

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?

Communities, agencies, NGO's, schools and rununga etc working together to sustainably protect and regenerate, focusing on ecosystem servicing and enhancing what we have already eg acknowledging gum trees (for example and other early flowering plants provide food for bees and other insects on the shoulder of the season. Ashton Beach is an example of a failed outcome for biodiversity when an agency is not onboard :(

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::

Perhaps a stronger emphasis on engagement and education but otherwise everything appears to be captured. We cannot protect what we do not understand and something similar to the Kanuka Trust Biodiversity 101 video storytelling approach (a more professional version) would be a valuable resource.

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

,

Share knowledge on indigenous biodiversity with the community

,

Encourage cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders

,

Encourage the public to participate in conservation and celebration of biodiversity

,

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.

Context and balance are important. We need to acknowledge the modification and changes that have impacted biodiversity over a long period of time. Some change/evolution has occurred naturally (for example fossils in Mt Somers) and some has been man made as we developed our towns and cities, parks and reserves, farmland and infrastructure. Our strategy needs to be ambitious yet achievable according to what current and future generations deem affordable and can sustain.

There is important context such as the large fires that transformed the plains centuries ago which significantly contributed to deforestation, it is important we work with nature while protecting our livelihoods and infrastructure - thriving biodiversity and a prosperous society.

Q5

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Central Government and the NPS for Biodiversity can have the impact of disengaging people rather than getting the community on board, this is something we experienced first-hand with the NPSFW. Decision makers taking learnings from the freshwater example would be prudent and ensure that we do not create unintended consequences.

Page 2

Q6

Your contact details

Name **Angela Cushnie**

Q7

Yes - I wish to present in person

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