



Page 1

Q1

Our Vision is: A district where biodiversity is protected and enhanced from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) by a community that values and cares for it. Think about what our district, thriving with biodiversity, could look like in 20 years' time. What do you see?

There will be more native plantings in the district mostly done by dairy farmers wanting to meet market requirements and provide a better image to the travelling public. More small pockets of biodiversity will be restored by community or council led groups such as Wakanui Beach and Staveley Campsite Bush. On the plains and in the foothills the isolated remnants will continue to disappear. In the last 30 years many of the roadside plants on the plains and solitary Beech trees on foothills farms have gone, not necessarily by any malign intent but through natural processes. Private individuals will through a personal commitment to the environment. continue to protect and enhance biodiversity on their properties especially those with QE2 covenants

Q2

Do the goals and objectives of the strategy capture what you see as the key issues facing biodiversity in the district?

Yes,

Please explain::

Yes. The goals and objectives are all nice sounding words and well-meaning intentions. We don't support objectives such as 'knowledge of Manawhenua world view' whatever that means. The multicultural people of Ashburton District have had 160 years of experience of living and working in the district to refer to when planning for the future of our district.

Q3

What do you see as the top five priorities from the objectives mentioned in the strategy? Tick up to five objectives:

Support projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites

,

Encourage ecotourism,

Research and collect data on the state of biodiversity,

Encourage cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders

,

Support community projects that protect and maintain indigenous biodiversity

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

We have identified 55 actions to reach the goals in the strategy. You can read about them in the Action Plan on pages 28 - 35 of the draft strategy. Is there any specific action or anything else Council should be doing to support biodiversity in the district? Note – Goals and objectives related to water quality for rivers, lakes and wetlands are regulated via the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and therefore not part of this strategy.

Q5

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Ashburton District Council needs to recognise and support the work that QE2 National Trust does in this district, working with landowners. Collaboration and patience are the keys to success when dealing with landowners and QE2 staff have been very successful over the last 40 years. Some landowners need time to understand the value of their biodiversity before becoming fully committed to its preservation. QE2 covenants must continue to be a recognized alternative to District Plan rules. Recently a discussion Group of QE2 covenant holders has been formed to visit covenants and share ideas on how management of the covenant could be improved. This is an indicator of how QE2 has built up good relationships in this district. The Council needs to show a degree of flexibility when imposing planning rules in cases where landowners at their own cost, are carrying out large scale biodiversity protection work such as fencing and the creation of wetlands. The District Council officers tasked with communicating with landowners, need to understand the connection landowners have with their land especially when these landowners have/are expending considerable amounts of their time, and money creating and improving biodiversity on their land. What would be of major benefit to biodiversity in the Ashburton District would be if ADC was to work with ECAN and DOC to eradicate serious weeds in riverbeds such as Sycamores in Taylors Stream. Individual approaches to both authorities, has fallen on deaf ears. Sycamores are spreading into DOC forest and into private biodiversity. Alford Landcare Group representing landowners in the Foothills has been around in various forms for 30 years and initiated the ADC 'Alford Forest Vegetation Monitoring program' in 2001. This gave the District Council an opportunity to make a start at carrying out its obligations to monitor the environment in the district. The Council pays for the monitoring by an ecologist every 10 years. This program could be made more effective in providing the information that ADC needs, if the number of plots were increased and the frequency of monitoring reduced to every 5 years.

Page 2

Q6

Your contact details

Name

Alan Totty

Organisation (if appropriate)

Alford Landcare

Q7

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

No - I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that my written submission be fully considered.
