

# WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

---

Councillor Pamela Storey

Waikato Constituency  
Chair Strategy and Policy Committee





# What I will be covering

- An overview of the role of the Regional Council
- Public transport
- Economic development
- Weed & Pest strategy



# My Role as Your WRC Councillor

- Ensuring
  - The rural community voice is clear and strong
  - Impacts on rural communities are at the forefront of council's minds
- Take an all of region approach, and ... advocate strongly for my constituency
- Chair Strategy & Policy, Chair Submissions Subcommittee, Member of CEERC, Risk & Assurance, Integrated Catchment, Regional Partnerships, LW Flood Protection Advisory, Waikato Land Drainage Advisory; alt on Future Proof, Hauraki Gulf Forum, and Waikato Tainui JMA; WRC Appointed trustee on Waikato Farm Environment Awards Trust and LW Ecological Trust







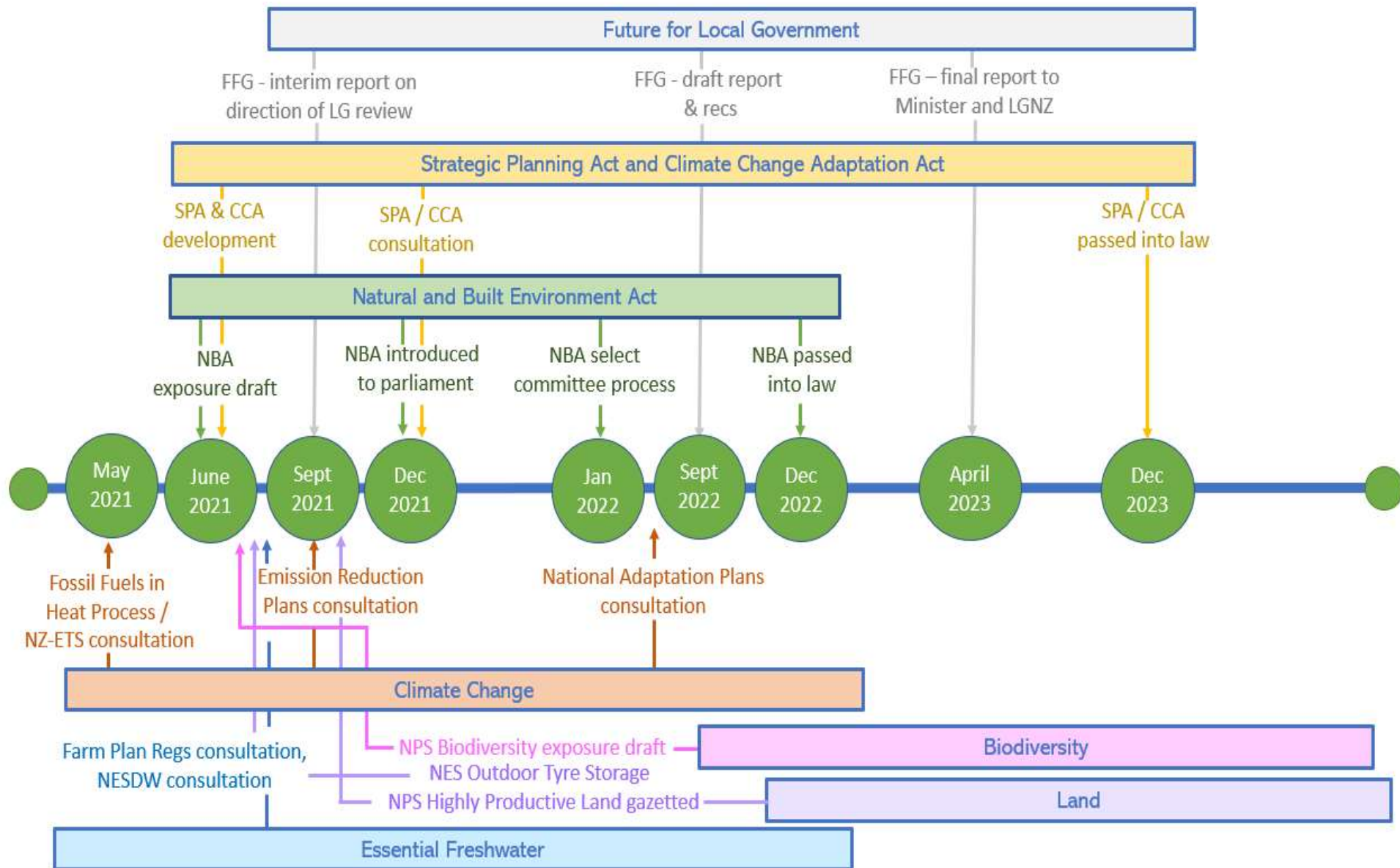
# WRC Responsibilities

- **Our legislative responsibilities are provided under:**
  - Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002, Land Transport Act 1998, Biosecurity Act 1993, Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- **These responsibilities include:**
  - **Regional planning and leadership**
  - Regional civil defence
  - **Regional land transport**
  - Managing the effects of activities on air, soil, coastal and water resources
  - Regional research and investigation
  - Flood control and drainage
  - **Animal and plant pest control**
  - Environmental education.



# How does everything fit together

- Very complicated legislative framework that local/regional government works under
- It's a learning journey!
- Some things we get to develop a regional response to (i.e. Plan Change 1), and some things that we must implement as directions from central government, we don't get an opportunity to customize for the region (NES and Regulations)
- Where we do get to develop a regional response, we need to have regard to everything that sits 'above'







# Public Transport

- **Submissions hearing on the Draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2051 recently concluded**
- **Launch of the Tuakau-Pokeno-Pukekohe bus service in January 2021**
- **Te Huia launched in April 2021**
- **LTP decision has brought forward extension of Te Huia service**
  - **12 month trial of an additional inter-peak weekday service commencing Dec 2021**
  - **Extension of Saturday service into The Strand, Auckland**
- **WRC submitted to WDC LTP**
  - **Prioritise business cases for additional station at Te Kauwhata and in the North Waikato**
  - **PT stops (bus or trains) are the jurisdiction of the District Council**
- **Raised connection with Auckland with the Regional Connections Committee**



# Economic Development

- **WRC is tasked with supporting and planning for our region's future growth & development**
- **Previously supported through**
  - Funding for Te Waka (Waikato Economic Development Agency) - \$300k pa through the general rate
  - Regional Development Fund – supports regionally significant projects which promote regional economic development, and are achieved in a way that also enhance environmental, social and cultural outcomes; funded through investment returns
- **LTP 2021-2031**
  - **Increase funding for Te Waka to \$750k pa funded through the Regional Development Fund**
  - **Decreased in balance of funding available through the Regional Development Fund**
- **Te Waka significantly underfunded as an EDA, Central Government will not be financially supporting any EDAs**





# Weed & Pest Management

- **Public Submissions to the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan 2021-2031 closed on 14 May 2021 with hearings to commence in August.**
- **The Biosecurity Act requires RPMPs align with the National Policy Direction (NPD) for Pest Management 2015**
- **Under the Biosecurity Act, affordability is a key test for the inclusion of pests in any programme in an RPMP. The Act requires that adequate funding be likely available for the management of each pest in a RPMP for at least five years.**
- **Previous RPMP listed a number of weeds and pest as “advisory”, there is no such definition in the NPD**
- **Proposing WRC puts limited resources into programmes that continue to make a difference in our region – including our priority possum control areas, restricting the spread of wallabies and alligator weed containment in the lower Waikato**



# Weed Management – Yellow Bristle Grass

## **Yellow Bristle Grass was removed from the proposed RPMP**

- Advisory category in previous RPMP
- Advisory plants are described as nuisance or weedy plants found throughout the region, some of which have been established for a considerable period – while undesirable, they are not declared official pest under the Biosecurity Act
- While the effects of these plants may be considered moderate to major, it would be impractical and too costly for Waikato Regional Council to undertake direct region wide control of them, or place obligations on landowners and occupiers to control them.
- Proposed to be managed in accordance with *Biosecurity Strategic Plan*
- Information on how to control these nuisance organisms and what assistance may be provided will also be available on Waikato Regional Council's website.





## **In Closing**

- **Thank you for the opportunity to speak**
- **Thank you to those who engaged in the LTP process**
- **Thank you for helping me to represent the views of this community around the WRC Council table**