

Biodiversity Advisory Group

7 August 2023



Biodiversity Advisory Group Minutes

Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting was held on Monday 7 August 2023, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton, commencing at 1:00pm.

Present

Councillors Leen Braam (Chair), Councillors Lynette Lovett and Richard Wilson; Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), Adi Avnit, Edith Smith, Val Clemens, Angela Cushnie, Willy Leferink, Donna Field and Barry Austin

MS Teams: Alice Shanks and Lisa Peers-Adams

In attendance

Carol McAtamney (Governance Support)

1 Apologies

That apologies are received from Mayor Neil Brown, Mary Ralston, Kim Wall, Nick Vernon, Mike Salvesen and Janine Holland.

Wilson/Austin

Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 8 May 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Avnit/Smith

Carried

5 Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisors Report

A query was made as to whether the block of private land next to the coal mine at the back of Mt Somers is categorised as Rural C – Officers will check the boundaries and advise members.

That the Biodiversity Advisory Group receive the report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor

Braam/Clemens

Carried

6 Wilding Management in ADC Rural C Zone

Recommendation to Council

1. **That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group advocates that Environment Canterbury develop a management strategy to deal with existing shelterbelts that pose wilding risk potential in ADC Rural C Zone
2. **That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group invites the ADC Planning Manager to make a presentation about plantation forestry, shelterbelt and amenity planting rules to control wilding trees and explain the widespread green shelterbelt areas in Rural C area.

Smith/Clemens

Carried

7 Update of the Predator Free 2050 Project (2.04pm – 2.25pm)

Tim Exton and Ian Fraser from DOC joined the meeting and gave an update of the Predator Free 2050 project.

- Programme is community driven
- Target is the eradication of possums, rats and mustards (stoats, ferrets and weasels)
- Also looking at stray cats/hedgehogs
- Looking to work further with Ashburton District Council to get programme up and running in Ashburton

Angela Cushnie departed the meeting at 2.19pm

8 Update on the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

A request was made for a report to be bought to the next meeting outlining how the group can assist with the implementation processes of the NPS.

A copy of presentation from today's meeting is to be circulated to members.

Barry Austin departed the meeting at 2.42pm

That the Biodiversity Advisory Group receive the update/presentation on the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity.

Smith/Lovett

Carried

9 Environment Canterbury update

A copy of the Ashburton Rivermouth Hapua bird monitoring report by ornithologist Andrew Crossland that was referred to in the report is to be circulated to members.

10 Forest and Bird

• 100th Anniversary

Forest and Bird are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. To celebrate a photo exhibition is to be held at the Ashburton Art Gallery from 3 September 2023.

Next Meeting

Monday 6 November 2023, 1.30pm

The meeting concluded at 3:12pm.