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**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

## **DRAFT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan (the Plan) (Appendix 1) and to seek the Committee's approval to publicly consult on the Plan.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan is a top strategic priority in the Environment portfolio. It is one of the three-year priorities identified in the Environment Strategy and is strategically aligned with four other key strategies (Economic Development, Cultural Wellbeing, Urban Development, Social and Recreation) and eight of Council's Long-Term Outcomes. Wellington City Council is a major land owner and needs to take strong leadership role in the areas of biodiversity conservation and management.

This Plan will ensure that Wellington City Council's indigenous biodiversity management is optimised by prioritising the implementation of new and existing projects, identifying and addressing any gaps in our knowledge and building on existing relationships with key biodiversity stakeholders.

This report covers the background of the Plan – how and why it originated, where it fits in strategically and how we got it to this point. It discusses Council's current biodiversity management and the key issues, opportunities and actions to come out of the Plan. Key implementation considerations are examined and the future consultation and communication plan outlined.

The Plan itself covers what biodiversity is and why it's important, a profile of Wellington's biodiversity, how we are currently managing it, and the action plan. The action plan identifies the programmes designed to achieve the vision of the Plan, the corresponding responsibilities, funding sources and timeframes. The action plan is divided into four key themes – Identify, Protect, Restore and Research.

Wellington City Council has already made significant biodiversity gains over the last 10 years, in areas such as pest management, revegetation and community engagement. For these achievements to continue and to be built upon, this Plan will give further direction to these activities for the next 10 years.

The majority of actions will fit within current resource capacity, allowing for some refocusing of existing funding. However, there needs to be further investment in the Pest Management Implementation Plan, the restoration of priority sites, protection of biodiversity on private land and to allow for an anticipated increase in community involvement.

The next step is to put the Plan out for public comment. It is anticipated that a final plan will be presented to the Committee in September.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for consultation.*
- 3. Note that officers will meet with Treaty partners and key stakeholder organisations as part of the consultation process.*
- 4. Note that the results of written submissions will be reported back to the Committee and that during that same meeting submitters will have the opportunity to be heard.*
- 5. Note that a final plan will be presented to the Committee in September 2007 for consideration and approval after due consideration of submissions and subsequent amendments.*

### **4. Background**

#### **4.1 Why a Draft Biodiversity Action Plan?**

In 2006 the Council approved seven strategies including an Environment Strategy that provides high-level statements about the Council's long-term environmental intentions for Wellington. One of the top four three-year priorities identified in the Environment Strategy was the preparation of a coherent plan to address biodiversity issues. The other three priorities are water and energy efficiency and conservation, stream protection and strengthening environmental partnerships with stakeholders. The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan covers three of these four priorities – the development of a biodiversity plan, stream protection and environmental partnerships.

The Council also has a role to play in implementing the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000) (NZBS). The NZBS established national goals to “turn the tide” on biodiversity decline, and recommends working in partnerships with agencies, businesses, community groups and landowners. The NZBS lists Local Authorities as key players in putting into action many of the Strategy's objectives.

The NZBS was prepared as part of New Zealand's commitment to global biodiversity protection, which originated from the 1992 United Nations Conference 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro.

Wellington City Council is responsible for managing a significant proportion of Wellington's open space (approximately 3,300 ha of open space and 1200 km of legal road throughout the city). Managing the biodiversity values of these areas is fundamental to their sustainability and has implications across landscape, heritage and recreation values. As such, Council has an unprecedented opportunity to be the leaders in Wellington's biodiversity management.

Wellington also has a very diverse landscape, from the rugged South Coast to the bays, the harbour, rural hinterland, green belts, ridgelines, stream catchments, all of these define Wellington. With these landscapes and associated vegetation types, come ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity – in other words Biodiversity.

#### **4.2 Purpose of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan is an opportunity to put Wellington City Council's current biodiversity management projects into context and prioritise their implementation. It is our chance to identify and address any gaps in the biodiversity management of the city. Building partnerships with biodiversity stakeholders and community engagement is an important part of this process.

#### **4.3 Strategic alignment**

As stated above biodiversity management sits under the Environment Strategy. A Biodiversity Action Plan contributes to the following Council outcomes.

- Making Wellington *more liveable*, where Wellington's natural environment is more accessible to all for a wide range of social and recreational opportunities that do not compromise environmental values;
- Creating a *stronger sense of place*, where Wellington recognises and protects significant features of its natural heritage;
- *More actively engaged*, where a collaborative participatory approach is pursued for environmental kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by information sharing and establishing partnerships;
- *Better connected*, where Wellington has a network of green space;
- *Safer*, including clean water and air to protect public health and ecosystems;
- *Healthier*, with the protection of land and water based ecosystems to sustain natural processes;
- *More competitive*, with a high quality environment attracting more visitors.
- *More sustainable*, where Wellington's environmental impact will be reduced by making efficient use of natural resources.

The Plan also sits in the context of the Council’s Economic Development Strategy, where a 10 year outcome is to advocate for tourism products that promote Wellington’s unique sense of place. The unique natural heritage of Wellington creates a strong potential for eco-tourism.

In addition, the Plan is influenced by the Cultural Wellbeing Strategy, which emphasises enhancing elements of the city’s sense of place, including native flora and fauna; and becoming more actively engaged, including access to historical and heritage information, and investing in the city’s public environment.

It will give effect to the Urban Development Strategy by assisting in the creation of a more sustainable environment. Reducing our ecological footprint and protecting and maintaining a green network throughout the urban environment.

The Plan will support the Social and Recreation Strategy by encouraging community participation and involvement in biodiversity conservation, continuing close working relationships with community groups involved with restoration and enabling these groups to communicate by providing networking opportunities.

The Plan sits alongside *Capital Spaces* (Open Space Plan), Energy Plan, Water Conservation Strategies, and Solid and Liquid Waste Management Plans. Plans such as the *Pest Management Plan* sit directly under the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan (Figure 1).

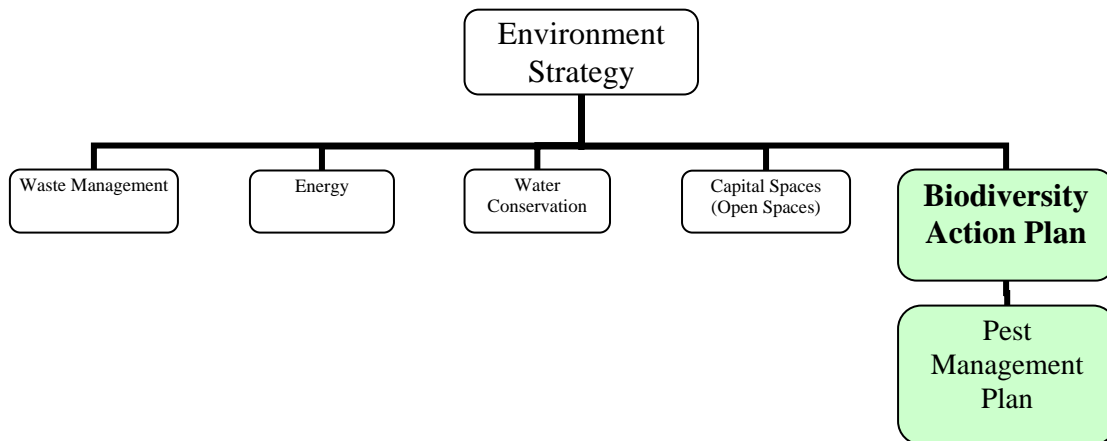


Figure 1: Strategic Context for Biodiversity Action Plan

The Plan is the first comprehensive city wide plan to coordinate the city’s biodiversity activities. The *Wet and Wild: Bush and Streams Restoration Plan* was prepared in 2001, and identified a five year series of operational priorities and targets relating to the restoration of the city’s regenerating bush, primary

forest remnants and streams. The *Wet & Wild* plan finished functioning in 2006. Restoration is one of the four major facets of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan. It is proposed that the Plan will supersede *Wet and Wild* and continue a new five year series of priorities and targets addressed in a wider biodiversity context.

This Plan also aligns with the recent report on carbon neutrality (June 2007) by promoting the planting of forests, providing information on carbon credits to private landowners and investigating the effects of climate change on indigenous biodiversity.

#### **4.4 Wellington City Council Biodiversity Progress**

In less than 10 years, the Council has made significant inroads to effective biodiversity management. These activities are summarised in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Achievements in Biodiversity Management in Wellington City Council*

<b>Biodiversity Area</b>	<b>Summary of achievement</b>
Pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest Management Plan prepared &amp; approved in 2004.</li> <li>• Provides framework for the city to control weeds and pest animals.</li> <li>• Included key native ecosystem ranking to prioritise areas for control.</li> <li>• An integral part of the Pest Management Plan was the preparation of an Implementation Plan which was prepared in 2005. The Implementation Plan set out a 10 year operational programme to meet the objectives in the Pest Management Plan. Increase in funding for pest control was approved for first 2 years.</li> <li>• Council agreed that any future funding for increased service levels after 2007/08 will be considered in the context of agreed priorities that resulted from the adoption of the Environmental strategy.</li> <li>• Agreed that any funding increases relating to pest management will be included in the Parks and Gardens AMP process.</li> <li>• The adoption of the Environment Strategy led to the preparation of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> </ul>
Possum and Goat control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive possum control programme with Greater Wellington 50/50 cost share.</li> <li>• This programme began in 1993 at Otari and now extends over many reserves, including a programme that has eradicated possums from</li> </ul>

	<p>Miramar Peninsular.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive goat control in Te Kopahou has resulted in a significant decrease in numbers.</li> <li>• Collaborative programme underway for eradicating feral goats on the south west peninsula.</li> </ul>
Revegetation & threatened species work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council grows around 100,000 eco source native plants annually</li> <li>• About 24,000 are supplied free to community groups and residents for planting on road reserves and other areas in the city.</li> <li>• About 75,000 are planted by Council. Priorities include planting new sites on the south coast and in key native ecosystems, bulking up existing revegetation sites, planting sites where hazardous trees have been removed, and steep mowing sites.</li> <li>• There are over 170 revegetation sites.</li> <li>• Each site is revisited for 5-6 years and weeds are controlled and infill planting is carried out as required. Further planting occurs in City gardens, Botanic Garden and Otari Wilton's Bush.</li> <li>• Work performed in these gardens and at Council's Berhampore Nursery also involves threatened species propagation and ex situ protection.</li> </ul>
Vegetation management programme/ Hazardous Tree Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A planned approach is formulated for ongoing staged removal of the tall exotic trees and native replanting.</li> <li>• Urban forest renewal will, overtime, increase biodiversity and create a natural ecosystem balance. The gradual reduction of the conifer canopy over a number of decades will also mean a major landscape change for the City.</li> </ul>
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 Conservation Areas were prepared for the District Plan in 1994. These areas were selected based on a combination of ecological significance and community expectation.</li> <li>• These areas occur mostly on public land, although some are on private land.</li> <li>• The ecological values of the areas are protected through rules, operational activities and advocacy.</li> </ul>
Volunteer programme & Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council currently supports over 40 community groups in terms of providing plants, technical advice, tools, weed control, and participating in working bees.</li> <li>• There is a significant payback on investment in</li> </ul>

	<p>community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council supports facilitators to implement the national Enviroschools programme in Wellington schools and works with schools every winter through their revegetation programmes.</li> </ul>
Environmental grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council provides \$80,000 per year for projects that promote environmental sustainability or greater understanding of environmental values.</li> </ul>
Stream protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the 3 year strategic priorities, is the improvement of stream protection.</li> <li>• The Council has a lead role in Project Kaiwharawhara; this includes organising meetings, erosion and revegetation projects, interpretative signage, and publications.</li> <li>• Project Kaiwharawhara is currently being reviewed with the aim of developing a stream protection model to apply to other catchments in the city.</li> <li>• The regulatory tools currently in place for stream protection are being reviewed, as is the Code of Practice for Land Development.</li> <li>• Community stream programmes within the Kaiwharawhara, Porirua, Owhiro, Ohariu and Te Aro catchments are continuing with support from Council.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2002, the Council established baseline biodiversity monitoring.</li> <li>• Indigenous vegetation cover was mapped so that change in extent can be measured over time (recommended monitoring frequency of 10 years).</li> <li>• The health of selected ecosystem types was assessed by vegetation plots (to be monitored approximately every 10 years), and 5 minute bird counts (carried out quarterly).</li> </ul>
Karori Wildlife Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) works towards a 500 year vision of native forest restoration, and is re-introducing much of Wellington's lost fauna.</li> <li>• Council owns the land on which the sanctuary is built and provides the sanctuary with expertise and funding.</li> </ul>
Wellington Zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellington Zoo protects plant and animal biodiversity by holding and breeding endangered species (both native and exotic).</li> <li>• International captive breeding programmes of which the zoo is part, include: red panda, NZ</li> </ul>

	brown teal, Stephens Island Tuatara, kiwi, weta.
Other Key partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council works closely with other organisations in the area of biodiversity conservation,</li> <li>• Greater Wellington Regional Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council shares the cost of possum control with Council; their weed control officers work closely with Council staff to ensure the prevention, containment and if possible total eradication of pest weeds; their community based staff have a number of linked programmes with Council, with both organisations engaging with environmental community groups.</li> <li>• Council works directly with the Department of Conservation on projects such as the recent 'Plant Me Instead' booklet focusing on pest weeds and the South Coast Marine Reserve.</li> <li>• Iwi have been involved in the development of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan and have strong ongoing relationships with Council.</li> <li>• Council also supports the proposed Marine Education Centre.</li> <li>• All of which offer strong contributions towards biodiversity conservation, both indigenous and global.</li> </ul>

#### **4.5 Successful biodiversity management**

Biodiversity by definition is complex and successful biodiversity conservation must have a number of different components.

For example the Pest Management Plan rationale starts from the premise that prevention is better than cure. In the event that pests cannot be prevented, then eradicating them while they are in small numbers is the next best economic and ecological option. Pest plant management must be performed alongside revegetation to ensure the pest plants do not have the space to return. Often this also requires pest animal management to ensure the new plants are not eaten. This restoration work must also consider the influences of activities on adjoining private land, and the potential of including private land in conservation activities. This is all aided by strong partnerships with key stakeholders and the community. Biodiversity conservation could not be achieved without a wide range of organisations and individuals working together to a common goal.

These components all contribute to biodiversity management and cannot be considered in isolation to each other. By managing all aspects of biodiversity simultaneously, the gains are better, achieved more quickly and management costs less in the long term.

Wellington City has a unique set of factors which challenge effective biodiversity management. These include;

- Steep topography
- Diverse landscape types
- Lengthy boundaries between public and private open space
- Difficult access
- High frequency of windy days affecting wind spread weed species.

#### **4.6 Summary of planning process**

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|---------------------|--|
| April 06            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Existing Council policies and plans were reviewed.</li><li>○ SWOT and gap analysis completed in relation to the NZBS</li><li>○ An external Steering Group was established. Selected members, both internal and external, were invited to participate in a steering group. The final members of the steering group included representatives from Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Ngati Toa, New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects, Treaty Relationships, Infrastructure and Planning Policy. The Tenth Trust also had involvement at this level.</li></ul> |
| May 06 – June 07    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Eight meetings of the steering group were held over this time which outlined the vision, objectives and actions.</li></ul>   |
| May 06              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A presentation on the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan was given to the Tenth Trust and the Environmental Reference Group.</li></ul>   |
| December 06         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A report on the Draft was presented to the Environmental Reference Group, and they were invited to comment.</li><li>○ A presentation on the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan was given to the Elected Members Session.</li></ul>   |
| 12, 15, 22 March 07 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Workshops held with key stakeholders –general direction and potential action points were summarised and discussed. Feedback was considered and incorporated into the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.</li></ul>   |
| May 07              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Meetings held with key internal staff to discuss action points within the Biodiversity Action Plan.</li></ul>  |
| 14 June 07          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Presentation of Draft Biodiversity Action Plan to the Strategy and Policy Committee seeking approval for public comment.</li></ul>   |

## **5. Discussion**

### **5.1 Format of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan**

The first three sections of the Plan describe what biodiversity is, why it's important and what mechanisms we currently have in place for biodiversity protection. The fourth section gives a profile of Wellington's biodiversity, focusing on Wellington's main ecosystems and habitats. Sections five and six cover what we are currently doing to manage biodiversity assets and set the vision for the Plan. The last section is the action plan itself, which includes the vision statement, objectives and actions. The objectives have been divided into four main themes; Identify, Protect, Restore and Research. The action plan is presented in tabular form showing a description of each action under the relevant objective. Funding source, timeframes and responsibilities have been allocated to each action.

### **5.2 Vision statement**

The vision for the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan was developed through the vision for Wellington's landscape and ecosystems identified during the development of the Long Term Council Community Plan (2006/07 – 2015/16).

The community outcomes for the environment were translated into an overall vision for Wellington's biodiversity:

*Wellington is a city that protects and restores biodiversity and proudly showcases its natural areas. It is a city renowned for its kaitiakitanga, its environmental guardianship.*

### **5.3 Key issues, opportunities and actions**

Key issues and objectives for the future management of Wellington's biodiversity have been identified through reviewing Council's current biodiversity management, discussions with staff, discussions with the steering group, and through public workshops. The following section describes the key issues raised and opportunities relating to these issues. These issues and opportunities can be broken into the four main themes – Identify, Protect, Restore and Research.

#### **5.3.1 Identify**

Currently there is a lack of collated information on Wellington's indigenous biodiversity, particularly areas other than forest remnants. This lack of useable information can mean by the time we realise we had something, it's gone.

Objectives relate to the need to have confidence in our knowledge of Wellington's biodiversity and recognise the important relationships and interactions between species, their environments and people.

Key actions are:

- Create a technical report on the current state of Wellington's indigenous biodiversity and carry out surveys to fill in any missing information
- Identify key linkages between areas identified as important (blue and green corridors)
- Identify areas where human activities impact on indigenous biodiversity

### **5.3.2 Protect**

There are a lack of plans and strategies for the protection of key areas. There are also few protection mechanisms for biodiversity on private land. Current protection mechanisms are weighted towards forested areas. We need to ensure that no further areas of high biodiversity are fragmented or lost. The lack of financial resources for continuing the Pest Management Implementation Plan has the potential to compromise the work done to date; an urgent priority under this theme is to continue this investment.

Objectives relate to the need to protect Wellington's biodiversity values and actively manage sites that collectively represent the full range of biodiversity that the city has to offer. This means providing protection through both regulatory and non regulatory means. They also relate to the need to lead by example and motivate, inspire, and educate the community to get involved in biodiversity conservation.

Key actions are:

- To control pest plants and animals to acceptable levels by continuing to invest in the Pest Management and Implementation Plans.
- To prioritise the protection of areas that are threatened and/or under represented and then actively manage these sites
- To work with other organisations and private landowners to ensure the conservation of Wellington's indigenous biodiversity
- Strengthen District Plan provisions to protect sites of high biodiversity value
- Create incentives for biodiversity protection on private land e.g. covenant policy
- Continue to support existing community groups and to create other opportunities for the community to become involved in biodiversity conservation

### **5.3.3 Restore**

We need to ensure that representative selections of Wellington's indigenous ecosystems are being restored. Often the wider community is not involved in or aware of this restoration and the importance of indigenous biodiversity. This requires education and further community involvement.

Objectives relate to the need to restore Wellington's indigenous ecosystems to a healthy state and ensure that interactions with our indigenous biodiversity will be a common experience for all Wellingtonians.

Key actions are:

- To restore species diversity and representativeness in priority areas
- To restore areas with high biodiversity values and those cleared of exotic vegetation
- Implement a green and blue network and encourage private landowners to participate
- Develop and promote other community action initiatives

#### **5.3.4 Research**

Although we have some monitoring programmes in place, the data needs to be effectively incorporated into management plans and the information used to further our knowledge of Wellington's indigenous biodiversity. We must also work with other organisations to ensure this knowledge can be shared.

Objectives relate to the need to work with other organisations and the community to ensure a city-wide approach to biodiversity aims and priorities. They also state that we must have an effective monitoring system that in combination with continuing research will ensure our biodiversity is conserved and managed into the future.

Key actions are:

- Establish clear targets and standards for biodiversity conservation
- Share data with other organisations, within Council and with the wider community
- Monitor biodiversity indicators and set up systems to ensure this information is used to enhance biodiversity conservation
- Work with key people and partners to identify future research needs e.g. the effects of climate change on indigenous biodiversity

#### **5.4 Key implementation considerations**

As outlined earlier, each action has been allocated a funding source, sequenced into a timeframe and responsibilities identified for its implementation.

Many of the actions identified can be implemented using existing resource capacity. Actions will be included in business unit business plans and consequently staff performance plans. Key existing roles include Planner: Ecology & Biodiversity (Open Space & Recreation Planning), the District Planning team, and the Natural & Botanic Areas team (Parks & Gardens).

There are actions that require additional funding. The most significant is the continuation of the Pest Management Implementation Plan budget. This is identified as Action 2.1.3 under Theme 2: Protect.

Council approved the first two years of the Pest Implementation Plan budget but agreed that any future increase in service levels after 2007/08 will be considered in the context of the agreed priorities that resulted from the adoption of the Environment Strategy. The adoption of the Environment Strategy led to the development of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.

It was also agreed that the process for considering any future service level changes relating to the implementation of the Pest Management Plan would be included in the Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan and approval of funding through the Long Term Council Community Plan in 2008/09.

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan recognises effective pest management as a critical factor and a high priority in the ongoing protection and restoration of Wellington's indigenous biodiversity.

Pests, both animals and plants are the biggest threat to what remains of the city's indigenous biodiversity. Failure to protect the important areas of the city will allow further degradation of important communities with a high probability that they will be degraded beyond recovery or lost entirely over the next decade.

Other actions that will require additional funding include the protection of biodiversity on private land (actions 2.1.6, 2.4.1, 3.2.2), restoring sites of high biodiversity value (3.1.1) and restoring important linkages (3.1.3). A number of actions require community engagement (all actions under objective 2.5); these actions will require additional funding as community involvement increases.

Further detail on these actions can be seen by cross referencing Section 7: Action Plan of the Plan. The areas requiring additional funding are highlighted.

Detailed figures for this increase in funding beyond 2007/08 will be included in the final report, subsequent to submissions. These figures will be recommended for inclusion in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan process.

It's noteworthy that any major biosecurity incursion may require additional Council emergency funding (Action 2.1.11) and Action 2.5.10 is designed to attract funding through business partnerships and sponsorship opportunities.

## **6. Further communication and consultation**

The submission period will run from approximately late July 2007 until the end of August 2007 and will be advertised in the local papers, on the Our Wellington page in the Dominion Post and via the Wellington City Council website.

Anyone who wishes to be heard in support of their submission will have the opportunity to speak to the Strategy and Policy Committee. This will happen, subject to need, when the results of the written submissions are reported to Committee. The final plan will be presented to the Strategy and Policy

Committee after any amendments resulting from the due consideration of submissions.

The communication plan for the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan includes the use of:

- Media release/s
- Council website
- Direct distribution to key stakeholders
- Distribution to libraries and Service Centres
- Meetings with the Council's Treaty Partners and key stakeholders

Public meetings are not planned but will be considered if there is the demand or need.

## **7. Conclusion**

Council has already achieved a great deal in biodiversity conservation in the last decade. To be leaders in biodiversity conservation and to motivate and inspire the community, it is important to continue and expand on this investment, with pest management being a significant priority.

The challenge for biodiversity conservation in Wellington is to ensure that the high priority areas are protected while other areas are restored. We need to engage the community and key partners to ensure we are working together for a common goal and continue to gain from the benefits of community involvement.

The themes, objectives and actions have been developed in conjunction with staff, key partners and community stakeholders, and in consideration of Council's strategic priorities, to realise the vision that:

*Wellington is a city that protects and restores biodiversity and proudly showcases its natural areas. It is a city renowned for its kaitiakitanga, its environmental guardianship.*

Contact Officer: *Myfanwy Emeny, Planner – Ecology & Biodiversity, Open Space and Recreation Planning*

## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*The draft Biodiversity Action Plan is a key implementation action of the Council's Environment Strategy, contributing to a number of Environmental Outcomes. It also contributes to the Economic and Development Strategy, the Cultural Wellbeing Strategy, the Urban Development Strategy and the Social and Recreation Strategy.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*Funding for biodiversity conservation is covered under many different budgets. The key ones with direct biodiversity outcomes are A004 (Open space and recreation planning), C524 (Town belt management), C514 (Town belt planting), C513 (Community greening initiatives), C510 (Animal pest management) and C509 (Pest plant control and monitoring). Many of the implementation actions will be funded through existing budgets. Some additional funding will be required and deliberated through the annual plan process.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*Our indigenous biodiversity is important to Mana Whenua - for its intrinsic value, its historical importance, for its potential in matauranga maori (traditional knowledge) and rongoa maori (traditional medicine). Both the Tenth Trust and Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira have been involved with the steering group and the development process. Further meetings will be held as part of the consultation process on the draft plan.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*Committee are asked to approve this draft Biodiversity Action Plan so that the public consultation process for its development can continue. The action plan represents key strategic actions required to meet Wellington City Council's responsibilities to biodiversity conservation over the next 10 years and for the draft Biodiversity Action Plan the decision-making focus is establishing priorities.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*Workshops have been held with interested parties on identifying direction and actions for the plan. Key stakeholders are on the steering group. The effects of this work are far reaching; therefore it is proposed that consultation be spread widely as well as targeted consultation with key stakeholders and partners.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Mana whenua have been involved on the steering group. Their comments have been incorporated into the plan and in particular actions. Officers intend to continue meeting to discuss the draft plan once it has been approved by Committee.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*None.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*This report and draft Biodiversity Action Plan is consistent with existing policy, including the Pest Management Plan (2005), the Outer Green Belt Management Plan (2004), Capital Spaces (1998), the Otari-Wilton's Bush Management Plan (2007) and the Bush and Streams Restoration Plan (2001).*