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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?

A thriving local economy, with a community that values, appreciates and protects the natural environment.

The Trust would urge that the community, particularly any impact of the Strategy's goals and objectives on the community, is put at the forefront of ADC's consideration when giving effect to the Strategy's vision.

Kanuka Trust's own vision for our Trust is 'linking our land and water, cultures and community', as this vision encompasses the philosophy that everything is linked. We believe that environmental and economic sustainability directly impacts social and cultural sustainability, particularly in terms of the mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing of families and communities.

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::

The strategy's objectives and goals are thorough and reflect ambitious, yet necessary targets for the community to achieve in order to support biodiversity. We consider goals 3 and 4 (education and collaboration) to be critical to the success of this Strategy. This is because goals 1 and 2 (relating to protecting and restoring biodiversity) can only be successfully achieved if ADC and its stakeholders can get 'buy-in' and work with all areas of the community. In this regard, we believe there should be a real focus on prioritising the education aspect of the strategy goals and actions. Educating the next generation about their role in building a sustainable future for themselves, their families and friends, their community and the Mid Canterbury district will create good habits for the protection of biodiversity and can only positively benefit our district. Therefore, by facilitating collaborative learning opportunities and championing place-based projects, we believe we can better engage with children and young people as they look to make a meaningful contribution to the district they will inherit.

Q3

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

Identify and protect ecological values,

Identify and protect taoka (taonga) species and their habitat

,

Support projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites

,

Sustain and improve school environmental programmes

,

Encourage cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders

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.

Kanuka Trust strongly supports the objectives and goals that focus on collaboration, education and supporting school environmental programmes.

Kanuka Trust was established in 2019 with numerous objectives, including:

- facilitating the conservation, regeneration and enhancement of biodiverse ecosystems in Mid Canterbury for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations;
- facilitating projects, educational opportunities or scientific studies; and
- sharing information with schools, organisations and other members of the public to promote an appreciation and knowledge of the environment and its social, economic and cultural value.

The Trust employs a part-time Community Connector & Educator, whose role is to work with the community, including schools, to give effect to the Trust's objectives. The Trust is actively involved with nine schools and ECE centres in delivering its 'Exploring Our Footprint' educational programme.

In the short time since the Trust established, we have made many connections throughout the community and have seen the significant achievements that can be made to support biodiversity in the district through collaboration and education. Pursuing the various actions under Goals 3 and 4 of the Strategy are therefore fully supported by the Trust.

Given Kanuka Trust's work within the education sector and the wider community, the Trust submits that it should be named in the 'Who' section of relevant education and collaboration 'Actions' in the Strategy, e.g. 3.3 (A), 3.3 (F), 3.4 (A), 3.4 (B), 4.3 (A), 4.4 (A).

Kanuka Trust also supports the completion of an assessment of the district's ecological values (Goal 1, Objective 1.1., Action A), as this is a project that the Trust has identified as critical for the district since the Trust's inception. To date, the Trust has not been resourced to undertake such as an assessment, so would strongly support this work being undertaken and shared with the community.

Kanuka Trust also supports the creation of general biodiversity information on the district and its features for distribution to the public (Goal 3, Objective 3.1, Action A). This is another area that the Trust has highlighted as critical for our district. We are aware of similar material produced in other areas of New Zealand which is invaluable as an educational tool for those communities.

We have experienced that there are many people in our community, particularly in our rural community, who want to get involved with projects that will benefit the environment, but do not necessarily always know where or how to start. Therefore, education, sharing of knowledge and providing opportunities to support biodiversity must be strongly encouraged by ADC.

Q5

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Kanuka Trust is supportive of the continuation of ADBAG, as this Group has brought together a passionate group who continue to make great progress in supporting biodiversity in our district.

Q6

Your contact details

Name

Claire Rushton

Organisation (if appropriate)

Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust

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.
