

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the Context, Role and Operating Procedures for the Biodiversity Strategy Steering Group (BSSG) that is being convened to develop a regional biodiversity strategy for Hawke's Bay by December 2014.

2. Study Area

The Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy or HBBS is a non-statutory undertaking with a study area confined to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's physical and biological legal boundaries. However, the group's activities may extend outside HBRC boundaries to achieve regional outcomes and objectives.

3. Introduction

One action from the adopted Hawke's Bay Land and Water Management Strategy is to develop a 'Regional Biodiversity Strategy' with relevant agencies such as the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game NZ, QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and territorial authorities. These agencies and stakeholders recognise the value of stronger alignment of individual activities and a clearer common purpose in responding to biodiversity challenges in the region. There are a range of initiatives that can be and are being undertaken by these organisations and others which contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity. As such, the HBBS will be led by a Steering Group comprising members of these and other relevant groups.

There is increasing recognition that well-connected natural ecological systems of sufficient scale are needed to support sustainable and diverse species within the Hawke's Bay landscape. People living in the region want to ensure our natural landscape values are protected for generations to come.

The broad agreement and the collaboration of all stakeholders through a shared biodiversity strategy is vital. This will help to achieve the necessary changes in land and water management required for sustainable indigenous ecosystems in the region.

A jointly developed Regional Biodiversity Strategy will set:

- long term goals to achieve effective habitat protection to enable successful and diverse ecological systems;
- a region wide approach to biodiversity, with strategies to achieve those goals;
- priority areas for action and/or any funding commitment required; and
- the respective contributions of all stakeholders toward achieving those goals.

To that end, HBRC is facilitating a collaborative multi-agency approach to engage the wider community in developing a cohesive biodiversity strategy.

Understanding the region's current level of biodiversity will involve the identification and mapping of areas of significant indigenous biodiversity. An agreed baseline inventory for biodiversity components will be established in 2012-13, and as part of the State of the Environment monitoring

programme, data will be collected to update a regional biodiversity information database, which would also be contributed to by other organisations.

The Regional Council's funding towards developing a biodiversity inventory and strategy is \$87,500 in Year 2102/13 and \$15,500 in Year 2013/14.

4. Strategy and Key Drivers

The Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy (HBBS) will provide a framework to stock take and guide activities protecting and managing biodiversity in Hawke's Bay. It is envisaged that the parent agencies of the BSSG will support the strategy by signing an accord committing them to action to deliver the strategy objectives.

The vision is that Hawke's Bay's biodiversity is enhanced to be healthy and functioning through the management and protection of species, sites, and ecosystems.

This work will also set long term goals to achieve effective habitat protection, enable successful and diverse ecological systems, identify priority areas for action and the additional funding required.

A Core Working Group has been established to draft the technical elements of the strategy. This group consists of Department of Conservation, Fish and Game New Zealand, QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, Hawke's Bay Forestry Group, Federated Farmers and Hawke's Bay Regional Council staff.

5. VISION & OUTCOMES

Strategy Vision: Hawke's Bay's biodiversity is enhanced to be healthy and functioning through the management and protection of species, sites, and ecosystems.

Native species: we have sustainable populations of native species throughout the region.

Native habitats: we sustain, protect, and improve native habitats and the ecosystem services they provide.

Maori values: we sustain and protect mauri to enable social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

Community: we support education, engagement, environmental guardianship, and actively connect our community with biodiversity programmes.

Partnerships: we collaborate effectively and align programmes to share responsibilities to achieve biodiversity outcomes.

Strategy Outcome: Indigenous biodiversity in Hawke's Bay, and the ecosystem services they provide, are sustained and enhanced to provide for the region's environmental, cultural, social, and economic wellbeing.

Species: Support regionally and nationally threatened species to ensure sustainable populations and an increase in species distribution.

Habitats: Maintain full representation of the diversity of Hawke's Bay habitat types. Maintain or improve health and connectivity within and between areas of habitat.

Ecological processes: Sustain and protect indigenous species dominance to enable critical ecological processes to be maintained.

Kaitiakitanga: Guardianship and conservation based on the connection between tangata whenua and their environment is recognised.

Species and people: Sustain and protect socially and culturally important species to enable the provision of the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of the Hawke's Bay community.

Community involvement: Engagement, understanding, and guardianship of indigenous biodiversity is inclusive of all sectors of the community.

Partnerships: Landowners, agencies, iwi, and other partners collaborate effectively to achieve efficiencies and produce indigenous biodiversity gains.

6. Project Timeframe

Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Long Term Plan outlines the following specific outputs for the biodiversity strategy:

- 2012-13 finalise scope of strategy and begin preparation of draft strategy
- 2013-14 Consult on the draft strategy and prepare the final biodiversity strategy
- 2014-15 prepare the programme for work relevant to HBRC for inclusion in the next long term plan

7. Role of the Steering Group

The role of the BSSG will be:

- To provide governance to the Core Working Group in the development of the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy;
- To report progress milestones back to HBRC Councillors;
- To clarify areas of uncertainty or disagreement;
- To assist with community engagement and communication; and
- To keep their individual BSSG member organisations aware of biodiversity strategy development progress and engaged in strengthening.

8. Membership

BSSG members have been selected to reflect the broad interests in biodiversity and to provide a cross-section of values, understanding and perspectives. It is expected that members will engage with their organisations and wider social networks to explain what is happening in the collaborative process and to get feedback from them on the matters under consideration.

If someone considers that an important sector, interest or perspective is not represented in the group, we will consider adding another member, taking into account the availability of potential members and the need to keep the group to a size that can work effectively together.

The members of BSSG group have, in the main, been nominated by their respective sector or group to be their mandated representative. Where members have not been given the mandate of their sector or group, they will participate as individuals and are expected to also convey ideas and

perspectives from their wider networks. In meeting three, each member will declare whether they are mandated representatives or not. At the end of the process, each member will declare whether they can support the proposed agreement and promote it to their organisations and networks (see definition of consensus below). Members will also be asked, at that point, whether their organisations (where relevant) would formally endorse the consensus agreement.

The membership of the BSSG (as at 07 May 2013) is:

Organisation	Representative
Animal Health Board	Frank Pavitt
Central Hawke's Bay District Council	Helen O'Shaughnessy
Dairy NZ	Anna Lambourne
Department of Conservation	Dave Carlton
Farm Forestry Committee	Marie Taylor
Federated Farmers	Bruce Wills
Fish & Game New Zealand	John Cheyne
Forest & Bird	Neil Eagles
Hastings District Council	Rowan Little / Philip Mackay
Hawke's Bay Forestry Group	Brett Gilmore
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Neil Kirton Liz Remmerswaal Ewan McGregor
Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers Association	Diane Vesty
Mana Ahuriri Iwi Inc.	Piri Prentice
Maori Trustee	tbc
Ministry for Primary Industries	Gillian Mangin
Napier City Council	Tony Billing
Ngā Whenua Rāhui	Mike Mohi
Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated	tbc
QEII National Trust	Troy Duncan
Te Taiao Hawke's Bay Environment Forum	Vaughan Cooper
Wairoa District Council	Peter Freeman

9. Protocols for Collaborative Deliberation

This process is not just another consultation exercise – it is a new way of decision-making. Rather than simply advocating for a particular point of view, participants will be expected to explore,

consider and deliberate on solutions that accommodate diverse views and interests, and to refrain from tactics that are divisive.

The protocol includes:

- Members must be willing to participate cooperatively for the greater good of sustainable biodiversity in Hawke’s Bay.
- Members must commit to open, honest and collaborative deliberations. To this end, we will follow the Chatham House Rule. This means that participants are free to discuss aspects of the process with other parties (excluding the media, see next point) but shall not attribute speakers or their affiliations to discussed options or opinions. The list of participants will be made public though.
- Contributions made within the Group will be “without prejudice”. That is, nothing said within the Group may be used in a subsequent process except for any recommendations and agreements reached by the Group.
- Members agree to refrain from discussion and debate through the media or public websites etc. If newsletters or group emails are used to communicate with networks, members are expected to show restraint and respect for other views and avoid promoting discord within the group. Any public statement about discussions or decisions by the group must be agreed by the group and made through an agreed spokesperson. This also applies to council staff and others who attend the meetings in support of the HBBS.
- Consensus is defined as every member of the group agreeing that they can accept the proposed agreement.

10. Councillor and Council Staff Involvement

Three HBRC Councillors and an officer from each territorial authority have been appointed to the BSSG. While these Councillors and officers have particular statutory and non-statutory responsibilities outside this process, within the BSSG they have the same rights and responsibilities as all other members. In addition to bringing their particular knowledge and perspectives, these Councillors and officers will represent the interests of the wider Hawke’s Bay community.

The HBRC Councillors are also members of the Regional Planning Committee which comprises all Councillors (9) and representation of eight of the nine Treaty Claimant Groups in Hawke’s Bay. This Committee provides the co-governance structure to recognise mana whenua’s kaitiaki role in managing the natural resources of the Hawke’s Bay rohe. This Committee is tasked with making resource management policy recommendations to the Council.

These Councillors and officers accept their mandate to support any consensus decision reached by the BSSG but recognise that they cannot speak on behalf of the Treaty Claimant Group representatives of the Regional Planning Committee, or in the case of officers cannot commit their Councils to any consensus without a formal resolution from their elected members.

Regional Council staff including the Group Manager Resource Management (GM RM or a delegated authority) will facilitate the Hawke’s Bay Biodiversity Strategy. Other regional council support will be provided through the GM RM including financial advice, media assistance, engineering, technical, planning and regulatory advice.

11. Role of Facilitator

Meetings of the BSSG will be led by an independent facilitator, who will:

- Ensure a fair and equitable group process
- Foster an atmosphere of respect, open-mindedness and group learning
- Design an enjoyable and productive process to enable the group to achieve its task
- Facilitate input from all members of the group, so that every voice is heard
- Provide guidance on collaborative deliberation techniques, including constructive ways to voice disagreements and negotiate potential conflicts.

12. Draft Meeting Schedule for BSSG

HBRC has committed to delivering a Biodiversity Strategy by December 2014. However, the timeframe will require flexibility to ensure that all relevant information has been considered for the development of a robust and enduring strategy. The most effective governance structure for biodiversity management will be reviewed as the Biodiversity Strategy develops.

Following is the schedule for meetings of the BSSG. It is intended that the meetings will follow this schedule but it may be necessary to vary as needs arise.

- Meeting 1: 5 February 2013
- Meeting 2: May 2013
- Meeting 3: August 2013
- Meeting 4: November 2013
- Meeting 5: February 2014
- Meeting 6: May 2014
- Meeting 7: August 2014

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