

25 May 2022

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Forest and Bird

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Amelia

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 19 April 2022, asking for information about Hutt City Council's (HCC) strategies for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

Specifically you have asked for the following information:

1. *Does your council have a climate change strategy?*
2. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?*
3. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?*
4. *Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?*
5. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?*
6. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?*
7. *Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?*
8. *How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?*
9. *How does your council maintain SNAs?*
10. *How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?*
11. *Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?*
12. *How often does your council monitor SNAs?*

Answers to your questions are provided below.

Does HCC have a climate change strategy?

HCC has two foci, these being the reduction of its own organisational emissions and the reduction in city-wide emissions.

Information on the council's organisational emissions' strategy is available [here](#).

For information about our city-wide approach, see [here](#).

Does HCC have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?

For detail about our strategy for reducing HCC's organisational emissions, please refer to the [Interim Carbon Reduction and Climate Resilience Plan for Hutt City Council](#).

For detail about the reduction in city-wide emissions, please refer to the following document: [Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway Te Ara Whakamua o Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai: Our race against time](#).

How does HCC measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of its climate change strategy?

Council has various key performance indicators in its [Long term Plan](#). These measure progress against these targets, such as reduction in emissions from its facilities, reductions in emissions from its fleet, etc. There is also regular reporting against the various initiatives contained in its Interim Carbon Reduction and Climate Resilience Plan 2021-2031, such as via the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

The Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway was completed and endorsed in March 2022. Progress will be measured against the various initiatives within it, and the reduction in city-wide emissions is measured through city-wide carbon footprints, compiled every 2-4 years.

Does HCC have a biodiversity strategy?

The Council doesn't have a stand-alone biodiversity strategy.

More information on "Restoring Te Taiao" is in the [Climate Action Pathway](#) from pp.50-55. You can also find a bit more context about the Climate Action Pathway in our website: <https://haveyoursay.huttcity.govt.nz/communityclimatechange>.

Biodiversity is one of the focus areas that falls within HCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2045. This document is available [here](#).

Does HCC have an implementation plan for its biodiversity strategy?

No.

How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?

As HCC does not have formal strategy, objectives are not monitored.

Has HCC mapped its SNAs? Are these mapped in our operative District Plan?

HCC has mapped SNAs through a 2016 assessment.

These maps are not finalised and are not in the operative District Plan.

How many SNAs has HCC identified in its district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?

No SNAs have been formally identified in the HCC's operative District Plan. However, the mapping mentioned above identifies approximately 128 potential SNAs with an estimated area of 25,856.73 hectares.

How does HCC maintain SNAs?

HCC does not have any SNAs in the operative District Plan. However, the Council currently applies a non-regulatory approach to biodiversity management through administering a biodiversity fund to support landowners to undertake conservation work on their properties.

How many consents has HCC issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?

The operative District Plan does not identify any SNAs and there are no rules relating to SNAs. As such, there are no consents relating to this topic.

Does HCC have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?

No.

How often does HCC monitor SNAs?

As HCC does not have formally identified SNAs in the operative District Plan, these areas are not monitored.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy