

# **BRIEFING: INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY**

## **25 JANUARY 2023 – 4.50 PM**

### **ATTENDEES**

**Elected Members:** Mayor Barry, Cr Barratt, Cr Dyer, S Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, M Fisher, K Yung, and S Freeman (via audio-visual link)

**Staff:** J Miller, Chief Executive, A Blackshaw, Director of Neighbourhoods and Communities; K Puketapu-Dentice, Director of Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director of Environment and Sustainability (via audio-visual link), Kelly Crandle, Head of Parks and Reserves, Deb Mair, Ecology Advisor, Corryn Elliot, Reserves Asset Manager, J Randall, Democracy Advisor, and K Davey, Democracy Advisor.

**Apologies:** Cr G Tupou, Cr Briggs, and Cr K Brown

### **PRESENTERS**

Kelly Crandle, Head of Parks and Reserves, Corryn Elliot, Reserves Asset Manager, and Deb Mair, Ecology Advisor

### **KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE BRIEFING**

The purpose of the briefing was to inform the elected members of the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (the strategy) being developed and requesting guidance on its direction and development.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Kelly Crandle, Head of Parks and Reserves introduced the team, Corrin Elliot, Reserves Asset Manager, and Deb Mair, Ecology Advisor

An indigenous biodiversity strategy is being developed to help improve and encourage indigenous species in Hutt City. The information from a wānanga (workshop) has been gathered and analysed for this presentation, with feedback being sought to help inform the strategy. Once finalised the strategy will go out for public consultation before coming back for approval and adoption. The strategy will influence other documents and is designed to coincide with the District Plan.

### **PRESENTATION BY KELLY CRANDLE, HEAD OF PARKS AND RESERVES, AND CORYN ELLIOT, RESERVES ASSET MANAGER.**

**Slide 1 - Hutt City Council Preliminary Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy**

**Slide 2 – Purpose of today**

**Slide 3 – Executive Summary**

**Slide 4 – Council’s role**

**Slide 5 – Our Process**

**Slide 6 – Phase 1 – Wānanga (workshop)**

**Slide 7 – What would you like incorporated into the IBS**

**Slide 8 – Current funded programs used to identify, manage, and monitor biodiversity**

**Slide 9 – Planning timeline for Phase 2**

**Slide 10 – Proposed Themes from work to date**

**Slide 11 – What vision would you like to lead the IBS**

**Slide 12 – How our urban forest supports and enhances biodiversity**

**Slide 13 – Current biodiversity situation**

**Slide 14 – How does carbon reduction and biodiversity merge**

**Slide 15 – Discussion – How would you like us to prioritise our efforts/resources**

## **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS**

Significant Natural Areas (SNA) property owners are a special stakeholder group in this process and will contribute to the development of the strategy.

What do elected members want to be included in the strategy?

### **Important dates to note**

- March 2023 report to the elected members seeking approval to release the draft strategy for public consultation.
- May 2023 report to the elected members with the results of the public consultation, with a proposal to adopt the final document.

### **Themes to be added or developed**

- Access to biodiversity and managing the balance of allowing the community access to the environment while protecting it.
- Telling the story of how things are interconnected, what is a pest and what is a threat, and the impacts they have on the environment?
- Providing an education programme for community and school groups.
- Enhancement of the environment, being biodiverse positive, increasing habitat and range of species in the city, for example with the reintroduction of indigenous species.

The National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity is expected to come out in February 2023. The team is confident the strategy aligns with the National Policy Statement, and reviews are possible if needed.

The work on the strategy has continued rather than being put on hold, as it is expected that when the National Policy Statement comes out it will require councils to review their district plans and for them to include indigenous biodiversity. The work on this strategy aligns with what other councils are doing.

### **Vision**

- Enhancement of the environment to promote biodiversity.
- Working with the community and environmental groups.
- Monitoring to ensure good information for decision-making.
- Community engagement.

Elected members were asked to prioritise where effort and resources should be focused.

In response to a question from a member, the inclusion of healthy food was to reflect mahi kai and the link to biodiversity for example through water quality and whitebait species (which are all currently not present)

All Biodiversity is linked and focusing on only one or two areas will not work.

The community must be brought on board with education and an understanding of how to look after the environment.

How do we measure biodiversity? One way is the use of a biodiversity index which can be used by the community

SNAs are in the district plan to protect species on both public and private land. There is a direct connection between biodiversity and SNAs. It is important for SNA property owners to know about this strategy, and the team will be engaging with them. How this engagement occurs has not been confirmed. How it is managed will be shared with the appropriate groups and people within council.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Feedback on the themes, principles, goals, and vision can be submitted through the elected members email channel.

The proposed engagement with SNAs is to be shared with the Mayors and Chairs Group, the Strategic Advisor Environment & Sustainability, and other appropriate council officers.

Refer to slide 9 the planning timeline for major dates.

### **BRIEFING MATERIALS**

**Attachment 1** – Presentation:

The briefing closed at 5.35 pm