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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?

Biodiversity corridors from the mountain to the sea, preferably running along the waterways where traditionally weeds have dominated. Not necessarily eco-sourced or all native trees, but a mix that will provide a food source for native birds and insects as well as other beneficial species.

These corridors could have walking/biking tracks along them that public could use if area allows for this. Be mindful that these waterways need (or may need) to be maintained in the future so machinery access needs to be considered.

Landowners where existing native biodiversity exists are encouraged to protect these areas, but not have heavy restrictions on surrounding land use, bearing in mind that land use changes over the years.

Incorporate surface water management in this plan to better handle the larger rainfall events we've been experiencing i.e. allow enough capacity in the waterway/swale to capture & handle big flows. Don't overplant these areas.

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::

Mostly. Before areas are identified as 'protected' consultation with the landowner/occupier needs to occur as to why that area is protected especially if it is not obvious. An explanation of what restrictions of land use for the identified 'protected areas' and surrounding land would be good to make sure these restrictions, particularly on the surrounding land, are practical. Allow catchment groups and community groups to drive projects and councils only help out with advice, funding and rule navigation. Too many rules are restricting progress and often put projects in the 'too hard' basket.

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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Support projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites

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Research and collect data on the state of biodiversity,

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.

Not enough landowner/occupier and catchment/community group involvement in these goals. Need 'bottom up' approach to get community engagement.

Q5

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

No

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Q6

Your contact details

Name

Chris Gibbs

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.