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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?

The existing biodiversity we have has been protected and allowed to expand.

The high country and foothills retains its unique grey scrub communities and indiegnous vegetation, not exotic forestry. Corridors and patches of indigenous biodiversity especially along rivers allow for species interconnectedness and travel.

Native birds, insects and invertebrates are thriving.

Q2

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

No,

Please explain::

Overall I support the goals and objectives , particularly protect and maintain however they feel somewhat light. In 2008 ADC signed the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury region. The guiding principle for this "focus first on protecting and maintaining what remains, and then on restoring what has been lost", needs to be kept as a priority. One of the biggest issues is there is little budget for compliance and monitoring of existing rules such as vegetaion clearance. This needs to be part of the objectives. Protect and Maintain The majority of the Ashburton district has less than 10% of its indigenous habitat remaining.All that is here needs to be protected , not just that which human deem significant. It reads that development and human activity takes priority over ecological values and that we can manage loss of biodiversity through compensation and off setting. I am concerned that there may be an acceptance that it is OK to remove remaining biodiversity and off set by plantings. Weeds (particularly ecological weeds) and clearance are our biggest threats to biodiversity

Q3

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

Prevent further loss of threatened indigenous species via pest control

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Properly manage human activity on biodiversity,

Interconnect biodiversity sites and threatened species habitats

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Support projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites

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Council to take a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement

Q4

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.

Goal 1

1.1

Under 1.1 D- Much work and money has been put into the Hinds Drains already and many are ECAN managed as well as having an active working party. (This seems like a tick box that can be said has been done already) It seems that there would be better areas to target to do ecological assessments on. The 3 that I see are very threatened are the foothills, the high country and the coastal dongas. These would be higher priority to do ecological assessments on.

1.3

Under 1.3 . Weeds (particularly ecological weeds) and clearance of vegetation are our biggest threats to biodiversity. I would like to see more specific actions in this section. I realise that it weed and pest control is an ongoing expense and good on ADC for controlling in their own reserves and land however action A is non committal and weak as a statement on how weeds and pests will be addressed by ADC on non ADC managed land.

Additional actions.

Under 1.3 Weeds (particularly ecological weeds) and clearance are our biggest threats to biodiversity.

ADC needs to keep its current rule on planting of high threat weed species in rural B and C . This is plants like sycamores, willows poplars etc. Species also need to be updated.

I would like this put in as an action.

This rule also needs to be resourced to check that people are complying with it.

Potential weed trees (particularly plantings for carbon) such as Douglas fir/Eucalyptus planting need to be controlled and kept away from areas they may spread particularly in the high country and foothills.

An action addressing plantation and carbon planting suitable areas would be good to have included.

1.4

Weeds (particularly ecological weeds) and clearance of vegetation are our biggest threats to biodiversity.

Development of hill and high country with associated loss of biodiversity is still ongoing within ADC area.

Compliance, monitoring and enforcement needs to be put in place to prevent this. We have had a long time doing education to no avail.

Additional Action

Rules will be enforced for landowners who contravene biodiversity management rules

or

Financial resources will be budgeted for enforcement of non compliance for landowners who contravene biodiversity management rules.

General

Budget to support monitoring so we know what is happening with our biodiversity.

Goal 2

2.1

I would like to see an action that says there is no further loss of indigenous vegetation cover.

2.3- A and B- These are great actions

2.4 Rakaia Gorge should be included in A

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Goal 3

Under this section and additional action would be that talking about when education doesn't work regulations and enforcement will be additional back up tools.

Goal 4

Great goal

I would like to express that so far, there has been little acknowledgment of the work Forest and Bird have put into protecting biodiversity within the Ashburton District.

They were the initiators of Lake Camp and Clearwater weed control and landscape plan, The Wakanui Beach project and the Harris Scientific Reserve. Forest and Birds contribute to most of the biodiversity identification as well as putting themselves out there and facing the wrath of landowners when they report poor management practices. It is great that ADC has now taken some of that work load off them however without Forest and Bird ADC would have little to put forward as biodiversity work in the district.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

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Q6

Your contact details

Name

Donna Field

Organisation (if appropriate)

Cleardale Station

Q7

Yes - I wish to present in person

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