to the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002.
10. As the RPS currently contains significant detail on the location and timing of development within the Future Proof area, it is expected that amendments to the RPS will be required to maintain alignment. The nature of these changes and process for updating the RPS and district plans are currently being determined.
11. Staff are currently in discussion with Ministry for the Environment officials about potential opportunities to streamline the consultation process for the FDS and RPS updates required as a result to minimise the time and cost involved in the process for the Council and interested parties.
12. Further detail is provided in a specific report to this Strategy and Policy meeting on inserting the development capacity targets into the RPS.

Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan

13. The Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan is a Government initiative, supported by Cabinet to progress the Government Urban Growth Agenda, being delivered in partnership with local government and iwi. It is overseen by a steering group which comprises senior officials from Waikato-Tainui, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, the New Zealand Transport Agency, Ministry of Transport, Treasury and Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.
14. The plan is drawing on and integrating the work undertaken in Auckland and the Waikato Region, including Future Proof and the Auckland Plan. The Corridor Plan will identify any gaps, and will recommend an overarching plan for quality integrated development with the Corridor.
15. The purpose of the Auckland to Hamilton Corridor Spatial Plan is to better support growth and increase connectivity within the Auckland to Hamilton corridor, in a way that realises its social, economic, cultural and environmental potential.

16. The plan has four inter-related objectives:

- Improving housing affordability and choices
- Enhancing the quality of the natural and built environments and the vitality of Auckland and Hamilton and the communities within the corridor
- Improving access to employment, public services and amenities
- Creating employment opportunities in the corridor.

17. The plan's scope is as an integrated plan for development and infrastructure in the corridor between Auckland and Hamilton, developed and owned by iwi, central government and local government, which accelerates transformational opportunities. The plan is focused on the land area within 5km of State Highway 1 and the Main Trunk Railway from Mount Wellington in Auckland to the North and to Hamilton in the South. It also takes in Auckland Airport and Cambridge.

Current state and timing

18. There have been two rounds of workshops on the corridor plan involving all partner agencies. The first was a four day workshop in August (27-31) to generate a shortlist of options for growth in the corridor, and identify transformational projects.

19. Key outputs from this have been a high level five-part growth strategy (see **figure 1** below) and approximately 20 transformational actions within the corridor.

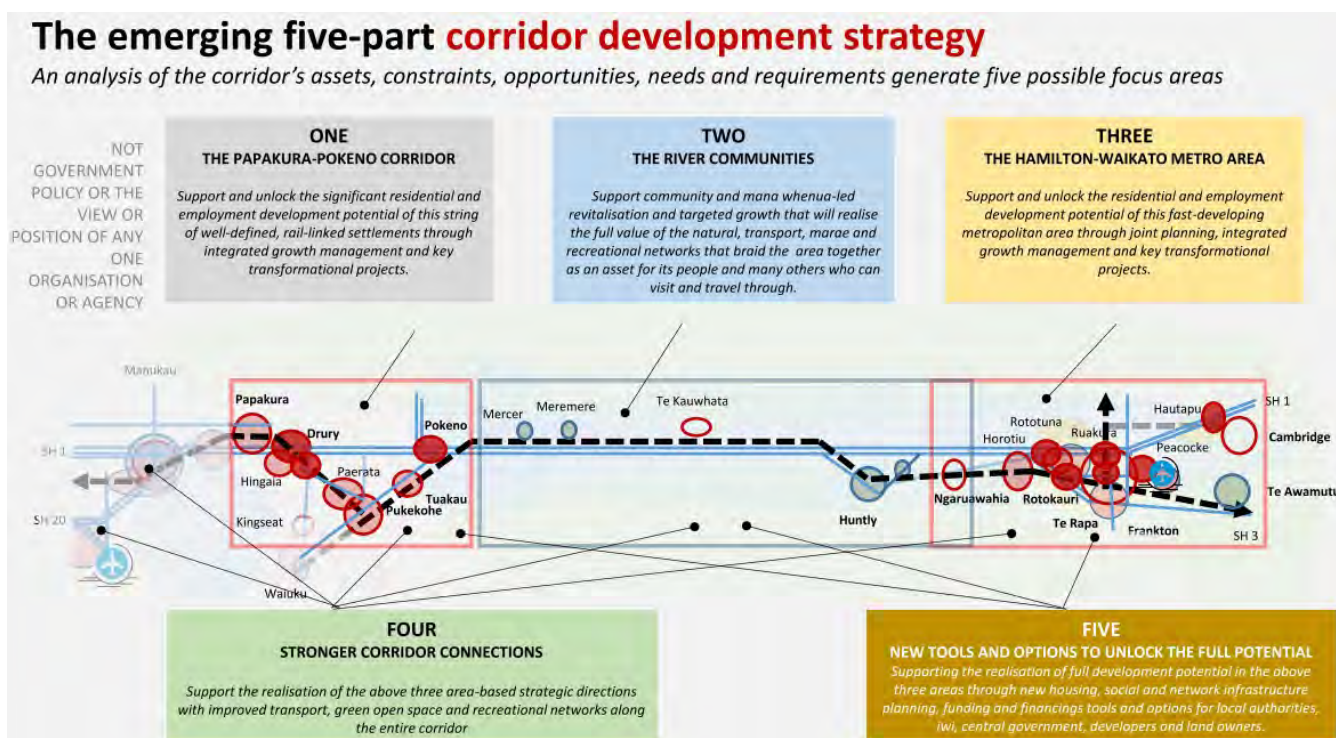


Figure1: Emerging 5-part growth Strategy

20. In Early November a second set of one day workshops have been held to review and refine these draft outputs as well as to consider the partnership arrangements that will oversee implementation of the plan.

21. It is currently intended that a high-level spatial plan and confirmed list of 20 or so transformational projects will be produced by the end of the year. A number of activities, such as the preparation

of a metropolitan spatial plan for the greater Hamilton area will be undertaken in the first half of 2019.

22. There has been considerable investment of staff time and expertise into the corridor plan process. This ongoing investment is likely to be required to enable implementation of the transformational actions once agreed.

Waikato Plan

Implementation – Foundation Work (September 2017–May 2018)

23. An implementation programme was approved by the Waikato Plan Leadership Group (WPLG) in October 2017. This included a timeline to implement the projects and actions contained in the Waikato Plan with a particular focus on the first two years of implementation. Since May 2018, the implementation programme was paused whilst the independent review of the project was undertaken.
24. However, a large number of foundational implementation actions have been achieved in order to establish the framework for implementation. These include:
- Securing iwi representation on the WPLG
 - Securing Ministry of Social Development representation on the WPLG
 - Virtual health - facilitating
 - Index of Multiple Deprivation – knowledge sharing
 - Raising profile – networking
 - Raising connectivity and collaboration
 - Aligned Planning – resource consent project completed and in implementation phase through WLASS
 - A Central Government Engagement Strategy for the Waikato Plan.

Other updates – Te Waka: Anga Whakamua Waikato (Waikato Moving Forward)

25. The Waikato Regional Economic Development Agency (Waikato REDA) came into existence on 1 July 2018. It is a limited liability company, owned by the Waikato Regional Economic Development Trust.
26. Waikato REDA held its first economic development summit on 29-30 August. Shane Jones launched the economic summit pledging the support of the Government's Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). Approximately 250 people attended. It also announced the official name of the economic development agency at the summit – Te Waka: Anga Whakamua Waikato: Waikato moving forward.
27. In early September, Te Waka announced the appointment of a chief executive officer (Michael Bassett-Foss) and chief operating officer (Harvey Brookes).
28. The results of the economic development summit will be used to build an economic development action programme for the region. This will be presented to the region and Minister for Regional Economic Development later this year.

Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)

29. The UNISA Mayors and Chairs meeting is due to be held on 23 November 2018.
30. The agenda for this meeting includes a study and strategy led by the Ministry of Transport on the upper North Island supply chain. The Chair (former Northland Mayor Wayne Brown) of the working group to oversee this work will attend the meeting. Other working group members are

Greg Miller (Kiwirail Chair), Noel Coom, Susan Krumdieck, Sarah Sinclair, and Shane Vuletich. Staff from UNISA councils have been directed to continue to seek input to the study which currently does not have a confirmed timeframe.

31. UNISA have also been liaising with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to lead and actively partner with participating councils on an inter-regional marine pest management pathway. MPI have noted they do not have capacity to lead a national marine pathways plan but are committed to seeking additional resources to undertake this work via a future budget bid. In the meantime, MPI will continue to actively support relevant marine pathways work with advice and contribution to direct costs of developing an inter-regional pathways management plan.
32. Other areas of interest to UNISA are the Department of Internal Affairs work on water as an emerging issue, arising in particular from the Havelock North drinking water enquiry; and the Productivity Commission's enquiry into local government funding. WRC staff are currently coordinating a WRC response to the local government funding enquiry which is open until mid-February 2019.

District level Growth planning initiatives

Hamilton City

33. *Proposed Private Plan Change 2 Te Awa Lakes to HCC District Plan, and Special Housing Area:* Proposed Private Plan Change 2 Te Awa Lakes applies to a 62ha block of land north of Hutchinson Road in Hamilton, between the Waikato Expressway and the Waikato River. The land is currently located within the Te Rapa North Industrial Zone, and the plan change seeks to change the zoning to provide for a mix of residential, business and adventure park activities in a Major Facilities zone. The plan change is currently suspended pending the outcome of the application below.
34. A parallel application for a Special Housing Area on the same site has been approved by Hamilton City Council and is currently awaiting approval from the Minister of Housing and Urban Development. If approved, the standard Plan Change process mentioned above may proceed in a condensed timeframe set out by the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013. WRC will have the opportunity to submit on this.

Waikato District

35. *District Plan Review:* Waikato District Council (WDC) has been undertaking a review of its district plan over the past few years. In December 2017 it sought public feedback on a draft district plan, and Council staff provided comment at that time. The Proposed Waikato District Plan was notified on 17 July 2018, with submissions due 9 October 2018. A comprehensive report and draft submission were brought to the 18 September Strategy and Policy Committee meeting to seek approval of the submission and the submission was lodged. WDC is currently summarising submissions and a further submission period will likely open in the New Year. WRC are also working with WDC on natural hazards and climate change provisions which are being consulted on with the community.

Waipa District

36. As noted at the Full Council meeting on 29 August 2018, Proposed Private Plan Change 11 to the Waipa District Plan has been notified, and WRC have made a submission, generally in support, and seeking changes to some specific details. Hearings were held on 19 November. The Proposed Private Plan Change is to rezone 57 hectares of land at Hautapu from Deferred Industrial and Rural, to Industrial Zone.

South Waikato District Council

37. South Waikato District Council is developing a plan change to enable future residential development at Putāruru, which it forecasts will grow from an estimated 4,030 in 2016 to about 5,500 in 2048 – an increase of 1,500 people.

Hauraki District Council

38. Hauraki District Council has met with WRC staff to discuss minor changes to their District Plan to provide for more Residential Zone land in Waihi and Paeroa, and to provide for more flexible infill subdivision in Waihi.

Other district plan activity

39. District plan reviews underway within the region include:

- Matamata-Piako District Council continues a rolling review of its district plan
- Waitomo District Council has commenced a review of its district plan this year
- Taupo District Council is in the early stages of a comprehensive review of its district plan
- Hamilton City Council intends to undertake a plan change with the intention of reducing red-tape.

Assessment of Significance

40. Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Council's Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is not considered to have a high degree of significance.

Legislative context

41. Planning and funding for land transport are governed by the Land Transport Management Act 2002. This sets up the requirements and processes for preparing Regional Land Transport and Public Transport Plans and manages government funding of the transport network.

42. Natural resource and land use planning, including the preparation and amendments of regional and district plans is governed by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The NPSUDC is a government policy statement prepared under the RMA to which the council must give effect.

43. Infrastructure funding, including the local share of transport infrastructure, is governed by the Local Government Act 2002.

Policy Considerations

44. To the best of the writer's knowledge, this decision is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Conclusion

45. The management of growth in North Waikato is increasingly requiring inter-regional collaboration and new ways of working with government agencies to progress shared priorities.

46. With a clear legislative mandate under the RMA for the coordination of land use and infrastructure, and specific growth management functions under the NPSUDC, the Regional Council is increasingly being looked to for leadership in these areas.

Report to Strategy and Policy Committee

Date: 14 November 2018

Author: Macaela Flanagan, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation

Authoriser: Tracey May, Director Science and Strategy

Subject: **Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group**

Section: A (Committee has delegated authority to make decision)

Purpose

1. To brief the Committee on the Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group (BCG),¹ which includes a proposed draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).

Executive Summary

2. This paper provides a summary of the “Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group” (the report) and a high level assessment of Waikato Regional Council (WRC) policies and plans against the draft NPSIB and potential implications for WRC.
3. The draft NPSIB was produced by a cross-sector collaborative group at the request of the former Minister for the Environment. National Policy Statements are an instrument of national policy under the Resource Management Act 1991 and must be given effect to.
4. As well as a draft NPSIB, the report recommends a number of ‘complementary and supporting measures’. This paper focuses on the high level assessment of WRC policies against the draft NPSIB. The BCG’s draft NPSIB does not have any statutory weight. Should the government adopt the NPSIB and formally consult as required by the Resource Management Act 1991, staff will provide a comprehensive submission for Council’s consideration.
5. Key findings from staff’s assessment are:
 - The Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and draft NPSIB generally align at a high level.
 - The NPSIB would require the development of regional biodiversity strategies, broadly consistent with the approach adopted by Council through the Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (LIBS) programme.
 - Draft NPSIB *Policy 21: Monitoring and Reporting* presents significant financial and resource implications in developing and supporting an effective biodiversity monitoring framework.
 - The draft NPSIB does not currently provide policy for freshwater and marine domains.
 - The draft NPSIB policies need to be strengthened with regard to climate change impacts on biodiversity.
 - The report’s recommendation to identify, map and protect Significant Natural Areas (SNA) aligns with WRC’s current approach. The draft NPSIB criteria to determine significance are relatively well aligned to the RPS criteria.

¹ https://www.biodiversitynz.org/uploads/1/0/7/9/107923093/report_of_the_biodiversity_collaborative_group.pdf

Staff Recommendation:

That the report '*Report of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group*' (Doc # 13330132 dated 14 November 2018) be received.

Background

6. The BCG is a stakeholder-led group established by the Minister for the Environment to develop national-level policy for indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand. The BCG's report consists of a draft NPSIB and recommendations to the Government on complementary and supporting measures to maintain biodiversity. The BCG's process ran from March 2017 until October 2018, and drew on expertise from government departments, tangata whenua, landholders, infrastructure providers, environmental groups, regional councils and others².
7. Under section 30 and 31 Resource Management Act (RMA) regional and district councils have roles and functions to maintain indigenous biodiversity. Under section 6(c) of the RMA, WRC must recognise and provide for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance. Indigenous biodiversity has important cultural values reflected in RMA sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8. The RPS, as well as the Waikato Regional Plan (Regional Plan) provide a framework for WRC to manage, protect and enhance the biodiversity within our region.
8. There is an ongoing loss of indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato region. Extensive clearance of vegetation and drainage of wetlands have reduced the extent of indigenous habitats by 75 percent, and 223 species of native plants and animals are threatened with extinction. The historical approach to biodiversity management has not been effective, and we are struggling to meet the requirements of both the RMA and RPS. A lack of consistent information on indigenous biodiversity, an essential building block, is a key reason for this ineffectiveness.

The BCG report

9. The report has three sections:
 - a) background that provides the rationale for the policies and objectives in the draft NPSIB
 - b) the draft NPSIB
 - c) complementary and supporting measures.
10. The draft NPSIB and the "Complementary and Supporting Measures for Indigenous Biodiversity" section set out a proposed regulatory and non-regulatory framework, and the report emphasises the importance of both being crucial to solving the issue of declining biodiversity.

Draft NPSIB

11. The draft NPSIB states the biodiversity outcomes to be achieved and provides policy direction to achieve these outcomes through regional and district policy statements and plans. It guides an integrated and inclusive process to involving tangata whenua, central government and territorial authorities in plan preparation and preparation of regional biodiversity strategies. The policies guide both regulatory and non-regulatory implementation methods in regional plans, and include guidance for both new resource consents and the renewal or continuation of existing consents, to meet the biodiversity objectives.
12. Although the RMA requires councils to maintain biodiversity, the manner in which this is carried out varies between regions. This has caused uncertainty and resulted in costly litigation. Meanwhile, biodiversity continues to decline. The BCG states that urgent attention and a coordinated response are needed to halt the decline, to protect our native flora and fauna, and allow them to thrive.

² Membership of the BCG included: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Federated Farmers, New Zealand Forest Owners Association, Environmental Defense Society Incorporated, Iwi Chairs Forum, Representatives from the extractive/infrastructure industries, Ministry for the Environment (observer), Department of Conservation (observer), Ministry for Primary Industries (observer), Local Government New Zealand (observer), Land Information New Zealand (observer), Te Puni Kōkiri (observer).

13. The NPSIB:
- applies to all land regardless of tenure
 - does not apply to fresh water other than provisions relating to wetlands (the BCG acknowledge this gap and provide recommendations which are discussed in more detail later in the paper)
 - does not apply to the coastal domain, except provisions relating to the identification of SNAs.
14. It is structured around six objectives:
1. Hutia Te Reo³
 2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 3. Maintaining indigenous biodiversity and enhancing ecosystems
 - i. Identifying Significant Natural Areas
 - ii. Maintaining indigenous biodiversity
 - iii. Enhancing ecosystems
 - iv. Climate change
 4. Integrated and evidence-based management
 5. People and partnerships
 6. Wetlands.
15. Generally speaking, WRC's existing policies and methods in the RPS are relatively well aligned to the six objectives in the draft NPSIB. The Regional Plan does not have objectives or policies directly relating to biodiversity, and as a result of rules for the management of other activities in the Regional Plan, it has an inconsistent approach towards RPS and government biodiversity outcomes. The Regional Plan review that is underway will ensure alignment with the RPS and any new government policies.
16. The draft NPSIB outlines 22 policies to deliver on these six objectives. Appendix 1 of this paper provides a high-level assessment of the draft NPSIB policies against the RPS, and an indication of alignment.

Complementary and supporting measures

17. The supporting measures focus on a number of non-regulatory recommendations to achieve biodiversity outcomes. The measures focus on:
- Improved leadership
 - Coordinated efforts
 - Support for landowners and land managers
 - Improving monitoring and information
 - Aligning institutional frameworks, policies and tools
 - Improved compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
18. Staff agree that non-regulatory measures are a necessary part of addressing biodiversity decline, and suggests that regional biodiversity strategies would be the appropriate place for identifying a range of other measures.

Freshwater and marine domains

19. The gaps regarding freshwater and marine domains are identified and explained in the background section of the report. The BCG approached the application of policy to these domains with caution, noting that they are as complex as the terrestrial environment, and policy needs to be crafted with equivalent care.
20. The report includes recommendations to the Minister for the Environment calling for:
- a) the urgent initiation of a work programme to consider and assess the most appropriate approach for identification of RMA section 6(c) areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna of the freshwater domain

³ Hutia Te Reo – which literally means 'to pluck out the centre shoot of flax' – recognises the environment's intrinsic value, the importance of relationships and connections between people and the natural environment and the responsibilities they create, and peoples' dependence on a healthy environment.

- b) translating the above into national policy
- c) testing whether the NPS for freshwater management or an NPS for indigenous biodiversity is the better vehicle to do so.

21. The BCG does not recommend using the criteria it developed to identify significant natural areas (SNAs) for identifying significant indigenous vegetation and habitat of indigenous fauna in the freshwater domain because it did not have sufficient information to confirm these criteria are appropriate.
22. The exclusion of the freshwater domain (apart from wetlands) is concerning, as it seems that both the draft NPSIB and the NPS for Freshwater Management (NPSFW) are gaining momentum, yet this crucial gap remains.
23. Although the BCG has recommended urgent work on this subject to the Minister, it is disappointing that biodiversity in the freshwater and marine domains was not prioritised as part of this collaborative process.
24. Highlighting the gap around freshwater is important, as the freshwater domain is an area that will most likely be affected by climate change. The draft NPSIB does not give attention to climate change in terms of policies designed to maintain indigenous biodiversity. The question of the longevity of some habitats is not explored.

Implications of the draft NPSIB

Climate Change

25. WRC assessment is that the BCG response to projected climate change impacts on biodiversity within the draft NPSIB is only partially developed. The rate of projected climate change is unprecedented and may outpace the ability of already stressed indigenous biological communities to adapt.
26. Wetlands are a specific focus in the report, however some of the key implications on wetlands from climate change have not been identified. For example, the impact on coastal wetlands in response to increasing sea levels. Active measures will be needed to transition habitats to new locations from areas which will no longer be able to support them. This may require land purchase and environmentally engineered habitats. This is not addressed in the draft NPSIB.

SNAs

27. The report's recommendation to identify, map and protect SNAs aligns well with WRC's current approach as set out in the RPS. The criteria to determine significance of the report are well aligned to RPS criteria. The draft NPSIB notes that councils can use criteria other than those in the NPSIB, providing the criteria substantially conform. While this gives some comfort that WRC's current criteria may not require modification, it does mean that this will remain a topic of considerable litigation.
28. Work is currently underway on the WRC Coastal Plan review to identify SNAs in the coastal marine area, using the criteria for determining significance of indigenous biodiversity as given in the RPS. Consideration could be given to using the draft NPSIB criteria in identifying significant areas, but there is a risk that the criteria will change in the final NPSIB. The RPS criteria will still be used and if necessary the work will be revised when the final NPSIB criteria are known.
29. The BCG has explicitly approached identification and management of SNAs as two distinct, independent steps:
 - Identification of significant natural areas: a technical, scientific question dependent on ecological analysis of the ecological attributes of an area.
 - Determining how activities in SNAs are managed: a policy question addressed in the report's section on maintaining indigenous biodiversity.

30. WRC's current approach provides the technical identification of sites, while the district councils undertake the policy development and community engagement process to determine an appropriate management regime. This reinforces the need for regional councils and territorial authorities to work together closely to ensure the two steps work well together.
31. The BCG anticipate the need for regional councils, territorial authorities, DOC and other government agencies to work together to ensure a cost-effective SNA identification and protection process. This more inclusive approach with greater central government commitment and resourcing is supported, as the requirement for councils to schedule and map all SNAs has significant financial implications, particularly for rural territorial authorities (TAs) with small rate-payer bases. While there is mention of contestable funding for TAs, this will still require them to allocate resource to this activity.

Geothermal SNAs

32. The current Regional Plan already contains provisions for managing the unique biodiversity values arising from geothermal activity. However, the NPSIB would not differentiate between these and other SNAs.
33. Given that WRC's existing provisions appear to be working well, there is some risk that the NPSIB could have unintended negative consequences for the management of these unique environments.
34. WRC believes that its current geothermal provisions in the Regional Plan are adequate, and have positive biodiversity outcomes in geothermal areas.
35. During the consultation and submission phase for a NPSIB, WRC will approach the Bay of Plenty Regional Council as partners in managing the Taupo volcanic zone, and will be informed by geothermal users.
36. The domain approach to managing habitats of indigenous biodiversity may work against the positive results achieved with regard to modified terrestrial biodiversity influenced by geothermal conditions. Currently these are protected and managed as Significant Geothermal Features and are analogous to SNAs. They are identified in the RPS to ensure that regional and district plans are aligned in their management.

Regional plan implications

37. If adopted by the Government, and subject to the statutory consultation process, the Regional Plan and Regional Coastal Plan will be required to give effect to the NPSIB, and this will be achieved through the plan review process.
38. While the timing of a proposed NPSIB and gazettal of a final NPSIB is uncertain, the revised schedule for the review of the Regional Coastal Plan and Regional Plan (Phase 1 notified in 2021 and Phase 2 in 2022) should provide sufficient opportunity to ensure consistency with the NPSIB.
39. Policy 12 of the draft NPSIB requires regional councils to identify wetlands with ecological integrity (as guided by Appendix 3 of the draft NPSIB), and to include provisions to avoid loss or degradation of any such wetland, and enhance wetlands where they are degraded. Regional Councils are also required (with district councils) to identify and map areas of likely presence of highly mobile indigenous fauna species which are at risk or threatened, and manage adverse effects on these species (draft NPSIB Policy 14). This applies to species that may depend on habitat outside of SNAs. This may require additional survey work and information about these species and their habitat requirements.

Regional biodiversity strategies

40. Staff support the BCG's approach to manage biodiversity through development of regional biodiversity strategies. This tool is considered an ideal vehicle for aligning and co-ordinating a range of non-regulatory methods, and significant alignment is provided by RPS Method 11.1.11 – Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies (LIBS).

41. In developing LIBS with several territorial authorities, the direction provided by the RPS was helpful in ensuring that these strategies were undertaken. Once started, the collaborative process used helped to build support over time.
42. Staff are of the view that Regional Biodiversity Strategies (either as part of regional scale spatial plans or standalone documents) would need to include positive climate change responses, such as transition of SNAs and the extent of mitigation and offset areas.

Monitoring and reporting

43. The BCG includes a policy for monitoring and reporting, but has not provided specific details of such a policy. Instead, the BCG provides “broad terms” that it would like to see developed into a policy for the finalised NPSIB. These are:
 - regional councils, in cooperation with territorial councils, to monitor the condition and state of indigenous biodiversity and SNAs in their region
 - monitoring to be undertaken to nationally agreed standards
 - the reporting of information at appropriate intervals.
44. The proposed monitoring framework would require significant resources to set up and administer.

Next steps

45. The BCG’s report is being considered by central government officials and ministers and will be subject to a cost-benefit analysis. This will be followed by a full consultation process in accordance with the RMA before it is considered by the government for final approval.
46. Staff will review any consultation documents regarding the suggested work programme and/or the NPSIB and prepare a draft submissions for the Council’s consideration prior to lodgement with the Ministry.

Attachments

1. Table 1 - High level assessment: NPSIB policies against Waikato Regional Policy Statement (Doc # 13364925).

Attachment 1: Table 1 – High level assessment: NPSIB policies against Waikato Regional Policy Statement

Legend	
Green	General alignment between the draft NPSIB and RPS
Amber	Some alignment, but potential changes needed to WRC policies
Red	Likely to be significant implications for WRC

NPSIB	Relevant RPS policies and methods	Alignment	Comment
1. Hutia Te Rito	<p>Policy 4.3 <i>Tāngata whenua</i></p> <p>4.3.1: <i>Strategic partnerships with iwi authorities</i></p> <p>4.3.2 <i>Tāngata whenua involvement</i></p> <p>4.3.3 <i>Kaitiakitanga</i></p> <p>4.3.4 <i>Use and enjoyment of resources</i></p> <p>Policy 11.1: <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i></p> <p>11.1.1 h) <i>Tāngata whenua relationships with indigenous biodiversity including their holistic view of ecosystems and the environment</i></p> <p>Policy 11.3: <i>Collaborative management</i></p> <p>11.3.1 <i>Working with tāngata whenua</i></p> <p>11.3.2 <i>Education and advocacy</i></p>	G	<p>Both the RPS and NPSIB include policies that recognise the holistic and interconnected relationship between people and the environment.</p> <p>WRC and local authorities develop strategic and formal partnerships with iwi authorities.</p>
2. Tāngata whenua as kaitiaki	<p>Policy 4.3 <i>Tāngata whenua</i></p> <p>4.3.1: <i>Strategic partnerships with iwi authorities</i></p> <p>4.3.2 <i>Tāngata whenua involvement</i></p> <p>4.3.3 <i>Kaitiakitanga</i></p> <p>4.3.4 <i>Use and enjoyment of resources</i></p> <p>Policy 11.1: <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i></p> <p>11.1.1 h) <i>Tāngata whenua relationships with indigenous biodiversity including their holistic view of ecosystems and the environment</i></p> <p>Policy 11.3: <i>Collaborative management</i></p> <p>11.3.1 <i>Working with tāngata whenua</i></p> <p>11.3.2 <i>Education and advocacy</i></p>	G	<p>Both the RPS and NPSIB include policies that recognise the holistic and interconnected relationship between people and the environment.</p> <p>WRC and local authorities develop strategic and formal partnerships with iwi authorities.</p>
3. Consideration of climate change	<p>Policy 11.2: <i>Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna</i></p> <p>11.2.2 <i>Protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna</i></p>	G	RPS policies promote connectivity and linking of SNAs, and express the full range of ecosystems.

NPSIB	Relevant RPS policies and methods	Alignment	Comment
	11.2.4 Identify threats to areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.		
4. Identification of significant natural areas	Policy 11.2: Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna 11.2.1 Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna 11.2.2 Protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna 11.2.3 Assess significance 11.2.4 Identify threats to areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.	A	The NPSIB policy requires the identification of significant natural areas against set criteria. The scheduling and mapping in plans reinforces current practice set by RPS policy 11.2 and the RPS significance criteria in Table 11A, however there are some difference between the criteria which would require some changes.
5. Precautionary approach (note: the BCG could not come to an agreed policy, but notes this is an area for further work)	Implementation methods 4.1.9 Planning approach 4.1.9 c) adopt a precautionary approach towards any proposed activity whose effects may be significant or irreversible but are as yet uncertain, unknown, or little understood...	G	The NPSIB signals a precautionary approach towards activities with effects on indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems that are uncertain or unknown. RPS policy requires for a precautionary approach under 4.1.9 c).
6. Managing effects within a SNA	Policy 10.2 Relationship of Māori to taonga Implementation methods 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	This requires a level of detail beyond what the RPS provides. District plans should control activities in SNAs.
7. Providing for social, cultural and economic wellbeing	Policy 10.2 Relationship of Māori to taonga Implementation methods 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	Both policies recognise and provide for the relationship of tangata whenua and their culture and traditions. Policies recognise that adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity within terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments are cumulative. Regional and district plans should include permitted activities where they will have minor adverse effects in relation to the maintenance or protection of indigenous biodiversity.

NPSIB	Relevant RPS policies and methods	Alignment	Comment
8. Replacement consents	Implementation methods 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	<p>The RPS provides guidance on adverse effects to be avoided, remedied, mitigated and offset when managing the effects of activities.</p> <p>WRC and local authorities should include permitted activities where they will have minor adverse effects in relation to the maintenance or protection of indigenous biodiversity.</p>
9. Existing activities	Implementation methods 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	<p>The RPS provides guidance on adverse effects to be avoided, remedied, mitigated and offset when managing the effects of activities.</p> <p>WRC and local authorities should include permitted activities where they will have minor adverse effects in relation to the maintenance or protection of indigenous biodiversity.</p>
10. Providing for Māori cultural activities and Māori land	Policy 4.3 Tāngata whenua 4.3.1 : Strategic partnerships with iwi authorities 4.3.2 Tāngata whenua involvement 4.3.3 Kaitiakitanga 4.3.4 Use and enjoyment of resources Policy 6.4 : Marae and papakāinga 6.4.1 Provision for marae and papakāinga 6.4.2 Sustainability of marae and papakāinga 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	RPS policies provide for the recognition of marae and papakāinga and provide for their ongoing use and development.
11. Managing effects outside SNAs	Policy 11.1 : Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity 11.1.3 Avoidance, remediation, mitigation and offsetting (for indigenous biodiversity that is not significant) 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.4 Recognition of activities having minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity	G	<p>The RPS provides guidance on adverse effects to be avoided, remedied, mitigated and offset when managing the effects of activities outside SNAs.</p> <p>The RPS also provides for WRC and local authorities to include permitted activities where they will have minor adverse effects in relation to the maintenance or protection of indigenous biodiversity</p>
12. Protecting and enhancing wetlands	Policy 8.2 Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands Policy 11.1 Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity 11.1.1 Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity 11.1.2 Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity 11.1.6 Biodiversity inventory	G	Current RPS policies promote positive indigenous biodiversity outcomes to maintain. This includes wetlands.

NPSIB	Relevant RPS policies and methods	Alignment	Comment
	<p><i>11.1.7 Threatened species information</i> <i>11.1.9 Pest management</i> <i>11.1.11 Local indigenous biodiversity strategies</i></p>		
<p>0. Freshwater and biodiversity (note: BCG requests that MfE revisit this policy in line with the BCG's recommendations)</p>	<p>Policy 11.1 <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.1 <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.2 <i>Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.6 <i>Biodiversity inventory</i> 11.1.7 <i>Threatened species information</i> 11.1.9 <i>Pest management</i> 11.1.11 <i>Local indigenous biodiversity strategies</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This area cannot fully be assessed as no policy detail is provided in the draft NPSIB.</p> <p>There is potential for alignment with RPS chapters 8: Freshwater and 11: Indigenous Biodiversity.</p>
<p>13. Managing Taonga</p>	<p>Policy 11.1 <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.1 <i>Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.2 <i>Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity</i> 11.1.6 <i>Biodiversity inventory</i> 11.1.7 <i>Threatened species information</i> 11.1.9 <i>Pest management</i> 11.1.11 <i>Local indigenous biodiversity strategies</i></p>	<p>G</p>	<p>These RPS policies promote positive indigenous biodiversity outcomes to maintain the full range of ecosystem types and maintain or enhance their spatial extent as necessary to achieve healthy ecological functioning of ecosystems.</p> <p>Changes would be required to the implementation of RPS policies to require mapping and descriptions of species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga. There could be sensitivities around information gathering and sharing.</p>
<p>14. Protecting highly mobile indigenous fauna</p>		<p>R</p>	<p>There are no WRC policies that specifically refer to highly mobile fauna.</p> <p>Regional and district councils would be required to identify and map areas of highly mobile indigenous fauna species which are at risk or threatened, and manage adverse effects on these species. This applies to species which may depend on habitat outside of SNAs, and may require additional survey work and information about these species and their habitat requirements.</p>
<p>15. Assessing environmental effects on indigenous biodiversity</p>	<p>Policy 4.1: Integrated approach Implementation method 11.1.2 <i>Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity</i></p>	<p>G</p>	<p>The RPS provides for regional and district plans to recognise adverse effects on biodiversity.</p>
<p>16. Integrating decision-making</p>	<p>Implementation method 11.1.11 <i>Local indigenous biodiversity strategies</i></p>	<p>G</p>	<p>Aligns well with an extension of the LIBS framework, toolbox and support structure to be completed by June 2019.</p>
<p>17. Enhancing and restoring through regional biodiversity strategies</p>	<p>Implementation method 11.1.11 <i>Local indigenous biodiversity strategies</i></p>	<p>G</p>	<p>Aligns well with an extension of the LIBS framework, toolbox and support structure to be completed by June 2019.</p>

NPSIB	Relevant RPS policies and methods	Alignment	Comment
18. Maintenance, enhancement and restoration of significant natural areas, connectivity, and buffering	<i>Implementation method 11.1.11</i> Local indigenous biodiversity strategies	G	Aligns well with an extension of the LIBS framework, toolbox and support structure to be completed by June 2019.
19. Restoring indigenous biodiversity depleted environments	<i>Implementation method 11.1.11</i> Local indigenous biodiversity strategies	G	Aligns well with an extension of the LIBS framework, toolbox and support structure to be completed by June 2019.
20. Restoring and enhancing through transferable development rights		G	The RPS is silent on this, but it is not excluded as a plan tool.
21. Monitoring and reporting	<i>Implementation method 4.1.14</i> Monitoring and information gathering <i>11.1.5</i> Information gathering <i>11.1.6</i> Biodiversity inventory	R	This is an area that once fully formed could have significant implications for WRC in developing a robust monitoring system that meets our needs and those of territorial authorities.
22. Implementing this national policy statement		G	While WRC generally aligns with the draft NPSIB, there will likely be small changes required to meet the requirement to notify a plan change within 6 years.

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	Gavin Ion Chief Executive
Date	12 June 2019
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318
Report Title	WLASS Governance Changes

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to update Councillors and to keep everyone informed of the changes to the Board of Waikato Local Authority Shared Services (WLASS) that will come into effect on 1 July 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Executive be received.

3. ATTACHMENTS

Letter WLASS Governance Board Composition

Gavin Ion
Waikato District Council
By email: gavin.ion@waidc.govt.nz

7 June 2019

Dear Gavin

Change in Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd's governance

As you are aware the Board of Waikato Local Authority Shared Services (WLISS) earlier this year sought various resolutions from its shareholders to change the constitution of the company. Those changes related to reducing the number on the Board from twelve to six Directors (including an independent Chair).

I can confirm that the shareholders have supported the resolutions and with that mandate, the process for appointing the independent Chair has commenced.

I would like to thank your Council for its support of the changes and what the Board is trying to achieve with the transformation of the company.

The composition of the Board will, initially, be:

Independent (Chair)

[To be confirmed]

Blair Bowcott	Hamilton City
Gareth Green	Taupo District (representing Otorohanga, Rotorua, South Waikato, Taupo and Waitomo Districts)
Gavin Ion	Waikato District (representing Waikato and Waipa Districts)
Vaughan Payne	Waikato Regional Council
Rob Williams	Thames-Coromandel District (representing Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel Districts)

The new Board will come into effect on 1 July 2019.

Should you have any questions regarding the attached please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Kelvin French
Chief Executive

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	Tony Whittaker Chief Operating Officer
Date	07 June 2019
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Ref #	GOV1318
Report Title	Financial Review of Key Projects

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To update the Strategy & Finance Committee on the monitoring and process that has been undertaken during 2017/2018 to ensure that the financial implications of projects are known at an early stage and to agree a list of projects for the 2018/19 financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Operating Officer be received.

3. BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive, on an annual basis, provides details on a range of projects to be monitored and reported to the Strategy & Finance Committee. The Chief Operating Officer will now be delivering this report. The projects are selected based on value, level of risk and other factors. A series of projects were identified for particular scrutiny during 2018/2019. Regular reports are provided on progress.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

Council has been kept fully informed of the financial consequences of the key projects that were identified at the start of the financial year. This is an interim report for the 2018/2019 financial year and supplements monthly reports to the Infrastructure Committee on the detailed projects.

The table attached to this report gives an update on the specific projects that Council wished to be given special consideration. The list was based on the major non-roading projects which Council planned to undertake for 2018/2019, including carry forwards.

Council has historically chosen not to reduce the upfront risk. This could have been done by investing in advance design work or other scoping work in advance of setting budgets.

It should also be noted that the nature of a number of these projects is that problems are only uncovered when Council undertakes the project. Reticulation issues, for example, are hidden until the pipes are exposed. Topographical and geotechnical issues can also arise in relation to a number of projects.

Some of the projects are delayed for strategic reasons or are developer led and consequently timing from a council perspective is uncertain. An example is where we were awaiting a final decision on our Housing Infrastructure Fund application. This impacted the upgrade of our Huntly Wastewater Plant.

Councillors should also note that the purpose of this report is to identify progress with key projects from a financial perspective. This simply means that issues are identified earlier so that Council can make decisions before committing Council funds. It does not give certainty around the tender process as this is driven often by market forces, not by the project itself.

Councillors have now indicated their willingness to review the risk management approach on some key projects. This will be worked through in the next year.

4.2 OPTIONS

This report is largely for information only. It is to update Councillors on progress with the financial implications of the key projects identified for the 2018/2019 financial year.

The report contains the latest forecast cost and a comparison to the budget allocation.

Council may consider that other actions should be taken to control costs. The emphasis of the report and the requirement was to identify potential issues and to advise Council so that cost implications could be considered before work proceeds.

Any technical questions about the projects or infrastructure requirements should be addressed at the Infrastructure Committee meeting, not as part of this report.

The following is the list of projects agreed for the new financial year:

- Mangawara Bridge construction (Taupiri)
- Raglan wastewater treatment plant upgrade
- Raglan wastewater rising main renewals
- Te Kauwhata water supply reservoir extensions
- Te Kauwhata wastewater reticulation extensions
- Tamahere Recreation Reserve Project
- Tamahere sports ground
- Ngaruawahia library
- Tuakau cemetery
- Pokeno parks and reserves
- Tuakau dog pound

It should be noted that some of the projects are contingent on the speed of development and are controlled by developers rather than Council.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 FINANCIAL

All of the projects included in the list form part of the Annual Plan for 2018/2019 or are carry forwards.

5.2 LEGAL

As part of undertaking the work, Council needs to ensure that the approach taken is consistent with the Purpose of Local Government.

Under this Act, good quality in relation to local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions means infrastructure, services and performance that are efficient, effective and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances.

In other words, to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

5.3 STRATEGY, PLANS, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

The report is concerned with delivering the Council vision of Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities.

Projects such as water and wastewater schemes that impact on the Waikato River are of particular significance to Tangata Whenua. For example, discussions are ongoing with Iwi around wastewater and reservoir projects.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Councillors will review the list of key projects and identify any change in significance, where appropriate.

Highest levels of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	This report is an update on progress. It is to inform.				

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

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
		✓	Internal
	✓		Community Boards/Community Committees
	✓		Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi
	✓		Households
	✓		Business
			Other Please Specify

6. CONCLUSION

Staff believe that appropriate systems are in place to identify the cost implications of the various key projects that Council wished to ensure were given additional monitoring during the year. Council has been kept informed of cost implications as they arise. This report provides an update on progress with the key projects for 2018/2019.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Financial Review of Key Projects

KEY PROJECTS

Project Description	Full Year Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Budget	Full Year Forecast	Expected Completion Date	Progress & Risk Comment
Mangawara Bridge construction (Taupiri)	3,299,408	95,039	3,204,369	1,350,000	Mar-20	This project will now commence in September. The delay has been due to our need to co-ordinate all parties and finalise the costs. The year end forecast is based on design fees and purchasing of the steel component for the project.
Raglan wastewater treatment plant upgrade	1,156,861	210,430	946,431	128,051	Dec-19	Project on hold as Watercare Services Ltd (WSL) will procure and deliver the project, they have an alternate source for the membrane so feel they can undertake this project more cost effectively.
Raglan wastewater high risk rising main renewals	645,373	619,410	25,963	480,269	May-19	District Wide Wastewater pump station and Raglan Rising Mains renewals physical works over thirty-one sites are now complete. Project completion now requires a walk-over each site to conduct assessment for practical completion, identification of potential defects, remedy requirements, project debriefs between parties, and finalise capitalisation .
Te Kauwhata water supply reservoir extensions	1,010,213	35,887	974,326	170,000	Jun-21	Land secured. Scoping Instruction for Service for concept design and Implementation Plan is complete and paper is being submitted to the Infrastructure Committee for further direction.
Te Kauwhata wastewater reticulation extensions	4,376,888	81,307	4,295,581	170,000	Jun-23	A report was presented to Council in September 2018 to update the Housing Infrastructure Fund Detailed Business Case with an alternative option for wastewater treatment.
Ngaruawahia Library	750,000	26,767	723,233	750,000		A meeting was held with key stakeholders (property team, business owners and stakeholder groups). An agreement was reached to prepare an options report for the library building noting structural, community and parking requirements. The Property team will make contact with property owners and investigate options for access ways.
Ngaruawahia Community Facility	1,901,280	99,099	1,802,181	1,901,280		A meeting was held with key stakeholders (property team, business owners and stakeholder groups). An agreement was reached to proceed with preparing an options report that includes the adjacent property owners development plans. Property team to make contact with property owners. Options report to be produced by previous consultant (Gavin Donald).
Pokeno parks and reserves	3,285,632	972,471	2,313,161	972,471	Various	Timing is determined by the developer. Only one land purchase has been completed this financial year.
Tamahere recreation reserve	3,280,793	3,211,576	69,217	2,780,793	Jun-19	Project is almost complete. The final walkover with the asset owner has been done and the official opening has been discussed with relevant parties. The playground will be opened to the public mid June 2019 prior to the official opening day.
Tamahere sports ground	550,000	518,674	31,326	550,000	Jun-19	The Tamahere Park carpark is 95% complete. Final connection of power supply is pending application submitted to Contact Energy. Waipa Network to finalise supply installation, date to be confirmed.
Tuakau cemetery	750,000	160,623	589,377	750,000	May-19	Main construction works to commence in the upcoming construction period (late 2019 - early 2020). The resource consent has been issued and the contract documentation is being prepared. Road widening works have been completed.
Tuakau Dog Pound Land Purchase	525,760	149	525,611	149	Jul-20	The activity requirements have been scoped. Consultants have identified a number of possible sites for consideration – including evaluation and priority. An opportunity to consider co-location with other compatible Council activities (waste recovery and recycling) is being considered – this involves a lease model, rather than outright ownership.

Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	A Diaz Chief Financial Officer
Date	7 June 2019
Prepared by	Finance Planning & Reporting Team
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318 / 2261011
Report Title	Financial performance summary for the period ending 31 May 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents year-to-date financial performance against the 2018/19 Annual Plan and those budgets carried forward from the 2017/18 financial year.

The report provides a summary of revenue and expenses, capital expenditure and key reserve balances.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Financial Officer be received.

3. ATTACHMENTS

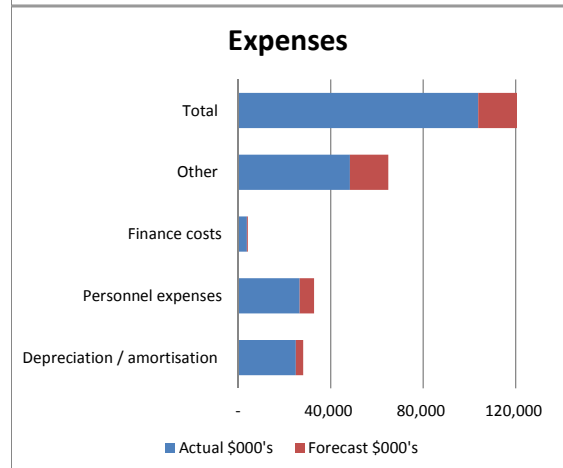
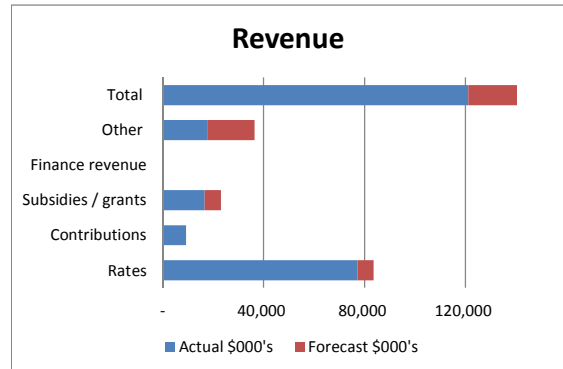
Financial Performance Summary

AT A GLANCE

Cashflow forecasts in February anticipated a further \$24 million in capital spend before 30 June, bringing total capital spend expectations to around \$54 million. A spend of \$12 million would be required in the month of June to deliver on the February forecasts. Subsidy income is in part related to capital works so is also below year-to-date expected levels. Development and financial contributions are ahead of forecast, and rating income including penalties will exceed the full year budget.

	May-18	Open Bal
Reserve Balances Summary	\$000's	\$000's
Restricted reserves	194	187
Council reserves	22,023	27,543
Development contributions	(41,403)	(36,737)
Replacement funds	18,620	16,084
Targeted rate reserves	(5,376)	(6,403)
Total	(5,942)	674

	May-18	Open Bal
Key reserves (included in balances above)	\$000's	\$000's
Disaster recovery	412	407
Hamilton East Property proceeds	2,308	2,308
Structure plan non-growth reserve	918	887
Northgate development area	(4,270)	(4,112)
Pokeno Structure plan	(12,549)	(11,680)
Tamahere Structure plan	(2,020)	(2,050)
DW water targeted rate	(5,429)	(4,395)
DW wastewater targeted rate	(3,106)	(4,819)



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

For the period ending 31 May 2019					
	Actual \$000's	FY Forecast \$000's	% usage	YTD Variance \$000's	Ref.
Revenue					
Rates	77,211	83,579	92%	(597)	1
Development and financial contributions	9,226	6,174	149%	(3,566)	2
Subsidies and grants	16,601	23,020	72%	4,501	3
Finance revenue	356	130	274%	(237)	4
Other revenue	17,811	36,388	49%	15,544	5
Total revenue	121,205	149,291	81%	15,645	
Expense					
Depreciation and amortisation expense	24,973	28,165	89%	845	6
Personnel expenses	26,673	32,779	81%	3,374	7
Finance costs	3,855	4,267	90%	57	
Other expenses	48,363	64,943	74%	11,168	8
Total operating expenses	103,864	130,154	80%	15,444	
Surplus (deficit) before tax	17,341	19,137	91%	201	

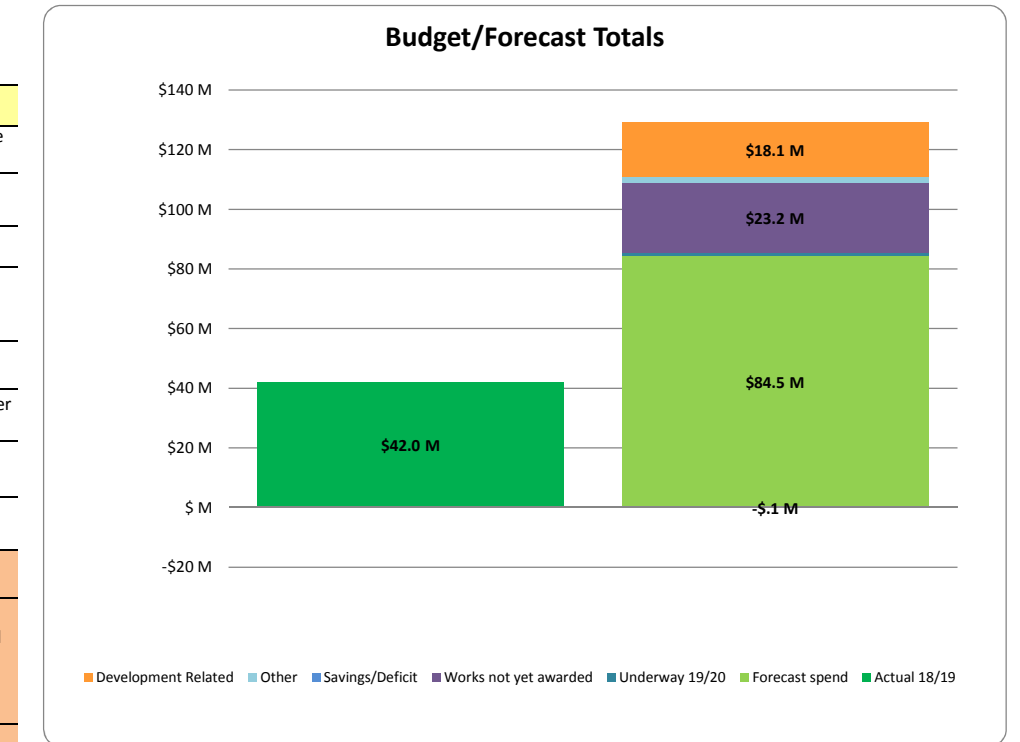
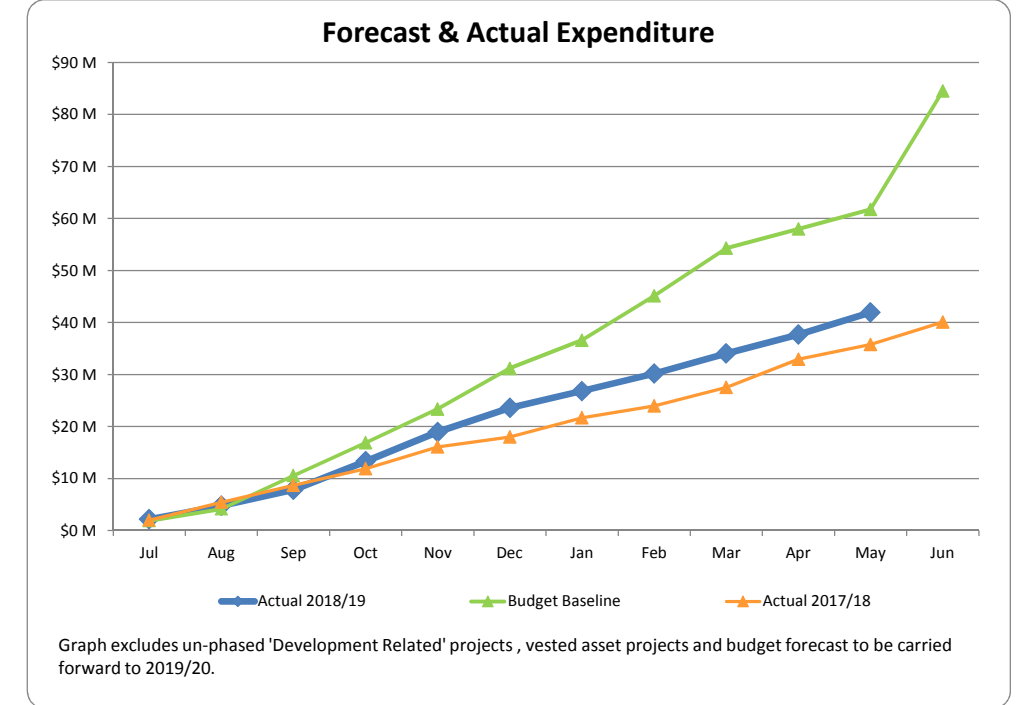
Year-to-date net operating surplus of \$17.3 million is on track in terms of year to date expectations in overall terms. Items to note are as follows:

- Income**
- Favourable - Rating income is above long term plan budget expectations for the year. The results are nett of both penalty income and remission costs which are similar in quantum to the same period in the prior financial year.
 - Favourable - Contribution income is above year to date expectations. Approximately \$960,000 relates to older consents with financial contributions, with the remainder coming from development contributions (DCs). Approximately 49% of the DC income recognised relates to Pokeno.
 - Unfavourable - Subsidy is linked to physical work programmes. From an operational spend perspective, both routine drainage and structure maintenance costs are below year-to-date expectations. The new low cost/low risk category of NZTA is where the majority of the variance lies in terms of roading capital spend. The emergency works category is also behind forecast.
 - Favourable - Permanent variance from unbudgeted term deposit interest
 - Unfavourable - Timing of vested assets. Almost \$16 million is expected to be vested in the Horotiu and Pokeno areas before 30 June.
- Expense**
- Favourable - impact from lower spend in capital work programme.
 - Favourable - Impact of vacancies.
 - Favourable - Operational work programme variance.

Net Operating Surplus (Deficit) Breakdown	Actual \$000's	FY Forecast \$000's	YTD Variance \$000's	Favourable / Unfavourable
Roading	7,565	27,201	17,369	U - With the exception of DC's all income categories are down
Water	1,517	(202)	(1,702)	F - Low levels of activity expenditure
Wastewater	3,327	865	(2,534)	F - Low levels of activity expenditure
Stormwater	1,031	(805)	(1,769)	F - Low levels of activity expenditure
Sustainable Communities	2,259	(537)	(2,751)	F - Timing of grant payments
Sustainable Environment	(89)	(519)	(387)	F - Lower income levels matched by lower expenditure
Governance	(12)	(826)	(745)	F - Timing of grant payments
Organisational Support	(1,749)	(6,041)	(3,788)	F - Low levels of activity expenditure
Total Group of Activities	13,849	19,137	3,693	
General rate usage	3,491	-	(3,491)	F - The general rate income recognised currently exceeds the amount of general rate used. This number adjusts throughout the year relative to activity expenditure
Surplus (deficit)	17,340	19,137	202	

Capital expenditure	Actual \$000's	FY Budget \$000's	% usage
Roading	19,532	59,239	33%
Water	3,830	19,762	19%
Wastewater	4,295	19,759	22%
Stormwater	1,904	7,441	26%
Sustainable Communities (P&R, halls, pools, toilets, walkways)	10,256	25,008	41%
Sustainable Environment (landfills)	23	153	15%
Governance	83	-	0%
Organisational Support (plant, offices/libraries & IM)	2,036	7,915	26%
Total Group of Activities	41,959	139,277	30%

The "FY Forecast" relates to the first year of the LTP, including vested assets plus any carry forward works from 2017/18. The work programme was resized to a programme of approximately \$83 million. The budgets do not reflect these changes.



Open Meeting

To	Strategy & Finance Committee
From	Gavin Ion Chief Executive
Date	18 June 2019
Prepared by	Lynette Wainwright Committee Secretary
Chief Executive Approved	Y
Reference #	GOV1318
Report Title	Exclusion of the Public

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To exclude the public from the whole or part of the proceedings of the meeting to enable to the Strategy & Finance Committee to deliberate and made decisions in private on public excluded items.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Executive be received;

AND THAT the public be excluded from the meeting to enable the Strategy & Finance Committee to deliberate and make decisions on the following items of business:

Confirmation of Minutes dated Wednesday 29 May 2019

REPORTS

a. Economic & Community Development Verbal Update

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution to withhold exists under:	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution is:
Section 7(2)(f)(i) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(i) Section 7(2)(j)	Section 48(1)(3)(a) Section 48(1)(3)(d)