

Hutt City Council Preliminary Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy

Presentation to Elected Members by Parks and Reserves

25/1/2023



DOC 2020 Biodiversity video



Purpose of today

- We would appreciate your input and feedback from today's workshop.
- Questions to think about throughout the meeting:
 - What are the gaps and opportunities that we may have missed?
 - What particular areas to make significant change?
 - Are we on the right track?

Executive Summary

- To develop a Hutt City Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (IBS) that protects and enhances the natural environment (Te Taiao) and that is representative of community and stakeholder feedback. The strategy will inform council's planning and decision-making as it affects action plans and programs.
- The final version of the IBS will influence the District Plan Review (DP or 'The Plan') by formulating a range of concerns and directions raised by our partners, stakeholders, community groups and individuals without losing integrity.

Questions that we need to answer in the IBS

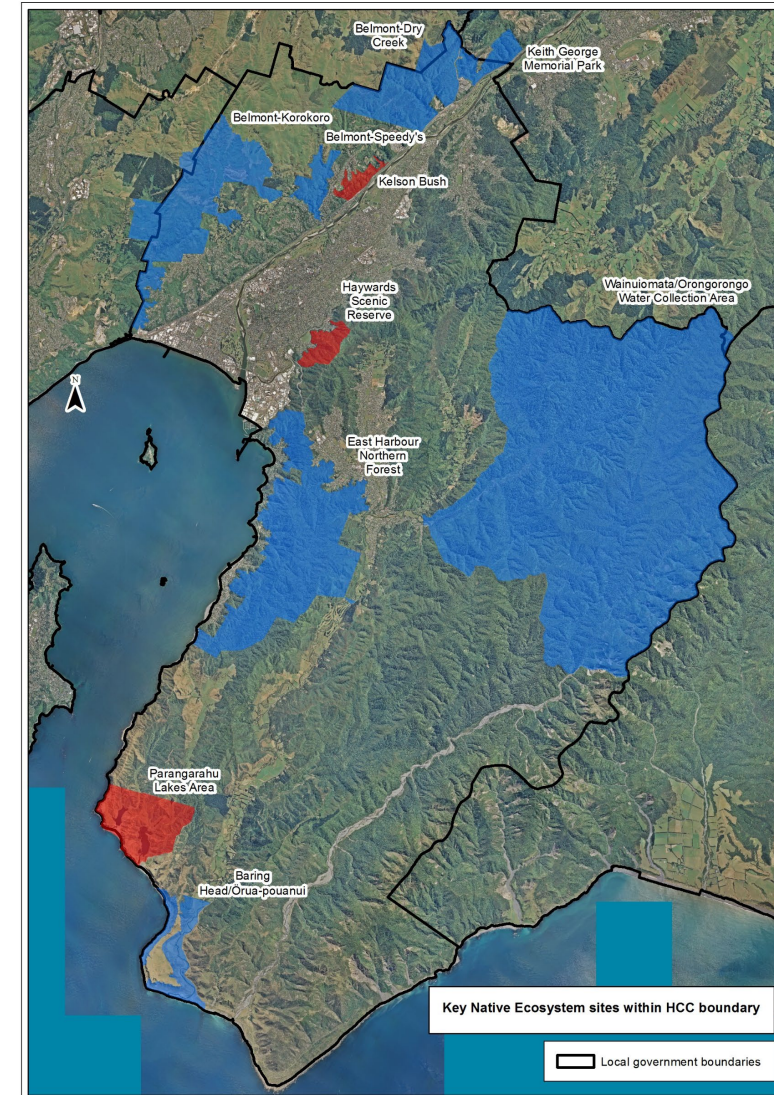
1. Biodiversity – what is it?
2. Why do we need to protect our biodiversity?
3. How do we identify and monitor our biodiversity?
4. Where are our biodiversity hotspots?
5. Why is soil biodiversity important?
6. How does biodiversity affect human health?
7. What are the challenges?
8. What are the threats?

Current funded programs used to identify, manage and monitor biodiversity

- HCC created a Biodiversity Fund to assist Lower Hutt Landowners
- Revegetation planting projects
- Pest weed control
- Pest animal control and trapping
- Water quality monitoring, fish surveys and fish barrier identification
- Identified wetlands and highly valued landscapes
- Dune restoration and lizard monitoring
- School educational field trips
- Land purchases

KNE – Key Native Ecosystem (recognised by GWRC)

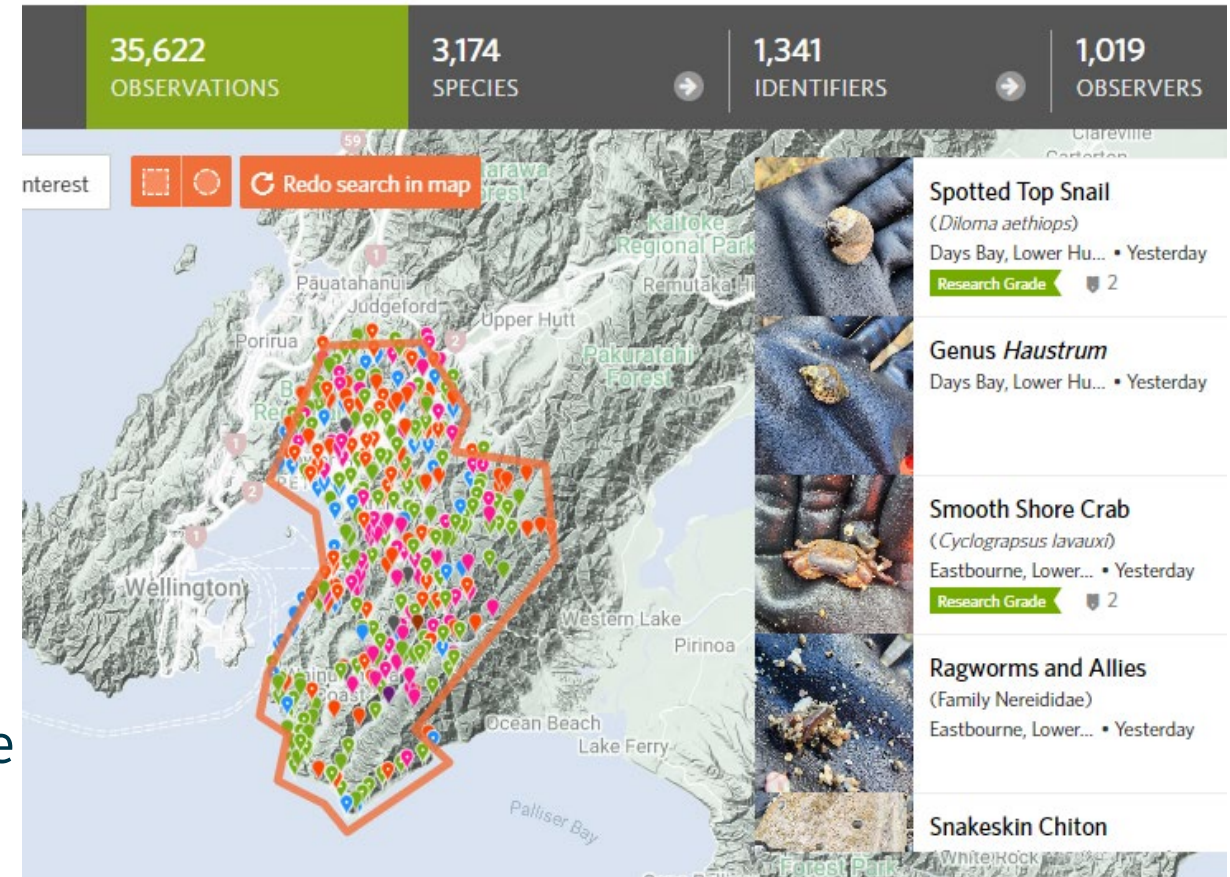
- These sites are recognised as High Biodiversity Valued Hotspots because of the:
 - The number of total species (species richness).
 - The number of unique species (endemism).
 - The number of species at risk (threat of extinction).
- HCC provides some funding for the ecological weed control of the KNE sites (in red) as part of the Biodiversity MOU between GW and HCC.
- Sites that HCC contributes funding towards are shown in red on the map, while others are in blue.
- HCC owned land also includes Belmont-Korokoro, Belmont-Speedy, and East Harbour Northern Forest which are KNE sites.
- Without management of KNE sites, many of our native species would not survive in them. By protecting these areas, we are investing in the future of the Wellington region's unique and vulnerable ecosystems.



Where are our biodiversity hotspots within the district?

According to the eBird and iNaturalist databases which record public observations, these sites, also contained in two deeds of treaty settlement (e.g., As statutory acknowledgement sites), are hotspots:

- Wellington Harbour
- Matiu/Somes Island
- Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera
- Wainuiomata Coast
- Hutt River estuary near Waione street, Petone



Screenshot of iNaturalist observations from 2018-2023

Council's Role

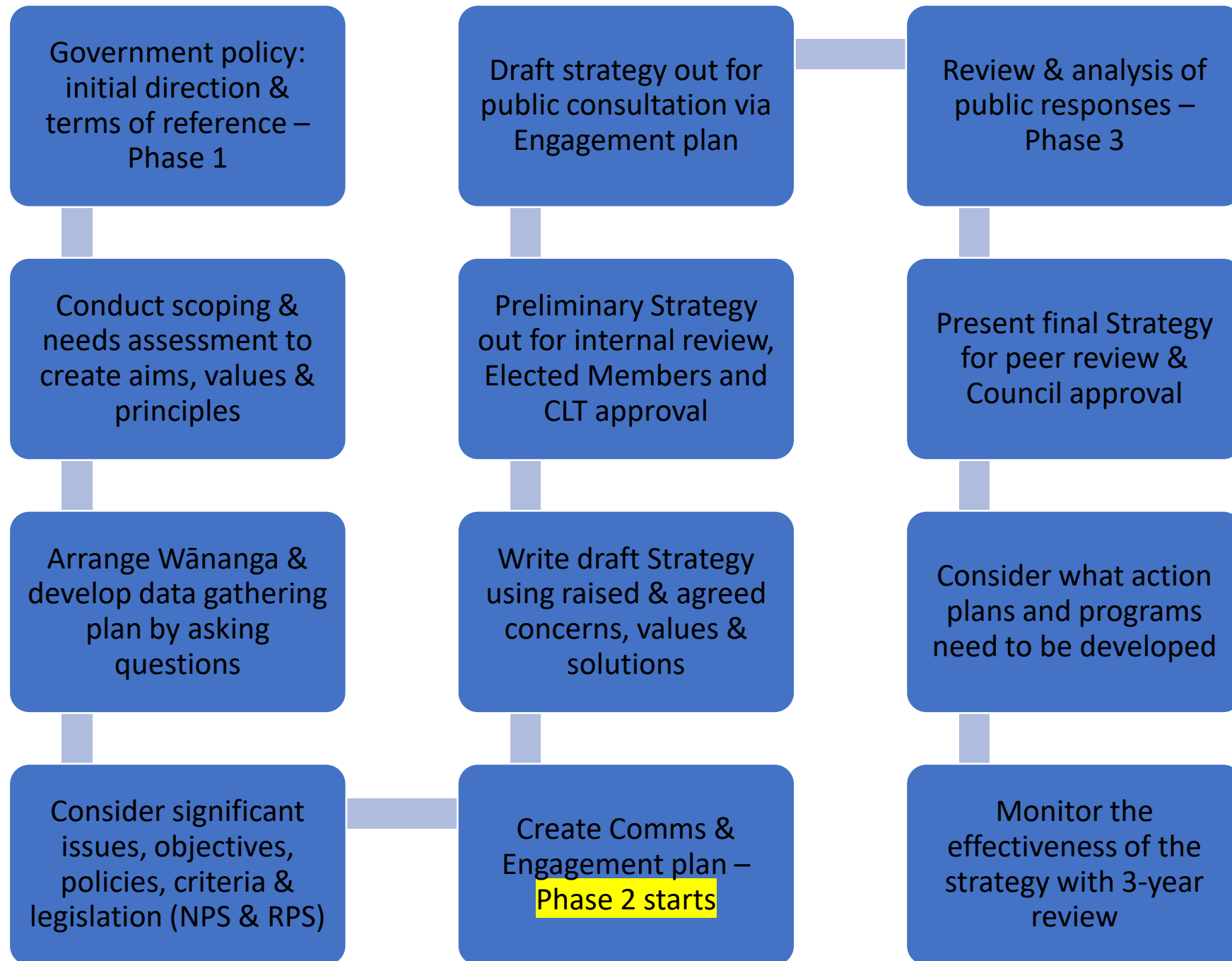
Council's role may vary from regulator to deliverer, facilitator to supporter and in some instances the best role we can play, is enable others to lead action from the plans and programs that fall under the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy.

Council is required to identify and manage Indigenous Biodiversity areas under both the NPS and RPS. A NPS can require councils across the country to add or change their District Plan to protect, maintain, and restore indigenous biodiversity in a way that:

- recognises tangata whenua as kaitiaki, and people and communities as stewards, of indigenous biodiversity; and
- provides for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.

Historical insights

- Richard Te One states in a transcript of an interview on 2.7.97 with his grandparent (Mohi Te One) who was born 26th April 1913 in Waiwhetu. Mohi remembers the Waiwhetu stream abundant with eels, pipi and pupu shellfish, mullet, Koura, inanga and Waiwhetu Pa was a focal point for Māori. The surrounding coastline and the Waiwhetu stream were important as a food gathering source and an access point to the Hutt River and Harbour.
- Kaumātua Te Rira (Teri) Puketapu (ex Hutt City Councillor) shared his knowledge, identifying key food gathering locations and told stories of how the men created carvings and the women working on tukutuku (woven reed). Waiwhetu was one of the 100-acre blocks left in the hands of Māori when the pakeha settlers on January 22, 1840, the first European settlers arrived in Wellington on the Aurora.
- In the 1920s Waiwhetū stream north of Wellington was popular for swimming and fishing, but as development took place around its banks it began to deteriorate. At times the stream would turn bright purple or red as industrial wastes from Lower Hutt factories were discharged into its waters. The wastes were then carried out to the Hutt estuary on the northern shores of Wellington Harbour. By the mid-1970s, Waiwhetu stream was known as one of the most polluted streams in New Zealand.

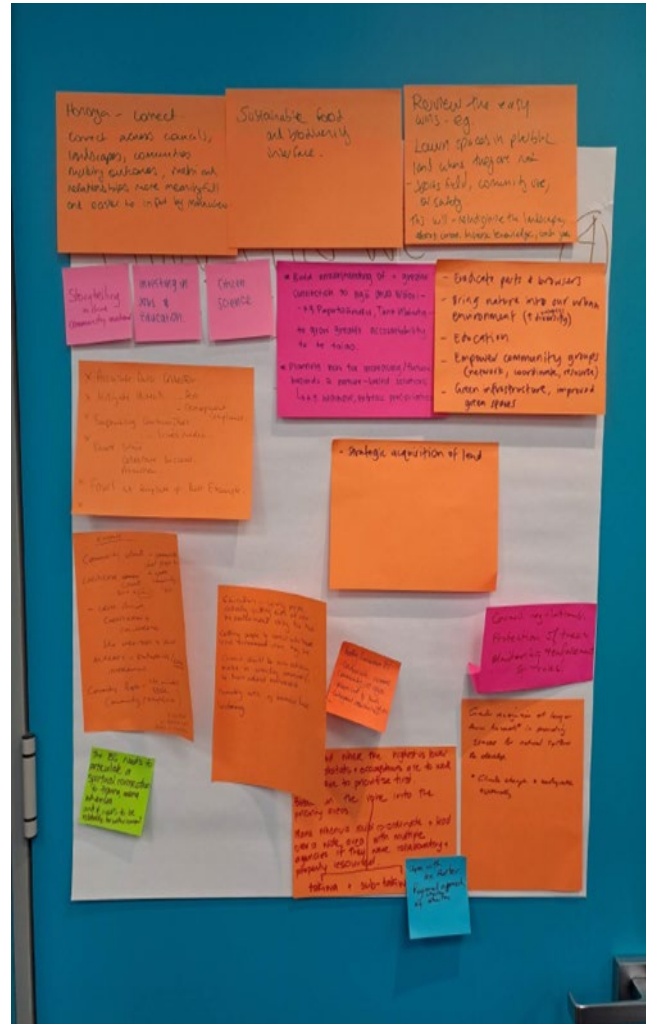


Phase 1 Wānanga

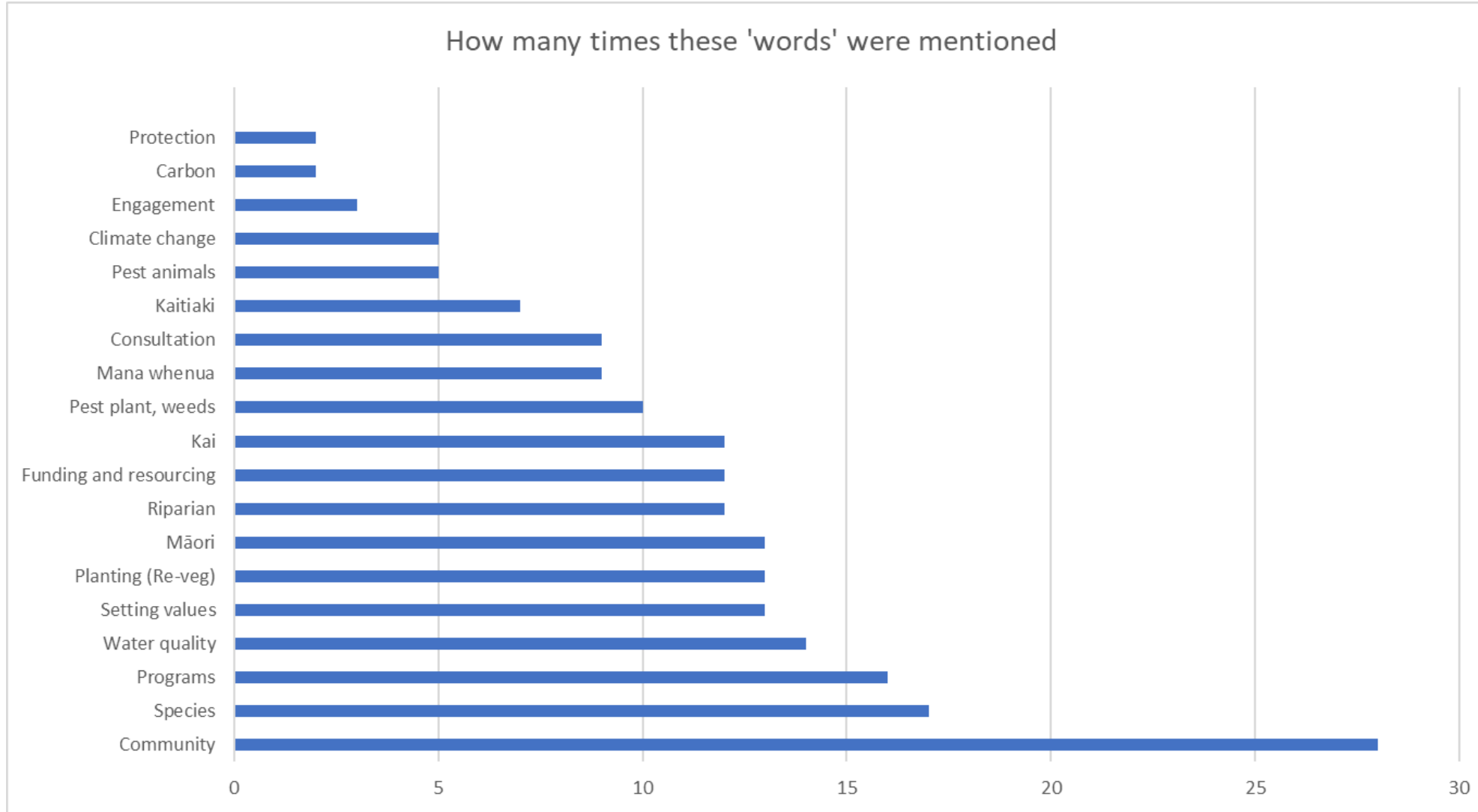
There has been a three-stage consultation process that provided information and direction for the strategy from the Wānanga (workshop). By conducting a literature review, reading HCC historical reports, and gathering data from stakeholders, community groups and Māori we made sense of the current biodiversity situation. The consultation process covered:

1. An in-person discussion day (Wānanga)
2. A review of the discussions and topics raised by all attendees
3. Any additional information sent in electronically by those unable to attend but wanted to contribute

Photos from Wānanga



Snapshot of Wānanga responses



Contributors that have provided initial scope and direction

Internal	External
Māori Policy	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Urban Design	Wellington District Council
Healthy Families Hutt Valley	Taranaki Whanui
Climate and Sustainability	Ngāti Toa Rangatira
Connected Communities	Rotary Hutt City
Planning	Chamber of Commerce
Legal	Friends of Waiwhetu Stream
Energy and Carbon	Forest and Bird, Lower Hutt
Comms & Engagement	Coastal Care and Dune Restoration
Research & Analysis	Friends of Horoeka Scenic Reserve
	Pareraho Forest Group

Significant Natural Areas guidelines are in NPS-IB

- The debate about the conservation of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) on public, private, and Māori land goes back to well before the Resource Management Act was passed in 1991. Since the Resource Management Act, was enacted in 1991, it has included as one of the “matters of national importance” (section 6) the “protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna”.
- The need for a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity has been recognised since as early as 2000. The first draft of the current proposed NPSIB was developed by the Biodiversity Collaborative Group between March 2017 and October 2018.
- Both the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 Section 6 and the NPS-IB requires that SNAs are protected. TLAs are guided by a variety of means (e.g. ecological guidance and case law), and implement their responsibilities to varying degrees and with inconsistent success. The main issue is that most SNAs are on private land, and those who own that land are worried about losing it, or the land itself losing its value and adding complications for owners. The protection of indigenous biodiversity on private land is a challenging and contentious issue.
- SNA regulation and criteria fall under the NPS-IB, and the RPS-IB and under our District Plan.

Proposed Themes from work to date

- Māori values
- Community involvement
- What are the challenges?
- What are the threats to biodiversity?
- Opportunities to deliver (Resources)
- A better way forward
- Possible outcomes

Developing a vision

- Healthy ecosystems thrive in Hutt City and provide habitat for endemic and native biodiversity that are highly valued by the whole community.
- Ko te hiahia kia piripono kia Papatūānuku - We want nature to be a part of our lives.
- Ka mua Ka muri – Look back to move forward.



(Graphic courtesy of HCC-People & Capabilities)

Planning timeline for Phase 2

When	What
Jan 2023	Work with planning team to create a District Plan comms & engagement plan which will include IBS.
16/1/23	Planning and Comms. Action points created for website and feedback management
25/1/23	IBS presentation to Elect members (1 hour).
Feb 2023	Phase 2: Preliminary IBS to CLT, incorporating Elected Members feedback
21/1/23	Review Preliminary IBS formatted for 27/2 CLT meeting
13/2/23	Community Board meetings in Petone (7pm)
14/2/23	Community Board meetings in Eastbourne (715pm)
15/2/23	Community Board meetings in Wainui (630pm)
18/2/23	Preliminary strategy goes to Finance, Policy & Strategy Committee.
27/2/23	15min presentation to CLT on IBS
8/3/23	Report to CLT asking permission to release preliminary IBS strategy for public consultation (March/April).
* Expected	*NPS-IB: Awaiting release of gazetted NPS-IB that will inform . This released has been delayed. The SNA regulation and criteria affects our IBS and our District Plan.

How our urban forest supports and enhances biodiversity



Web graphic (Research Gate)

Discussion - recognised benefits of biodiversity

Where should we put our tangible efforts?

- Clean air and water
- Species loss prevention
- Healthy and sustainable food (mahinga kai)
- Prevention of soil erosion and flooding
- Carbon reduction and storage
- Climate regulation
- Protecting our taonga and strengthening our cultural values