

Biodiversity Advisory Group

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 2 November 2021

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: via Zoom

Meeting ID: 819 1999 3836

Passcode: 562511

Membership

Ashburton District Council:	Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair) Mayor Neil Brown (ex officio) Cr Diane Rawlinson Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)
DOC:	Ian Fraser and Brad Edwards
Environment Canterbury:	Donna Field (also Whitcombe Landcare Group rep) Janine Holland
Federated Farmers:	Mike Salvesen
Fish & Game:	Jayde Couper and Mark Webb
Fonterra:	Marcelo Wibmer
Foothills Landcare Group:	Gen de Spa
Forest & Bird, ACCT:	Val Clemens and Edith Smith
Forest & Bird Society:	Mary Ralston (also Awa Rata reserve rep)
Kānuka Trust:	No person specified
Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society:	Barry Austin
Synlait:	Michael Edmondson
QEII Trust:	Alice Shanks
Water Zone Committee:	Bill Thomas

Biodiversity Advisory Group

Timetable	
Time	Item
1.00pm	Meeting commences
1:10pm	Ian Hyde, ADC

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Extraordinary Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Previous Minutes & Actions** **3**
 - Confirmation of minutes 3/08/21
- 5 Significant Natural Areas**
Ian Hyde, ADC
- 6 Meeting Dates for 2022** **5**
- 7 Agency Updates** **6**
 - 7.1 Ashburton District Council
 - 7.2 ECan
 - 7.3 Forest & Bird

Biodiversity Advisory Group (Unconfirmed)

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 3 August, commencing at 1.00pm at the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present: Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair), and Diane Rawlinson; Bert Hofmans (ADC); Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.); Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra); Ian Soper (ADC); Edith Smith (Forest & Bird); Val Clemens (ACCT and Forest & Bird); Donna Field (ECan and Whitcombe Landcare Group) and Ian Fraser (DOC).

In attendance: Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Maria Captein (ECan); and Liv Olsen (Fonterra).

1 Apologies

Mike Salvesen and Mary Ralston.

Austin/Rawlinson

Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 8/06/21

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 8 June 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Smith/Rawlinson

Carried

5 Agency Updates

5.1 Val Clemens & Edith Smith (Forest and Bird)

- Updated on Braided seminar that occurred recently.
- Played a clip from TVNZ Q&A on significant natural areas (SNAs).

5.2 Bert Hofmans (Ashburton District Council)

- Biodiversity Officer will hopefully be recruited in second half of this year. The priorities of the position are still to be confirmed through the development of the position description. The business case will be used as the basis for this.
- Commented on follow up from field trip on 6 April: There has been no follow up on this other than it is a work in progress.

Ian Fraser (Department of Conservation)

- New whitebait regulations this season. Video explaining rule changes can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUEDKLG10Y4>

- Working with landowners/neighbours to repair fences from damage caused by the rain event at end of May.
- Intensification and extensions up tributaries of the Upper Rangitata trapping programme are close to being completed.
- Jobs for Nature projects are underway.
- LINZ have funded significant amount of weed control work in the south branch of the Hakatere river above Blowing Point bridge as well as possum control in the Stour valley in the past few months. This work will continue for the next three years.

Marcelo (Fonterra)

- Work still ongoing for the farms that were affected by the floods.

Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.)

- Working with DOC to clarify where they can and cannot spray.

Donna Field (Ecan and Whitcombe Landcare Group)

- Busy with flood relief.
- A number of audits coming in from farms.

Ian Soper (ADC)

- Plans progressing for native planting area in the Ashburton Domain.

The purpose of the minutes taken for each meeting was questioned. It was clarified that the purpose of minutes taken is to record attendance, recommendations to Council, resolutions and action points.

Action Points

Action	Person Responsible
Circulate report that Mike Harding is working on around Alford Forest Vegetation Monitoring	Bert Hofmans
Circulate web link to District Plan which shows location of all areas of significant nature conservation value (ASCVs).	Bert Hofmans
Invite Ian Hyde to next meeting to get more explanation from him on SNAs. Any questions to be sent to Governance@adc.govt.nz in advance.	Aisling O'Reilly

Next Meeting

Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 1:00pm

The meeting concluded at 2:30pm

6. 2022 Meeting Dates

1 February

5 April

7 June

2 August

1 November

7. Agency Updates

7.1 Ashburton District Council

Involved in Planting Natives 101 – assisted with the organisation of this event on 15 October 2021 and presented a paper on ‘Funding Options and Non-Financial Support for Planting Natives’.

7.2 Ecan

It is braided river bird season with projects starting up on the Ashburton river , at the mouth and with bird surveys.

We are fortunate to have 2 volunteer groups doing trapping at the river mouth on both the north and south side. There is also an extensive trapping program being managed by Excell and funded by ECAN in the upper reaches of the Ashburton.

Wildlife International Ltd is doing a monitoring program on the black fronted tern in the Upper reaches of the Rakaia River.

Work continues on Mt Harding Stream with 4 riparian planting projects and more to come. A bigger discussion will need to happen over how to keep the water in the natural watercourse rather than putting the flow down the stockwater channel at Methven during flood periods.

Yellow Flag Iris is a potentially damaging weed in the water way and is found from Methven down. It blocks water ways and is difficult to kill.

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/yellow-flag-iris/>



Staveley camp is continuing with their work on the removal of sycamore and cotoneaster in that beautiful remnant of native forest. This is a great example of “protecting what we have”. Protecting what we have, is the first priority of any biodiversity work program.

7.3 Forest & Bird

Chertsey Tussock Native Planting

I am reporting to Waka Kotahi about our plans for the Chertsey Tussocks native planting as I do each year.

I have confirmed with Colin Eade from Corrections that there are plans to continue their weed trimming work there.

We value the work his teams do at the site have been happy to manage the planting this way.

Weed trimming has been an effective method to manage the grass however on my recent visit last week there was heavy spring growth of exotic grasses. (Possibly due to less work being done by Corrections due to Covid)

While there, I spent quite some time hand weed releasing plants. Unfortunately I removed almost 80 guards from dead plants. Many more are in need of attention. It is always disappointing to lose many plants when we consider the time spent on propagation, planting and management to ensure a successful outcome.

I would like to recommend that there be weed release carried using an experienced spraying contractor who would identify the virtually hidden plants and judiciously spray to release them.

The older shrubs (over 10 years) are thriving and the area is becoming very visible to the passerby as you will have seen when travelling that way. My various contacts now notice the Chertsey tussocks and shrubland and it's good to have favourable comments about the site.

Doug Lowry's professional spraying to release those almost lost to rank grass about 3 years ago was very effective. It enabled plants to establish well.

While I was removing the dead plants amongst the rank grass in the more recently planted area, I found many shrubs still holding on. It would be ideal to spray these plants before the grass overwhelms them altogether

I have been in touch with Doug to see whether he would be able to fit it in with his busy schedule to spray the area this spring.

In conclusion, Colin Meurk from Landcare who was involved with the site at its initial development with Colin Hey (NZTA) has asked me to mention in my report to you that Chertsey Tussocks is now a significant Canterbury Plains restoration site which should be protected.

Colin's concern is that the site would be lost to road widening plans.

It would be good to have some reassurance with this matter too.

I look forward to an early response so that the weed spraying can proceed.

Kind regards

Edith Smith

Edith

Thanks for the update.

I'm not sure what status a "significant Canterbury Plains restoration site" confers on an area in regards its protection by we can enquire of our network and environmental people who can be investigate this with you.

One easy way for us to ensure the site is 'known to us' is to document a 'Licence to Occupy' agreement with your group. This is a simple, effectively no cost, 2 page

document that recognises who is utilising part of our road reserve land area. I'll follow up with this for your consideration.

You should be aware that the planted area width is approx. 12m on the outer edge of the road reserve and approx. 8 metres onto the adjacent private land owned by NC & MS Copland Ltd. To ensure the area is 'protected' you would also need to have some discussion with this landowner.

I can also ensure our contract registers are updated to more specifically detail the location of this planted area site within our Contract records so that again it is clearly identified and recorded for us now and into the future.

As we have advised previously, there are no current 'road widening plans' that will affect the planted area. There is a safety improvement project underway in the planning and design stage for SH1 between Selwyn River and Ashburton which will involve some minor shoulder and seal widening (approx. 2 metres) but there is ample road reserve width between the road edgeline and the fence to the planted area (about 8 metres) so there will be no effects from this project.

Can you please confirm the limits of the planted area are as per the snip below and inside the red lines?



Our funding is currently very constrained this year (due to Covid impacts) and so our ability to assist with maintenance is reduced, but regardless if you speak with Doug and ask him to do what spraying is required.

Ngā mihi aroha / Regards

John Keenan / Maintenance Contract Manager

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

South Canterbury Network Outcomes Contract

Biodiversity Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the advisory group is to:

- Coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Maintain partnerships between local and regional organisations with an interest in the management of indigenous biodiversity.
- Provide a forum for discussion and community-wide promotion of biodiversity.

Membership

Representatives on the working group were invited based on their organisation's participation in developing the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy, and/or their ability to contribute to the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.

Membership of the Advisory Group is:

Mayor, Neil Brown (ex officio)	ADC
Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair)	ADC
Cr Diane Rawlinson	ADC
Bill Thomas	Ashburton Water Zone Committee
Gen de Spa	Foothills Landcare Group
Alice Shanks	QE II
Mary Ralston/Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Forest and Bird
Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (ACCT)
Mike Salvesen	Federated Farmers
Mark Webb/Jayde Couper	Fish and Game
Donna Field	Whitcombe Landcare Group
Donna Field/Janine Holland	ECan
Ian Fraser/Brad Edwards	DOC
Michael Edmundson	Synlait
Marcelo Wibmer	Fonterra
<i>[No person specified]</i>	Kānuka Trust
Barry Austin	Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society
Mary Ralston	Awa Awa Rata Reserve
Vacant	Open Spaces Manager, ADC
Bert Hofmans	Open Spaces Planner, ADC

Speaking rights will be granted to one member of each of the advisory group member organisations at each meeting.

Membership of the group may be amended to include representatives from other organisations. This will be at the discretion of the Ashburton District Council.

To form a quorum, the attendance of representatives from at least 6 of the advisory group member organisations, in addition to at least two ADC local representatives, is required.

Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend advisory group meetings as the need arises.

Meeting Frequency

Meet five times a year.

Delegations

The representatives on the working group are expected to:

- Meet to coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Form project groups where appropriate to work towards specific actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Share information, both on organisational initiatives and collaborative initiatives, to support better decisions and knowledge of biodiversity.
- Communicate and consult with one another in a flexible and open way.
- Maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- Represent their organisations' policies.
- Respect other organisations' governance and policy approaches and priorities in the district / region, and seek a consensus approach to work with these.

Reporting

The Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group will report to Council.

Costs & Expenses

It is acknowledged that being a member of the advisory group will involve a commitment of members' time and energy, and will involve travel to Ashburton District Council to attend meetings. These costs will be met by the organisation(s) or group(s) that members represent. Costs of meetings and associated catering will be met by Ashburton District Council.

Meetings will generally be held in the Council meeting rooms, and may be held in other venues throughout the district as appropriate.

Adopted

9 April 2020 (*Amended 8/12/20*)