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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?

I see road corridors planted with tussocks and flax, I see ki uta ki tai native corridors (also utilising road reserves plus private land for the trees),

Q2

Yes

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

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**
 - '**
 - Increase indigenous vegetation cover,**
 - Research and collect data on the state of biodiversity,**
 - Sustain and improve school environmental programmes**
 - '**
 - Support community projects that protect and maintain indigenous biodiversity**
-

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.

Stormwater management is a key concern. Management of stormwater, in conjunction with MAR and wetland habitat to control large flows needs more focus. The CCC project in the upper catchment of Ōpāwaho/Heathcote River are significant to add value year round and also act as a stormwater basin at times of high flow. I would like to see initiatives like this that are potentially augmented in times of low flow (as needed to keep the wetland alive). They would add considerable amenity value alongside biodiversity and ecological.

Q5

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

More immediate focus should be given to incentivise landowner indigenous biodiversity plantings. Some sort of credit or offset to rates and this should be applied for existing and new indigenous plantings based on their area and state (ie they must be maintained). I also have some concerns about the definition of SNAs. Clarity will be required, as well as a significant community outreach (as mentioned by the Mayor) to ensure that the process to identify SNAs doesn't create unintended consequences or become a deterrent to further plantings. I appreciate that SNAs are largely defined in the Act, but I still think there is some room for some scenarios to be worked through so that the application of the definition is fair and reasonable and doesn't encroach on property rights.

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Q6

Your contact details

Name **Melanie Brooks**

Organisation (if appropriate) **MHV Water**

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.
