

## Biodiversity Advisory Group

8 May 2023



### # *Biodiversity Advisory Group Minutes*

#### **Present**

Councillors Leen Braam (Chair), Lynette Lovett and Richard Wilson; Alice Shanks, Adi Avnit, Edith Smith, Mary Ralston, Kim Wall, Angela Cushnie, Marcelo Wibmer, Nikki Dellaway, Mile Salvesen and Barry Austin.

MS Teams: Kim Whitwell and Shaun Thomason (ECan)

#### **In attendance**

Dave Moore (ECan); Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

#### **1 Apologies**

**That** apologies be received from Mayor Neil Brown, Gen de Spa, Val Clemens, Brad Edwards, Donna Field, Nick Vernon and Janine Holland

Wilson/Lovett

Carried

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil

#### **4 Previous Minutes**

Minutes from the 7 February 2023 meeting were presented to the meeting, previously confirmed by Council.

#### **5 Rakitata Revival Programme**

Kim Whitwell and Shaun Thomason from Ecan, provided an update on the Rakitata Revival Programme. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to members following the meeting.

#### **6 Planting natives within the ADC's Road reserves**

A report seeking clarification on the Council's position of road reserve planting within the district rural zones and requesting the group's support to:

- Request the Council to adopt the same approach to Road Reserve Planting for Rural Zones as their neighbouring Council (Timaru District Council) with a similar vegetation loss rate in the Plain.
- Request the Council to permit the roadside vegetation on Storriers Road.

The Biodiversity Advisory Group declined to support these requests.

**7 Wilding Pine in a Sensitive Eco-environment**

Wilding reinfestation continues to be a problem and its spread is continuing despite all efforts to curtail the risk.

Requesting a recommendation to Council for a review of the rules for Rural B zone plantings to be consistent with the rules for the Rural C Zone.

The recommendation was not supported, as written with meeting agreement that Council officers will discuss the matter further with Forest and Bird representatives and prepare a fit for purpose recommendation, for consideration at the next meeting.

**8 Report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor**

The second workshop for stakeholders is scheduled to be held on 1 June, 10.00am not 25 May as stated in the report.

**That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group receives the report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor.

Braam / Smith

Carried

- **Bowyers Stream planting**

Planting suggestions were forthcoming from the meeting to enhance local birdlife and decrease the mowing requirement at the Bowyers Stream picnic area. One species mentioned was Amelanchier canadensis which is valued for its flowers and Autumn tones. Native species were also mentioned as additional possibilities to vary and enhance any planting.

The Open Spaces Manager will take this back to staff for consideration.

- **Wakanui Beach**

Planting held pre Covid appears to have had less than a 50% success rate.

- **Trapping**

Barry Austin reported that the predator control project is continuing to work well.

**Next Meeting**

Monday 7 August 2023, 1.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 3:08pm.