

## Discussion Document

### Calling for consultation/feedback on Wānanga on Hutt City Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy on 7/11/2022: 9am – 3pm

A photo of our guest Speaker, Kaumātua Te Rira (Teri) Puketapu sharing his knowledge. We were blessed having Teri's presence and teachings.



The Wānanga and email correspondence from those that could not attend, provide an opportunity to influence the council's direction to define an 'ideal vision' with measurable criteria, to enhance our indigenous biodiversity, that could lead to action plans and implementation programs. Meaningful engagement increases the visibility and understanding of issues and empowers communities to have their say over decisions that affect their lives, their towns, cities, and neighbourhoods. Our Wānanga consultation process incorporated three stages:

1. In-person discussion day (Wānanga)
2. Review of the discussions and topics raised – is the catalogued feedback a true indication of your responses
3. Any additional information from those unable to attend but wanted to be included

During the Wānanga we provided an opportunity to define any gaps, which helps prioritise the needs to be solved, through an agreed inclusive consultation process. We also had further consultation with those that were unable to attend the Wānanga through electronic communication. Thank you for identifying gaps and providing direction through consultation. In collaboration we achieved a common purpose and stronger connection. By gathering the data and sharing information we made sense of the current biodiversity situation, to determine the impact areas and find potential solutions. This consultation leads to the direction and scope of the HCC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy.

Ka mua Ka muri – Look back to move forward.

The Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy contains aims, values, and principles that we have all contributed to and the District Plan actions these.

For Māori the ngahere (forest) and all that lives within it is a taonga (treasure). Māori developed kaupapa (principles) and tikanga (actions) with regards to the relationship between people and the

health of the environment, and to maintain a sense of identity. Whakapapa binds people and the environment together; they become united, and there is a sense of duty to look after the environment.

Whakapapa is the basis for Kaitiakitanga (guardianship and protection). Kaitiakitanga is based on the concept that people are descended from Papatūānuku, rather than being ascendant to her (western view). Kaitiakitanga promotes a relationship of reciprocity; people do not 'own' the earth's resources, they have 'user rights and a duty of care. We must give regard to the exercise of kaitiakitanga by tāngata whenua in the management of the district's resources.

The objective of the Wānanga was to get initial direction and terms of reference from all attendees (internal & external). Providing an opportunity for people to have a voice through consultation. Creating greater connection, ensuring a co-decision-making process to identify the best collaborative way forward to build our knowledge base and find solutions to local gaps. We received and collated 284 responses in the Wānanga.

We were asked to provide a definition for Indigenous Biodiversity? Definition shared with the attendees: Indigenous biodiversity includes all plants and animals that occur naturally in our District and have evolved or arrived without any assistance from humans. Biodiversity is the range and status of species and ecological systems in our District.

Protecting biodiversity has profound benefits: environmental, cultural, and economic that extend far beyond the welfare of native plants and animals; it is the life on which our own lives depend. In Te Ao Māori, Te Taiao is the term that refers to this natural environment which includes the non-human, living worlds such as flora and fauna, soil and geology, the water, energy, and nutrient cycles, plus the climatic system. In Te Ao Māori understandings of Te Taiao, humans and non-humans are inextricably connected. Access to green space supports mental health, physical health, and wellbeing for humans.

**Summary Table of frequently raised topics by attendees (in no order):**

1	Education programs	Through schools
2	Better communication through HCC platforms and social media	Tell stories and celebrate wins. Facilitating and encouraging community groups.
3	Apply for funding for Riparian planting programs that employ people.	Like PCC program. Riparian planting buffers on all waterways
4	Build relationships. Engage. Share info. Work collectively across the region.	Don't work in isolation. Create trusting relationships that empower employment and resource programs through shared funding.
5	3hr workshops to address specific issues may be a better option for the future	Waterways, harbour, terrestrial planting options
6	Protect and restore wetlands	Identify, monitor and plant
7	Provide natural areas for shade, and biodiversity	Around sports field, open spaces, playgrounds or along waterways
8	Prioritise environmental initiatives	What do we have with high value? How do we resource/fund to protect and monitor these areas?
9	Support mana whenua thinking and capacity.	Fund and resource iwi-led initiatives
10	Minimise iwi discussions and workshops as they are struggling to resource. Can we fund, resource, or assist in our approach?	Consider regional approach where all local councils gather, and initiatives become consistent and standard. One meeting instead of 5.
11	Climate change mitigation	Plant out mowed areas for flooding, drought, and heatwave mitigation by planting riparian buffers
12	Baseline data for a city-wide health index. Information sharing – to inform gaps and progress	GIS mapping, iwi knowledge, SNAs, KNEs, riparian buffer locations. Prioritise work!

13	Another option of a steering group for Indigenous Biodiversity led by iwi (several attendees suggested Lee Hunter) chaired by Deb Mair with representative from all the District Councils and GWRC, F&B, iwi, DOC, and several groups like FOWS, coastal restoration, and Rotary.	There was no agreement or affirmation by the attendees, but the option could be discussed further to reduce the number of meetings and discussions.
14	Fund and resource pest plant and animal programs. Survey, identify, control, and manage these more effectively.	Remove pest plants and animals allows our natural forests, reserves, and waterways to flourish with biodiversity.

Below are all the suggested topics raised by attendees, to our five opening questions.

1. What is Indigenous Biodiversity and identify issues and capture 'what is important to us' (part 1)?

Land use enabled that respects biodiversity

Improvement – Cleaner rivers, more bush, more animals throughout the city.

People in urban areas can have close contact to indigenous environment areas.

Identify the high value areas in our city.

Find where the problem areas are.

Return to how it used to be?

Key local species and how to research their origins

Key local plant communities

Restoring/reclaiming key habitats

Educating Communities & locals to nature (schools)

Controlling threats to habitats

Levering communities' efforts (synergies)

Building capacity

Ecological connection

Add wooden Discs that simulate fallen logs in mature forest. Discs of pine, macrocarpa, or other woods can be used to simulate the fallen logs found in mature native forests. These discs provide a moist, haven for native invertebrates and lizards. Invertebrate species who could use these discs include spiders, ground beetles, cave weta, snails, slugs, earthworms, flatworms, leaf-vein slugs, harvestmen, centipedes, millipedes, slaters, springtails, and mites.

Ensuring connection to local iwi and mana whenua.

Our own wellbeing is connected to the wellbeing of our natural environment and all living things.

Natural waterways – not channelised (blue lighting)

No discharge to natural waterways.

Indigenous species thriving

Community actively protecting, restoring, regenerating

Connectedness – connecting with our natural environment

Greener spaces – natural environments, riparian plants along our waterways.

Re-using – grey water integrated management

Interaction – natural forest regeneration

Protect and enhance the indigenous biodiversity we have

To have hope for the future – a sense of belonging to our land (we achieve more through hope than fear).

When I drive home, I want to brake and wait while kiwis cross the road

Strategies that address the impact of different pest species and their impact on biodiversity

Control of invasive flora species like climbing asparagus and pond weed in the Waiwhetū stream.

Nature in the backyard

Provide natural areas for shade, and biodiversity - Around sports field, open spaces, playgrounds or along waterways

Stopping the loss – the list of extinct and threatened species does not grow.

A deafening dawn chorus

Everything in its rightful place. The community public agencies and mana whenua are all deeply committed to IB thriving and being enhanced.

A message to people to create stories that engage and generate buy-in.

There are adjustments made to live locally

A way to a better future.

Spiritual connection to land, tupuna, whanau health and well-being for our environment.

Health and well-being of our species

Lasting Relationships with mutual benefits

Relationship between humanity and our environment.

Knowledge and respectfulness

Hearts and Minds

Personalise and think intergenerationally kaitiakitanga programs

‘Kaupapa Māori’ is a term used to explain the key concepts that explain the Māori belief system regarding the natural environment. Pivotal to the ideals of kaupapa Māori is whakapapa. Māori belief dictates people are stemmed from Māori gods Ranginui and Papatūānuku, so the relationship between people and the environment is prevalent in the everyday ways in which we connect to our natural environment.

Living in alignment with Tikanga Māori “Ka ora te whenua, Ka ora te tangata”

Using the work already been done/including the operations already underway.

## 2. Why is our Indigenous Biodiversity degrading in our District? Or what is the Perceived problem? How do we proceed?

Celebrate the things we do well – communication.

Create a verbal hook so people can rally behind the movement (similar to Tauranga’s ‘Kereru on Cameron’).

Issue of feral cats: the Country Calendar programme on a South Island station that I’d seen, showed the trapping of feral cats. The social media/ cameras I think showed native species being predated on by pest animals and it was this that led to the trapping of feral cats where people could donate/ sponsor a trap. It looked like quite a successful venture where viewers were made to feel actively involved in protecting endangered species.

The small things are huge, power of one!

Continuity of care – keeping the nurturing/caring to the forefront – once per month. Weed control Waiwhetū stream. Best volunteer group this month. Predator Free volunteers – trap lines, monthly or weekly communication updates.

Using social media/cameras to show trapping of feral cats on South Island station (example from Country Calendar)

Te Mome stream – lead contamination, highly polluted, weeds. Originally was used for mohinga kai.

Te Mome stream – development silt, garden escapes, vegetation loss, splitting up.

Attitudes of some people (priorities)

Climate change

Address declining water quality

Demand increasing for consents to take/use water or foraging opportunities

Reduced access to food gathering

Removing vegetation or allowing weeds to displace wetland or riparian planting.

Polluted stormwater discharges

Known hazards in our district – Earthquakes, flooding, drought, Tsunami, landslides, wild fires, and high winds. We need to be prepared.

Providing for population growth

There are many ways pest plants and animals can undermine our biodiversity and waterways and therefore, seriously threaten the health of our native and productive plants and animals.

Cost/resources – competing priorities

Takes time with incremental change (degradation has taken a long time)

Local examples – Remutaka Forest Park, Wainuiomata water catchment, East harbour regional park.

Accountability and transparency, monitoring – reporting locally on strategic documents, which are not regulatory.

Water Quality – sewage

Green infrastructures in cities, such as parks, trees, gardens, and recreational green spaces can provide important ecosystem services, but current practice has not seen these promoted. Education programs or guided walks to educate community to why these are important areas.

Nature and its health are not at the heart of the decision making – needs to change

Pest weeds – urban environment, wrapped in bush and along awa.

We need buy-in from public – tackle the ignorance.

Lack of knowledge

Lack of eradication – need to target areas (prioritise)

Lack of care – older culture, user discard.

Lack of resource/funding

One big project (like Zealandia) or many small, localised projects? What is best use of limited resources

Big companies – corporate responsibility.

Indigenous SPP – Hikoi into bush to see the rata flowering (guided walks).

Celebrate the positives.

Address equity

Lack of personalisation

Values are not being carried through

Disconnection to shared identity and connection to the land.

Lack of education and understanding

Other issues take precedence.

Educate schools – meet and run ecology programs

Community and wananga - Generating discussions and relationships.

Address other issues alongside climate change.

Population growth and housing intensity.

Pests to flora and fauna

Set values: Manaakitanga, Kaitiakitanga – Not profit driven.

We do not understand the vast degradation pests have been causing and we do not prioritise serious pest plant and animal control sufficiently.

Long standing practices of imbalanced decision making.

The beauty of our local land/sea scape is a façade. There is all sorts of awful underlying conditions (pollution) and species loss e.g., shellfish beds at Pito-ne

The balance between economic gain and growth and biodiversity retention/improvement.

The continual need for growth occurs at the expense of the environment.

Some people are wasteful and lazy - – would that change if they were 'aware'?

Plant a variety of species to attract biodiversity, not one plant fits all approach.

Pollution, land use change degrades our awa from erosion and sedimentation.

Look at the urban structure and collectively change/modify to help meet netzero ambitions – solar panel installed on our community hubs, Collect rainwater. Provide open spaces for community gardens to feed those that need to harvest their own food.

### 3. How can we enhance/improve Indigenous Biodiversity?

Building understanding of a greater connection to ngā atua Māori. E.g., Papatūānuku, Tane Mahuta to grow greater accountability to Te Taiao and use Atua Matua concepts for youth education.

Planning now for increasing future hazards with nature-based solutions e.g., droughts, heatwaves, and heavy rainfall events.

Effective and meaningful monitoring and evaluation. Integrated and well-designed monitoring and evaluation.

Work hard to protect our community, and amazing biodiversity from the threat of invasive pests and make sure we include our local communities in how we do this.

Plant riparian buffers along waterways and restore wetlands.

Storytelling to drive community involvement

Stop spraying nettles to bring back native red and yellow Admiral butterflies back to our district. Aerial spraying, wasp predation and habitat loss has crippled the population of our native butterflies – F&B link:<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/sites/default/files/201805/Butterfly%20Breeding%20Guide.pdf>

Investing in jobs and education.

Fund and teach Citizen Science programs

Good spatial planning could encompass considerations of economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being long term.

Eradicate pests and browsers

Bring nature into our urban environment (ecological diversity).

Education programs

I want to close my eyes, and picture a region filled with flourishing native plants, flitting birds, crawling insects, and healthy ecosystems. A resilient natural environment around us not just for our native species, but for quality drinking water too.



Natural dune ecosystems have now been extensively degraded right around New Zealand with significant loss of native dune biodiversity. Coastal dunes restore our bird, coastal invertebrate, and lizard biodiversity. The planting minimises windblown sand and prevents flooding. Vegetation cover was the main determinant of faunal diversity and abundance. Coastal dunes are a green or natural asset for our community which are identified and protected as a natural defence to coastal hazards and climate change.

Hutt City does have a large coverage of significant natural resource areas and outstanding landscape and natural features, but most of these areas are located away from the city's built-up areas and especially away from the valley floor and CBD. How can we connect better to these?

Empower community groups (network, coordinate, resource)

Green infrastructure, improved green spaces, provide shade borders around sports fields.

Accurate data collection to find best solution

Mitigation of threats – pest, development of compliance program

Empowering communities – use social media

Share wins, celebrate success, promotions

Use best practice, best examples as template for other groups. E.g., FOWS template

The strategy needs to articulate a spiritual connection to tupuna, mana whenua and it needs to be relatable for wider community. Hononga – connect. Connect across councils and regionally, landscapes, communities making outcomes, mahi and relationships more meaningful and easier to input by mana whenua.

Agree with Lee Hunter – regional approach e.g., Whaitua. Would Lee Hunter like to lead this body of work?

Change name from Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy to Health Environment Hutt Valley.

Collaborate across community, all ages

Focus on protecting and enhancing the health and vitality of the District and Regional environment.

Māori-led and youth voices

Employment opportunities

Communicate what officers do and community groups do at HCC

Collaborate – Buy-in with groups. Needs coordination and collaboration. Communicate the work that is done. More interaction. Empower others to help.

Connecting people – like minded souls, community, neighbours

Signposts so people can feed into projects and programs and find contacts.

Educating young people (through schools)

Actively getting kids into the environment doing the mahi. Building a connection with nature.

Getting people to connect with their local environment where they live (biopedia like Wikipedia where every garden and verge can be identified and mapped into the 'whole').



Council should be more actively involved in connecting communities to their natural environment.

Promoting wins e.g., predator free – leverage their success

Strategic acquisition of land. Carbon credits, natural forests.

Sustainable food and biodiversity interface – garden harvest allotments in open spaces. Community fruit free gardens.

Lawn spaces in public land where they are not sports field, community use or safety. This will re-indigenize the landscape, absorb carbon, increase knowledge, and create jobs.

Council regulations to protect trees (KNEs and SNAs) and monitor and enforce of these rules.

Understand where the highest vs lowest value habitats and ecosystems are to work out where to prioritise first. Think data on GIS mapping.

Breakdown the Rohe into priority areas, Takiwā and sub- Takiwā

Mana whenua could coordinate and lead over a wide area with multiple agencies if they were collaborating and properly resourced.

Combat climate change and earthquake, especially resilience.

Greater recognition of longer-term hazards in providing space for natural systems to develop.

Protect and restore wetlands.

Planting wetlands will add further benefit by increasing the uptake of nitrate, trapping more sediment before it enters waterways and increasing the habitat for birds and lizards.

#### 4. What does indigenous Biodiversity look like to you in 20-50 years? Create aims/goals!

Take a holistic/collaborative approach

Engaging local iwi, a priority

Capturing all data. So, we know where we are coming from (baseline of quantity and quality and volume).

Apply for central government funding to plant riparian buffers along every waterway (approx. \$10mil cost)

Ensuring biodiversity outcomes are part of every project scope (community lead and HCC teams such as three waters and roading).

Open spaces given to community to grow and harvest their own food.

Living lightly on the planet/earth.

Eco-cultures, permaculture, earth reach: community villages (papa Kainga do this)

Financial reserve contributions for bush parks

More responsibility/accountability put on developers

More proactive planning and policy

A world beyond offsets equalling financial pay-outs.

Water integrated natural and built environments

People care about every pocket of the environment

Greater species diversity, people see every day what they never see today (kiwis in our local reserves)

Reserves thriving with little need for intervention, easily accessible to communities

Proactive planning for the future

Environmental equity – every suburb is green and has places to immerse in nature.

Kids are connected to the environment through play (natural play spaces).

Iwi biodiversity/Taiao strategy for the region – not a dozen different ones across the Rohe.

The people are connected to the mauri of te Taiao and are actively nourishing it.

People are connected to each other.

Mātauranga Māori (traditional knowledge) is valued and a core part of how we care for te Taiao

Vera shares a link LINK: <https://www.resourcebasedeconomy.org/>

Move towards recognising importance of nature (more unified, less polarised view).

Biodiversity wins for biodiversity are complete (that is things that can be done now on public land, rivers, and margins).

Equality in people (social equality, shared benefits).

Access to valuable areas.

Predator Free by 2050 – fund and resource pest trapping by community groups

Zealandia type concept in the Hutt

Replanted foreshore

More regional approach

Areas protected from human encroachment (areas set aside as green)

Ten minutes walking distance from all areas to a high value biodiversity area.

Caring and sharing

Improved technology applications

Papa Kainga

It is a thrill to catch a rat, mouse, stoat, possum in a trap – some kids have never seen a live pest animal.

Green roofs, green walls – building consent, urban people green infrastructure.

Environmentally consensus – water management program

Heavy riparian planting

Riparian plant buffers on every waterway in the district. Start now, inter-generational program.

Different marketing specifications

Sustainable planted street gardens.

To hear whale songs from the harbour. Harbour healthy that whales keep visiting.

Normalise sustainable living – live with renewable resource and minimise waste.

Be prepared for the big one. Earthquake resilience.

When an earthquake hits, we want to be able to live off natural produce from the land and kai from the waterways. resilience is built in locally.

Stronger local community ownership; connectivity, identity

Circular economy – impact of living lifestyle.

Recycle back to manufacture

Corporate responsibility

Moving young people's minds to nature-based solutions

Embrace Technology

Communal living – shared resources

Circular solutions to fund and employ people to protect, maintain, manage new planting/riparian opportunities. Active resources volunteer groups.

Properly funded contractors (Fulton Hogan) to find greener options.

Intergenerational homes and community facilities (50- or 100-year programs).

Incentivise landowners to plant and improve biodiversity on their land.

Fund control and eradication of pest animals and plants. Pay to improve private owned habitat.

Developers have innovative ways to overcome effects of development on factors that are related to biodiversity.

Existing area with biodiversity values on private and public properties are thriving and throw benefits onto nearby properties and waterways.

No Guy Fawkes and no private fireworks – resource consent no firework zones/reserves.

Sewage is not liquid – process involves drying out so that we do not have sewage in pipes, aquifer or released into waterways

Ongoing operational funding for monitoring and enforcement. Work is acceptable, normal and a priority, not a nice thing to have.

As golf memberships decline could we acquire land and create massive re-veg/biodiversity opportunity.

Biodiversity is so highly valued that we are prepared to pay properly for it. We are prepared to forfeit other opportunities (and some profit) to prioritise biodiversity and manage professionally. E. g. Volunteers do not carry the bulk of the work. Let us resource staff and groups.\

## 5. Where and how do we start the process to build a strategy?

Baseline data for a city-wide health index

Find out and record what we have currently got, where and what is the quality/value. A stocktake from eDNA, sampling and/or surveys.

Asset Mapping – local knowledge. Groups already doing good stuff. Where are we starting from?

Breaking down silos and working more collaboratively/holistically across teams, organisations, and sectors.

\*Set up a steering group with one rep from each local Council, Regional Council, iwi, community groups, DOC, and Forest & Bird – create consistency and standardisation to minimise the meetings and discussion groups.

There were several people and groups looking for a more collaborative approach i.e., both working with community groups and for HCC to work closer with our Council partners to present a more united front.

More enviro monitoring does not necessarily mean more staff but building relationships and capability will empower those already doing this work.

Thinking more permissive and enabling vs protective restrictions.

Engaging with mana whenua, tāngata whenua early in the process

Build relationships in peace so that this is easier and more straight forward when input/korero is needed.

Working on these things more regionally – smarter and effective which supports mana whenua thinking and capacity.

Subdivision of land linked to biodiversity initiatives to create win/win.

Native bush covenants/kaitiaki of native bush that exists on private land.

New builds best standard that has future in mind – green roofs and walls.

Green waste bins at schools to link community and kids with better waste management.

Create movements around biodiversity.

Composting centres – circular waste solutions and management.

Collective responsibility

Facilitating and encouraging community groups to share knowledge and processes.

Investigate resource-based economy

Discuss with local iwi Papa Kainga concepts

Using cull of pest animals to feed those in-need. Cull2Plate initiative

Ecologist – project leads on Council

Expand on existing programs – nurseries, planting, and riparian programs

Funding - prioritise projects/programs

Coordinate with other agencies

Clean up Te Mome stream

Strategy with qualified and quantitative measures of what we will do.

Get started on public land projects

Inventory of areas of special or high value.

Provide opportunities for community enviro groups to be more visible to people who may want to join.

Integrate hazard management with biodiversity goals.

Get something we are already doing ok and pick it up, shake it out and do it way better for greater results.

Employ the right people with deeper understanding, spiritual, connected to nature.

Statement: Who leads iwi or Council? Council could resource if iwi want to lead. A number of people thought Lee Hunter could lead, with Deb as chair.

Selling, communicating the benefits to create an enduring legacy.

Start as individuals, then neighbours, then community, then city-wide.

Consider humanity, caring and doing the right thing

A branded city-wide response to biodiversity – gets existing actions and services packaged up for communication purposes with a biodiversity logic/understanding.

Start point – What is condition of forests, how to improve, finance the mahi, prioritise and deliver.

List everything, we have got.

Better utilise data resource and knowledge on hand.

Communicate with mana whenua

Prioritise enviro initiatives

There is a high demand for more engagement and consultation with community groups, and in general more engagement with the public.

Educate community with low hanging first steps. E.g., watering using grey water. Backyard trapping. Bells on cats. Cat conversations- 'exit cats' as being permitted?

Map out what we have got and the groups that interact with the biodiversity we have and the gaps in that map.

Lost wetlands are restored – amenity and flood protection.

Planting appropriate plants around wetlands will help stabilise soil and stop nutrient runoff flowing directly into water, especially when coupled with fencing to exclude stock. Plantings can also provide nesting sites, food and shelter for wildlife as well as adding to the natural character of the area.

Could HCC act as more of a facilitator rather than the practitioner and assist in the coordination of community groups more. We should work with and support community groups.

Other items that were brought out by attendees at the end of the day and via electronic communication during the other consultation process.

Green roof initiative for new developments

More vertical garden options around Hutt Council buildings

Better green and blue infrastructure with integrated water management options.

Harbour issues resolved with GWRC? HCC initiatives

Increasing Mahinga kai options

Improve terrestrial biodiversity

Could we do specific 3hour workshops on: River/waterways – Harbour and coast – Planting specific Species of plant?

Map wetlands and restore and enhance.

We must assess, measure, monitor, maintain, protect, preserve, and enhance our indigenous biodiversity for future generations. Then review and ask for feedback from our partners and stakeholders - are we doing the right thing in the best way to create nature-based solutions.

Pam for Friends of Horoeka Scenic Reserve: Some of our small areas of indigenous vegetation may contain undocumented and important values. Horoeka Scenic Reserve is a point in case. It was made a Reserve in December 2011 after being purchased earlier that year. It is approximately 23 ha in size. It contains a new species of liverwort *Cheilolejeunea rodneyi*, a wide variety of plants vascular (262) and non-vascular (95 identified so far). Wellington green gecko (At Risk under the New Zealand Threat Classification System), common skinks, banded kokopu, giant kokopu, long finned eel and koura, and 18 species of bird. We need to protect and restore these reserves.

Investigate using Development Contributions for biodiversity projects locally.