

Report 08.198
Date 1 April 2008
File ENV/12/07/02

Committee Regional Sustainability Committee
Author Tim Porteous, Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Biodiversity Implementation Plan

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of Greater Wellington's Biodiversity Implementation Plan.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Biodiversity Implementation Plan is guided by the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region. It provides the context for Greater Wellington's biodiversity programmes and will guide the Council's biodiversity function for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2012. The Biodiversity Action Plan is appended as Attachment One to this report.

The plan describes:

- the biodiversity issues facing the region and the priorities for action
- the mandate for the Council's biodiversity work
- the principles that guide the Council's approach
- the Council's current biodiversity programmes
- recommended priority work areas for the Council

4. Comment

There is a strong alignment between the approach this Council takes to biodiversity and the direction advocated by central government through the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000) and the Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private land (2007).

It is widely recognised that the biodiversity most susceptible to degradation or loss in New Zealand is on private land, and that encouraging and enabling landowners is the key to 'turning the tide' on further loss. The situation is no different in our region. Consequently, there is an emphasis given in the Biodiversity Implementation Plan to working with private landowners. Among the priority actions identified in the plan are:

- developing a response to the roll-back of the current Bovine Tb vector control programme that results in considerable benefits to the region's indigenous biodiversity
- ensuring that biodiversity values are incorporated into the Council's farm planning activities, and
- working with the region's city and district councils to ensure that their planning documents adequately recognise and provide for the protection and maintenance of biodiversity on private land.

The plan also recognises that Greater Wellington is a significant landowner and should 'lead by example' by appropriately managing its own land (as well as other land it manages) to maximise the biodiversity values it contains.

Section 6.2 of the Biodiversity Implementation Plan contains a summary of the Council's core biodiversity programmes. Most programmes are guided by ecosystem-specific action plans or strategies. It is intended that the general approach to the region's biodiversity described in the Biodiversity Implementation Plan will be used to cyclically review these programmes or in the development of any new programmes.

5. Reporting progress

The Biodiversity Coordinating Group reports to the Executive Management Team and this committee every six months on progress towards implementing biodiversity programmes across the Council. Reporting against the Biodiversity Implementation Plan's Priority Actions 2008-2012 (Section 7) will be included in future six monthly reports.

6. Communication

The potential to publicise the Council's biodiversity initiatives is considerable and, wherever possible, opportunities are taken to publicise the beneficial outcomes of our biodiversity programmes.

Deleted: .

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Approves the Biodiversity Implementation Plan.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Tim Porteous
Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environment Policy

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management
Division

Attachment 1: Biodiversity Implementation Plan