

Report 11.299
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Committee Council
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Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy

1. Purpose

To approve the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2021 (the Strategy).

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Biodiversity is not a new activity for Greater Wellington. Since 1997 the Council has had a number of programmes intended to address the decline in indigenous biodiversity in the region. These programmes have involved land managed by the Council and some areas of high biodiversity value on territorial authority and private land.

A decision was made in late 2010 to form a Biodiversity Department to bring together the Council's various biodiversity activities to provide a greater organisational focus for biodiversity, to more effectively meet Greater Wellington's obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and to allow greater synergies between programmes across the region. To provide a framework for these objectives to be addressed, a Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared by staff of the Biodiversity and Strategic Planning departments, in consultation with other departments.

4. Comment

The Strategy, which is appended as Attachment 1, is an internal, non-statutory document intended to provide guidance and a common focus for policy and decision making, resource allocation and on the ground projects and initiatives relating to biodiversity management in the Wellington region.

The Strategy is intended to guide the work of the organisation. To ensure the Strategy is “bought into” across the Council, the development of it has been overseen by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). Implementation of the Strategy will be the responsibility of ELT.

The Strategy takes as its starting point high level statutory and non-statutory documents such as the Resource Management Act 1991, the proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity, the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. These documents either direct or encourage Council to develop policies and programmes to provide for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity.

5. Next steps

The Strategy, once adopted, will be implemented by the relevant departments within Greater Wellington. The Biodiversity Department will produce a Biodiversity Department Business Plan. This work, which includes the preparation of a regional biodiversity monitoring programme, is scheduled for completion by 31 March 2012.

Staff will continue to work with other organisations with an interest in biodiversity to raise awareness of the Strategy and Greater Wellington’s work, and to ensure that, where possible, our programmes are integrated with those of other organisations.

6. Communication

The Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy is an internal strategy. Consultation with key stakeholders has taken place during the preparation of the strategy and will continue during its implementation.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*
- 3. Approves the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2021.*

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