



Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Plan



About the Implementation Plan

This Implementation Plan is intended to give effect to the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (WNES). The Strategy is the Council’s local response to the degradation of important natural ecosystems and species being reported across the world, including within our District.

Current global biodiversity loss is so great it is called the ‘sixth extinction’. The biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis are acknowledged to be closely linked and healthy and diverse ecosystems can adjust more effectively to climate threats. The contribution nature-based solutions can make to buffering climate impacts by sequestering carbon and protecting built up areas is also reflected in the strategy.

All aspects of life in Aotearoa New Zealand rely on a thriving natural environment including our physical and mental health, economy and culture. The strategy seeks to restore our connection to the natural world we are a part of so that we feel inspired to better protect it. We need to prioritise the protection and restoration of the natural environment not only for the ecosystems benefits it provides us and those who follow, but also for its own intrinsic worth. A world without dolphins, kiwi, tuatara and Kauri trees seems unimaginable but could become a possibility.

The strategy takes into account strategic directions outlined in the Local Government Act 2002 (4 wellbeings), National Adaptation Plan, National Policy Statement for Indigenous

Biodiversity, Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy and others. It also complements the work of other organisations such as Environment Canterbury’s Zone Implementation Plan Addendum (ZIPA), Forest and Bird’s ‘Make Every Wetland Count’ campaign, QEII Trust and the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust.

The strategy currently consists of three documents plus a summary document which should be read in conjunction with one another.

Background documents



A Biodiversity SOE report describes the current state of indigenous biodiversity within the District and the challenges and opportunities foreseen over the next 30 years. It also provides an overview of biodiversity concepts and relevant legislation.

A review of Council reserve provision also informs the strategy. This will form part of a Reserves SOE report that identifies opportunities, in collaboration with local residents, for increasing natural values in reserves and streetscapes.



Strategy

Provides a high level strategic framework to guide Council’s work in protecting and restoring the natural environment over the next 30 years. Roles range from developing plans and carrying out the work, to supporting the efforts of others, educating people about the issues and opportunities and advocating for change, both at a national and local level.

Action plan

Contains specific costed actions to be included in the Council’s Long Term Plan for implementation between 2024 and 2034.



Key

Abbreviations used:

ABS – Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy

ERP – Emissions Reduction Plan

NAP – National Adaptation Plan

NPS-FW – National Policy Statement for Fresh Water 2020

NPSIB – National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

WDCCO – Community Outcomes

WVMS – Waimakariri Visitor Marketing Strategy 2020-25

PF 2050 – Predator Free 2050

EWC – Forest & Bird Every Wetland Counts

The abbreviations are used to show the links between the above documents and the actions. Those highlighted in bold are currently mandatory, although the Government has signalled its intention to review the implementation of the NPSIB and replace the NPS-FW.

Actions are classified as:

✓✓✓ = legislative

✓✓ = very important

✓ = important

Implementation years:

Yrs 1-3 = July 2024–June 2027

Yrs 4-6 = July 2027–June 2030

Yrs 7-10 = July 2030–June 2034

Yrs 11-30 = July 2034 onwards

Asset symbols:

= Parks and Reserves

= Streetscapes

= Water Bodies

= Other Land

= Significant Natural Areas





Strategic Direction 1

Prioritise nature

Desired outcomes:

1. The District's natural environment is valued as critical infrastructure, essential to our wellbeing and the survival of other species we share Earth with.
2. Natural ecosystems are a significant feature of the Waimakariri District.
3. There is better integration of the natural and built environment.



Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
1.1 Integrate planning									
1.1.1 Increase the circle of influence in infrastructure and district planning									
1.1.1.1	Ensure national and regional environmental policy direction is given effect to where required and considered for inclusion in Council's planning processes where discretionary (NPSIB , ABS, ERP and NAP).		Development Planning Unit, Strategy & Business, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.1.1.2	Amend the District Plan as required to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.				●
1.1.1.3	Require ecological protection or enhancement either via direct resource consent conditions, covenants, consent notices or bonds, where possible to do so, to manage the effects of an activity (NPSIB).		Development Planning Unit, landowners, Greenspace	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.				●
1.1.1.4	Provide specialised biodiversity input to planning processes including resource consents, particularly where an ecological report is provided (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roding	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.1.1.5	Work with Council staff and developers to provide ecologically functional landscapes in urban areas as described in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy and Biodiversity State of Environment Report.		Greenspace, Strategy & Business, Development Planning Unit, land developers, Utilities & Roding	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.1.1.6	Review and implement Council's Engineering Code of Practice to ensure biodiversity is prioritised as critical infrastructure.		Greenspace, Utilities & Roding	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
1.1.1.7	Provide specialised biodiversity input to engineering infrastructure design (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Utilities & Roding	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
1.1.1.8	Develop education resources and programmes for staff working across the Council (ABS, NPSIB).		Greenspace, Council staff	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$11,000. Additional biodiversity staff time covered in 1.2.1.2 plus \$11k project costs over years 24/25 and 25/26.	●			
1.1.1.9	Continue to administer and support the cross-council Biodiversity Co-ordination Group.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, District Plan Admin, 3 Waters Unit	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.1.2 Advocate for a holistic approach									
1.1.2.1	Advocate for nature-centric policies, strategies, and plans both within the organisation and externally.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roading, external organisations	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.1.2.2	Promote the economic, social, cultural, and other ecosystem service benefits, such as climate change mitigation, provided by the natural environment.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
1.2 Mainstream biodiversity									
1.2.1 Ensure biodiversity is prioritised as a key Council activity									
1.2.1.1	Adopt parks levels of service, and biodiversity KPI's and targets that ensure biodiversity is prioritised and provide a mandate for an increased biodiversity funding share.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
1.2.1.2	Increase Council biodiversity capability and capacity.		Greenspace	✓✓	Mix of existing and new funding. Total additional cost of \$0.5m for two new staff members.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
1.2.2 Move from grey to green									
1.2.2.1	Advocate for nature-based engineering solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change (ERP, NAP).		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roading	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
1.2.2.2	Promote the use of indigenous flora, fauna and cultural icons on urban infrastructure such as signs, bridges, sculptures, street flags, toilets and hard surfaces etc.; and indigenous flora and fauna names for reserve and street names.		Greenspace, Utilities & Roading, Strategy & Business, Community Development, Waimakariri Arts Trust	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only. Project costs to be included in individual project budgets.	●	●	●	●
1.2.2.3	Review the District Plan and other relevant Council documents as appropriate, to encourage and incentivise water sensitive urban design; and develop implementation guidelines (NPS-FW)		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, Utilities & Roading, 3 Waters Unit	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.				●
1.2.3 Create spaces for nature									
1.2.3.1	Prioritise the protection of existing wetlands over other proposed land uses (ERP, EWC).		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, developers, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.2.3.2	Recommend sufficient buffer zones are provided when changing/intensifying land use for existing high value terrestrial and aquatic habitats and/or flora/fauna species to continue be protected (NPSIB).		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, developers, landowners	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
1.2.3.3	Complete the Reserves State of Environment Report, engaging with residents to understand their views about promoting ecosystem health in Council reserves and streetscapes.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			



Strategic Direction 2

Connect people and nature

Desired outcomes:

1. Living in a healthy natural environment enriches our everyday life and we work together to achieve and maintain this.
2. People understand and value indigenous biodiversity and natural ecosystems.
3. Residents have a 'sense of place' or connectedness to the District's natural landscape.
4. Our community understands how it can contribute to and become actively involved in protecting, restoring and recreating natural ecosystems.



Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
2.1 Make it easy to connect									
2.1.1 Provide opportunities to bring together people and biodiversity									
2.1.1.1	Establish an online public portal for sharing knowledge, educational resources and successes. Examples may include a plant selector tool that will enable people to create ecologically sound plant lists, pairing volunteers with projects and highlighting community-based environmental projects (ABS).		Greenspace, Communications & Engagement Team, Business & Technology Solutions, community groups, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. \$20k BOF project costs in year 24/25. Additional staff time to enable portal to remain current and create content covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
2.1.2 Ensure education programmes, activities and resources are available									
2.1.2.1	Develop educational/resource material to fill information gaps, for example, improving natural stormwater and drainage ecosystems and practices, and the impacts of pests and weeds on indigenous ecosystems (ABS).		Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, Communications & Engagement Team, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, community groups, landowners, ECan	✓	Total additional cost of \$10,000. \$10k BOF in year 24/25 plus \$10k project costs divided equally over years 25/26 and 26/27.	●	●	●	●
2.1.2.2	Run community educational and connection events, including fun learning and activation programmes, and those that empower students and support student-led action (ABS).		Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Waimakariri District Libraries, Enviro Schools, other schools, landowners, community groups, community members, ECan	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$71,000. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2 plus \$10k BOF project costs for years 24/25 and 25/26 and then \$71k divided over the remaining eight years.	●	●	●	●
2.1.2.3	Support the educational activities of proactive environment groups operating within the District, for example, the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust District Biodiversity Forum and the public winter lecture series (ABS).		Greenspace, community groups, community members	✓✓	No additional cost. \$10k BOF project costs divided into \$4k in 24/25 and \$3k each year for 25/26 and 26/27.	●			
2.1.2.4	Continue to support the EnviroSchools programme (ABS).		Greenspace, Solid Waste, Enviro Schools, other schools	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
2.1.3 Look for opportunities to partner with and support others									
2.1.3.1	Seek to partner with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga on natural environment issues including the management, protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, and ensure engagement is early, meaningful and in accordance with tikanga Māori (NPSIB).		Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.2	Provide input to the refresh of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (NPSIB).		ECan, Greenspace, Strategy & Business, Development Planning Unit, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.		●		
2.1.3.3	Continue to support Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust as a Council CCO (LGA).		Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time plus existing annual grant of c.\$250k pa.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.4	Continue to provide resource and/or advisory support to groups running volunteer programmes in the District that have proven environmental benefits, for example, the Silverstream Reserve Volunteer Group, Ashley/Rakahuri Rivercare Group, Ashley Gorge Advisory Group, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Braid and Keep NZ Beautiful groups (ABS).		Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, community groups	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only plus existing annual grants to groups such as KNZ Beautiful c.\$10k pa.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.5	Participate in/support environmental focused activities run by other organisations, for example, the Forest and Bird 'Every Wetland Counts He Piupiuaki Ia Rohe Kōreporepo' Campaign and annual bird surveys (ERP, EWC, ABS).		Greenspace, community groups, community members	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.6	Provide operational funding for the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust to lead, promote and advocate for environmental protection, restoration and revegetation (ABS).		Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$45,000. \$20k in year 24/25, \$15k in year 25/26 and \$10k in year 26/27.	●			

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
2.1.3.7	Provide a Waimakariri District community groups contestable fund to support the implementation of Natural Environment Strategy objectives and actions.		Greenspace, community groups	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$100,000. \$10k each year for 10 years.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.8	Support Mainpower's Waimakariri community biodiversity fund.		Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Mainpower, Greenspace, community groups, landowners	✓	Total additional cost of \$50,000. \$50k in total, divided into \$5k every year if matched by an equal contribution from Mainpower.	●	●	●	●
2.1.3.9	Partner with the Department of Conservation to provide a toilet/carpark on the Mount Oxford Coopers Creek access track.		Greenspace, Department of Conservation	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$50,000. LTP bid of \$50k in Greenspace budget for year 25/26 subject to a toilet being provided by the Department of Conservation.	●			
2.1.4 Encourage people to physically connect with the natural environment									
2.1.4.1	Consider providing additional opportunities for the safe gathering of mahinga ka, rōngoa and perennial edibles when developing Council reserves.		Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, community	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
2.1.4.2	Continue to promote the creation of community food forests, gardens, and perennial edibles on Council land where appropriate.		Greenspace	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time and budgets only.	●	●	●	●
2.1.4.3	Provide wayfinding interpretation in Council reserves and streetscapes.		Greenspace, Utilities & Roading,	✓	Total additional cost of \$65,000. Starting in year 24/25 at \$5K and increasing each year to \$8k by year 33/34.	●	●	●	●

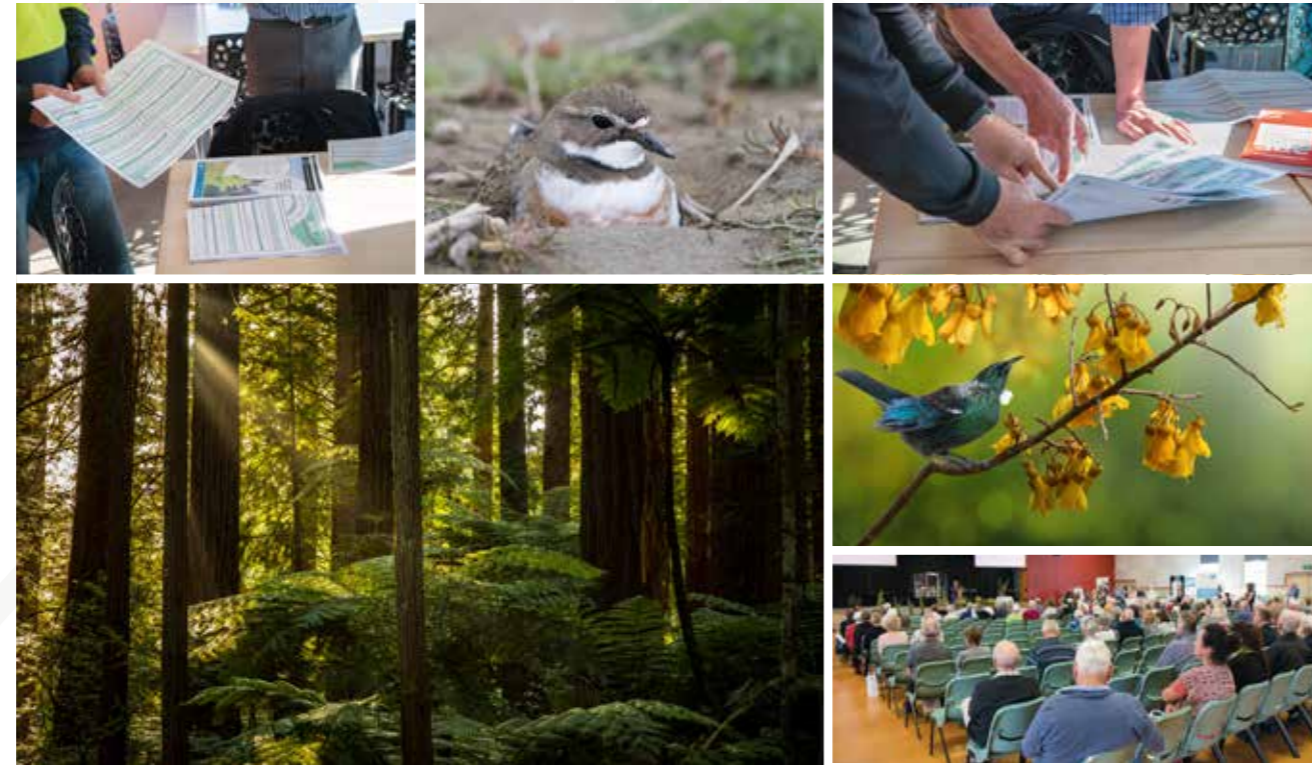
Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
2.1.4.4	Ensure opportunities are provided for all people to access the coastal environment.		Greenspace, ECan, beach resident groups, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$250,000. Capital works of \$125k each year in years 27/29 for a viewing platform at Pegasus Bay.		●		
2.1.4.5	Upgrade and provide additional walking tracks in the natural environment, for example, at Ashley Gorge Reserve.		Greenspace, reserve advisory groups	✓	Total additional cost of \$40,000. Existing staff time plus additional \$40k split into \$20k each in years 27/28 and 28/29.		●		
2.1.4.6	Provide more accessible physical access and services within natural environments where appropriate, for example, toilets and pathways, to enable people to enjoy the outdoors.		Greenspace	✓	Total additional cost of \$350,000. \$50k pa from year 27/28-33/34. Specific projects to be determined.		●	●	
2.1.4.7	Promote the uptake of compatible recreation opportunities in the District's natural areas.		Greenspace, Communications & Engagement Team, Department of Conservation	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
2.2 Rediscover and make our indigenous landscape visible									
2.2.1 Increase the proportion of indigenous planting on Council reserves and streetscapes (NPSIB)									
2.2.1.1	Continue to transition to the default position of prioritising the planting of indigenous over exotic vegetation on Council-owned land (NPSIB).		Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time and existing renewal budgets.	●	●	●	●
2.2.1.2	Implement indigenous vegetation targets for Council reserves (NPSIB).		Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost.	●	●	●	●
2.2.1.3	Look for opportunities to showcase and increase indigenous biodiversity in urban streetscapes.		Greenspace, Utilities & Rooding, developers	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
2.2.2 Support the achievement of 10% indigenous biodiversity in the wider landscape (NPSIB)									
2.2.2.1	Offer technical expertise to plant suppliers as requested to ensure the availability of eco-sourced indigenous plants.		Greenspace, nursery owners	✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time required.		●		
2.2.2.2	Ensure it is easy for residents to obtain ecologically sound planting advice (ABS).		Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, community members	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
2.2.2.3	Develop a video for general release in the movie theatre, website etc, promoting the District's indigenous flora and fauna.		Communications & Engagement Team, Greenspace	✓	Total additional cost of \$20,000. Project costs provided in year 28/29.		●		
2.2.2.4	Promote special/unique (often hidden) indigenous flora and fauna.		Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, community members, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.			●	
2.2.2.5	Promote the planting of indigenous vegetation on privately-owned land.		Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.			●	
2.2.2.6	Identify significant indigenous and exotic trees on private and public land in the District and ensure they are protected where possible as notable trees in the District Plan.		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, landowners	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$40,000. Existing staff time plus \$40k provided in year 34/35.				●



Strategic Direction 3

Improve our knowledge



Desired outcomes:

1. Tangata Whenua knowledge and practices are recognised, respected and encouraged.
2. We have the knowledge to effectively protect and restore our natural ecosystems.

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
3.1 Know what we have									
3.1.1 Continue the assessment, monitoring and reporting of biodiversity values on public and private land (NPSIB)									
3.1.1.1	Complete the District's SNA assessment and mapping programme as required by statute, in partnership with landowners in recognition of their role as stewards (NPSIB).		ECan, Department of Conservation, Development Planning Unit, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time provided in 1.2.1.2.		●		
3.1.1.2	Discuss with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga the development of a list of taonga species that can be mapped as agreed (NPSIB).		Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, ECan, Department of Conservation, Development Planning Unit, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time.		●		
3.1.1.3	Work with ECan to complete the assessment and mapping of the rest of the District's indigenous biodiversity, especially highly mobile fauna (NPSIB).		ECan, Department of Conservation, Greenspace, landowners	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time provided in 1.2.1.2.		●		
3.1.1.4	Develop an ongoing SNA monitoring programme (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, ECan	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time provided in 1.2.1.2.	●			
3.1.1.5	Develop an appropriate database for storing Council's indigenous biodiversity data; and partner with tangata whenua to develop systems for managing information provided by them, particularly with regard to taonga (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Business & Technology Solutions, GIS, Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time.		●		
3.1.1.6	Carry out a biological assessment of Council's property portfolio; and make recommendations for repurposing appropriate sites for natural environment enhancement projects (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Property, Strategy & Business	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time provided in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
3.1.1.7	Ascertain the extent and nature of the District's urban tree canopy.		Greenspace, landowners, consultant	✓	Total additional cost of \$40,000. Project costs of \$20k in year 24/25 for initial survey and \$20k in year 29/30 for monitoring.	●			

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
3.1.1.8	Work with ECan to identify, monitor and publicly report on ecosystem health indicators for the Waimakariri District (NPSIB).		ECan, Department of Conservation, Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time provided in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
3.2 Understand future challenges									
3.2.1 Carry out research and work with research partners, community groups and landowners to fill knowledge gaps and understand challenges									
3.2.1.1	Continue to carefully consider options for reductions in the use of chemicals as a precautionary principle, taking into account the effects on human health, and indigenous flora and fauna.		Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
3.2.1.2	Contribute to natural environment climate change mitigation and adaptation research.		Greenspace, Strategy & Business, universities, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Working Group	✓✓	No additional cost. \$25k BOF to be spent in years 24/25 and 25/26. Additional staff time for supervision provided in 1.2.1.2.	●			
3.2.1.3	Participate in relevant research carried out by other organisations.		Greenspace, ECan, Department of Conservation, universities, Ministry for the Environment	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$100,000. \$10k each year to cover costs of employing summer students. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
3.2.1.4	Carry out an assessment of the economic value of ecosystem services to the District.		Greenspace, consultant	✓	Total additional cost of \$40,000. To be spent in year 27/28 for specialist advice.		●		
3.2.1.5	Form mutually beneficial relationships with universities, including supporting student research projects.		Greenspace, universities	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
3.2.1.6	Partner with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, and other tangata whenua as appropriate, to obtain advice/upskill on how to integrate Mātauranga Māori within conservation and restoration projects (ABS, NPSIB).		Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Ngāi Tahu, Greenspace	✓✓✓	Total additional cost of \$50,000. \$5k each year for specialist advice.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
3.2.1.7	Liaise with innovative research organisations and individuals to ensure Council's ecological advice and practices are up to date and forward focussed (ABS).		Greenspace, Ecan, environmental organisations, Helen Clark Foundation, Manaaki Whenua, universities, local authorities	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
3.2.1.8	Engage with community, including diverse/minority groups to determine their aspirations and requirements for connecting with nature.		Greenspace, Community Team, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, community organisations, community members	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$10,000. Research project in 27/28 plus additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.		●		
3.2.1.9	Research restoration and management techniques for priority ecosystems, for example, kānuka drylands.		Greenspace, Lincoln University	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time for supervision covered in 1.2.1.2. \$25k BOF for years 24/25 and 25/26.	●			
3.2.1.10	Investigate the feasibility of using indigenous tree species as street trees.		Greenspace	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
3.2.1.11	Research best practice pest and weed control and restoration practices.		Greenspace	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$9,000. \$3k provided in years 26/27, 29/30 and 32/33.	●	●	●	●
3.2.2 Identify the impacts of key trends on the natural environment									
3.2.2.1	Collaborate with others to identify, manage, and mitigate increased biosecurity risks.		ECan, Greenspace	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
3.2.2.2	Keep up to date and respond appropriately to key trends such as population growth, increased urbanisation, land use intensification, development of alternative energy sources, use of non-native carbon sinks, changes to government legislation and directives, Mātauranga Māori etc.		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, government agencies, Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Ngāi Tahu	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●



Desired outcomes:

1. The District's natural ecosystems are self-sustaining, healthy, resilient and connected from the mountains to the sea.
2. A greater proportion of vegetation cover in the District is indigenous.
3. There is no further loss or degradation of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs).
4. Urban vegetation, including street trees, is valued by the community as making a significant contribution to urban resilience, human health, and environmental sustainability.



Strategic Direction 4














Sustain and create resilient ecosystems

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.1 Protect what we have									
4.1.1 Implement a climate change natural environment mitigation and adaptation programme (ERP, NAP)									
4.1.1.1	Provide specialised biodiversity input to the development of Council climate change strategies and plans, including mitigation options, risk assessments and adaptation planning. (ERP, NAP, NPSIB).		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●			
4.1.1.2	Implement natural environment actions identified in climate change plans and strategies (ERP, NAP).		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, Utilities & Roding, Community Boards, reserve advisory groups, community members	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$50,000. Existing staff time plus project costs in year 33/34		●	●	●
4.1.1.3	Integrate nature-based climate change solutions in policies, strategies and plans (NAP, NPSIB).		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roding, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Working Group	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
4.1.1.4	Co-lead the development of a regional blue-green network as provided for in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (NAP).		Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Selwyn District Council, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roding, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Working Group	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time. Project costs funded out of CCPP budget.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.1.2 Reduce the pressure in high value indigenous ecosystems by improving the wider environment									
4.1.2.1	Partner in an integrated landscape-wide pest and weed control programme (ABS).		Greenspace, ECan, reserve advisory groups, community groups, community members	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$70,000. \$50k BOF to be spent in years 24/25-26/27 for pest coordinator and additional \$10k each year from 27/28 for continued coordination.	●	●	●	●
4.1.2.2	Continue to support the predator control programme at Ashley Gorge Reserve (PF 2050).		Greenspace, Department of Conservation, Ashley Gorge Reserve Advisory Group	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time.	●			
4.1.2.3	Promote and assist with the development and enhancement of buffer zones around high value indigenous flora and fauna sites (NPSIB).		Greenspace, landowners, QEII Trust, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time.	●	●	●	●
4.1.2.4	Review and continue to implement the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Plan.		Greenspace, Strategy & Business, ECan, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, Department of Conservation, Northern Pegasus Bay Advisory Group, community members	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time plus existing project costs of \$21,530 pa.		●		

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.1.3 Provide support for SNA landowners and incentivise SNA protection									
4.1.3.1	Ensure all identified SNAs are listed in the District Plan as required by statute (NPSIB).		Development Planning Unit, ECan, Greenspace, SNA landowners	✓✓✓	Planning costs covered in planning budget. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.		●		
4.1.3.2	Administer and promote the biodiversity contestable fund for SNAs (ABS).		Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, SNA landowners	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing funding of \$480k over 10 years increasing by \$10k pa from \$25k in 24/25 to \$95k in 31/32.	●	●	●	●
4.1.3.3	Maintain regular contact with all SNA landowners (NPSIB).		Greenspace, SNA landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
4.1.3.4	Provide ecological advice to SNA landowners as requested (ABS).		Greenspace, SNA landowners, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional biodiversity staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●
4.1.3.5	Continue to implement the rates grant/rates relief scheme for SNA landowners (ABS).		Development Planning Unit, SNA landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time plus existing funding of \$500k over 10 years divided into \$50k pa plus LGCI.	●	●	●	●
4.1.3.6	Continue to develop incentives for protecting and restoring SNAs, for example, transferable development rights (ABS).		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, SNA landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.				●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?				
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30	
4.2 Rebuild nature - more, bigger, better and joined										
4.2.1 MORE - Create new natural environment sites to provide for future wellbeing										
4.2.1.1	Identify and obtain additional land through subdivision and/or land purchase for future natural parks (WDCCO).	 	Greenspace, Property, landowners	✓✓	To be considered when the need or opportunity arises.					●
4.2.1.2	When seeking to acquire or develop new natural parks, prioritise rare ecosystems, for example drylands and wetlands, to ensure their future protection.	 	Greenspace, Property, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time.	●	●	●	●	
4.2.1.3	Repurpose suitable Council land as indigenous bionodes. (ERP, NAP, NPSIB).	 	Greenspace, Property	✓✓	No additional cost. To be reviewed in 2027 LTP. There could be opportunities for external funding including public/private partnerships.				●	
4.2.1.4	Look for opportunities to develop new wader and waterfowl habitats, for example, at Kaiapoi Lakes and other closed gravel extraction sites.	 	Greenspace, Birds NZ	✓✓	No additional costs. Existing funding of \$92,097 for further development of Kaiapoi Lakes in years 24/27.	●				
4.2.1.5	Investigate an indigenous vegetation carbon sink programme, exploring private/partnership opportunities to implement this (ERP, NAP, NPSIB).	 	Strategy & Business, Greenspace, Property, private businesses	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.		●			
4.2.1.6	Investigate the development of a flagship park or sanctuary, for example, the creation of an eco-tourist park (WVMS).	 	Greenspace, Strategy & Business, Property, Enterprise North Canterbury	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$1.49m. \$30k provided annually from 24/25-26/27 for project planning and then \$200k pa for development of the Lineside Road Wetland. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●	●	●	●	

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?				
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30	
4.2.2 BIGGER - Increase the size of existing indigenous flora and fauna sites										
4.2.2.1	Expand the area of indigenous planting at Silverstream Reserve (ERP, NPSIB).		Greenspace, Silverstream Reserve Advisory Group, community members	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time and existing annual project budget of \$12,244.	●	●			
4.2.2.2	Enhance or consolidate habitat values at Council-owned indigenous bird habitat sites.	 	Greenspace, Birds NZ	✓✓	No additional costs. \$187,729 provided in year 25/26 for development of the last gravel pit at Kaiapoi Lakes.		●			
4.2.2.3	Develop the north-eastern side of Whites Road Reserve.	 	Greenspace, Whites Road Reserve Advisory Group, community members	✓	Additional cost of \$60,000. Existing staff time plus \$60k BOF in years 24/25 and 25/26 and a further \$20k funding each year in years 26/27-28/29 for indigenous planting, pathways and signage.	●	●	●		
4.2.2.4	Encourage landowners to increase the size of existing SNA sites, including providing buffer zones of at least 20m.		ECan, QEII Trust, Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●	
4.2.3 BETTER - Improve the quality of the natural environment by better habitat management and promoting fauna-friendly practices										
4.2.3.1	Use a range of management methods to increase the natural values of the Council's reserve portfolio.	 	Greenspace, reserve contractors, reserve advisory groups, community members	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$150,000. \$15k provided each year.	●	●	●	●	
4.2.3.2	Promote the 'urban wild' concept (Meurk).	    	Greenspace, landowners, community members	✓	Total additional cost of \$50,000. \$5k provided annually	●	●	●	●	

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.2.3.3	Develop additional secondary growth ecosystems as required at natural reserves, to provide enhanced habitat value and encourage a wider natural variety of flora and fauna species.		Greenspace, reserve advisory groups, community members	✓	Total additional cost of \$80,000. \$8k provided annually.	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.4	Plant suitable plant species to provide more natural transitions from modified natural park environments to river and coastal environments.	 	Greenspace, ECan, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust	✓	Total additional cost of \$100,000. Existing staff time plus existing planting budgets of \$10k pa.	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.5	Promote and create more effective buffer zones between land uses and water bodies.	 	Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, ECan	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time plus project costs from existing Arohata Te Awa budget of \$125,000 in 24/25 and then \$100k pa. (Refer to action 4.2.4.5).	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.6	Advocate for/protect ecosystems supporting mahinga kai and rōngoā.	 	Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Greenspace	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.7	Advocate for the development of a management plan for the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary.	 	ECan, Greenspace, Strategy & Business, Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●			
4.2.3.8	Advocate for ECan to define objectives for each waterbody in the District and create achievable water catchment action plans (NPS-FM).		ECan, 3 Waters Unit, Greenspace	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
4.2.3.9	Continue to support the implementation of the ZIPA water catchment programme (PC 7, NPS-FM).	 	ECan, 3 Waters Unit, Zone Committee	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing funding in 3 Waters budget.	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.10	Ensure Council's everyday operations take the effects on water catchments into account (PC 7, NPS-FM).	 	3 Waters Unit, Greenspace, Utilities & Roading	✓✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.2.3.11	Encourage natural drain solutions in Large Lot Rural Residential zones such as planting on drain sides to increase amenity and biodiversity, reduce mowing and chemical use, and filter sediment from waterways.		Greenspace, Development Planning Unit, Utilities & Roading, 3 Waters Unit, developers	✓✓	No additional cost. Review in conjunction with rural drainage contract renewal.	●	●	●	●
4.2.3.12	Work with WIL to ensure the protection of threatened habitats and species in water races where appropriate.		WIL, 3 Waters Unit, Greenspace	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.			●	
4.2.3.13	Review reserve maintenance contracts to incorporate ecology-friendly best practice management techniques.	 	Greenspace, reserve contractors	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●		
4.2.3.14	Develop and promote indigenous vegetation eco-sourcing guidelines.	 	Greenspace, ECan, Department of Conservation, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
4.2.3.15	Implement a District fauna enhancement programme, for example, bee-friendly, lizard havens, beetle lodges etc.	 	Greenspace, landowners, schools	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$21,000. \$3k pa to be spent from year 27/28 onwards. Additional biodiversity staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.		●		
4.2.3.16	Promote the uptake of environmentally friendly maintenance practices on lifestyle blocks.		Greenspace, ECan, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
4.2.3.17	Partner with/encourage private landowners to engage in practices that enrich the natural environment (NPSIB).		Greenspace, ECan, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
4.2.3.18	Plant new street trees in accordance with 'right tree - right place' principles.		Greenspace, Utilities & Roading, developers	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.2.4 JOINED - Enhance connections between, or join up sites									
4.2.4.1	Promote the uptake of key biodiversity concepts such as landscape corridors from the 'mountains to the sea', linear corridors, stepping stone 'green dot' corridors, and the 'landscape matrix' to enhance the biodiversity values of fragmented landscapes'.		Greenspace, ECan, reserve advisory groups, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, developers, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.	●	●	●	●
4.2.4.2	Develop urban tree canopy targets and implement.		Greenspace, Utilities & Roothing, developers, landowners	✓	Total additional cost of \$200,000. Existing staff time and existing reserve and street tree budgets plus \$20k pa for increased LOS (12,000 new specimen trees to be planted by 2033).	●	●	●	●
4.2.4.3	Increase the proportion of indigenous streetscape vegetation cover (NPSIB).		Greenspace, Utilities & Roothing, developers	✓	No additional costs. Existing landscaping and tree budgets.	●	●	●	●
4.2.4.4	Enhance fish passage where appropriate.		3 Waters Unit, ECan, Greenspace, Utilities & Roothing, developers, landowners	✓✓	No additional costs. Existing staff time and existing funding of \$10k pa.	●	●	●	●
4.2.4.5	Continue to implement Arohata Te Awa.		Greenspace, 3 Waters Unit, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time plus project costs from existing Arohata Te Awa budget of \$125k in 24/25 and then \$100k pa.	●	●	●	●

Action	What are we doing?	What assets does it impact?	Possible stakeholders	How important is it?	Funding	When are we doing it?			
						Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-10	Years 11-30
4.2.4.6	Develop new pocket forests on suitable low-use urban reserves (ERP, NPSIB).		Greenspace, Community Boards, community members	✓	Total additional cost of \$20,000. Existing staff time and additional funding of \$20k with \$5k being spread over 4 years from years 30/31-33/34.			●	
4.2.4.7	Promote backyard micro-bush gardens (Meurk, NPSIB).		Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.			●	
4.2.4.8	Promote the use of native hedges and shelterbelts in semi-rural and rural environments (NPSIB).		ECan, Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, developers, landowners	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.			●	
4.2.4.9	Establish a strategic, district-wide approach to riparian management and ecological linkages to close gaps and prioritise the acquisition of esplanades.		Greenspace, ECan, Development Planning Unit, developers, landowners	✓✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.		●		
4.2.4.10	Develop Reserve Management Plans for Greenspace recreation and ecological linkages and natural parks.		Greenspace, reserve advisory groups, community members	✓✓	No additional cost. Additional staff time covered in 1.2.1.2.	●			
4.2.4.11	Plant Council's undeveloped recreation and ecological linkages where these have the potential to contribute significant natural environment benefits.		Greenspace, community members	✓✓	Total additional cost of \$20,000. Existing staff time and additional funding of \$20k with \$5k being spread over 4 years from years 30/31-33/34.			●	
4.2.4.12	Review the landscaping rules in the District Plan to require indigenous plants to be used predominantly in carpark landscaping.		Development Planning Unit, Greenspace, Utilities & Roothing, developers,	✓	No additional cost. Existing staff time only.				●

Implementation

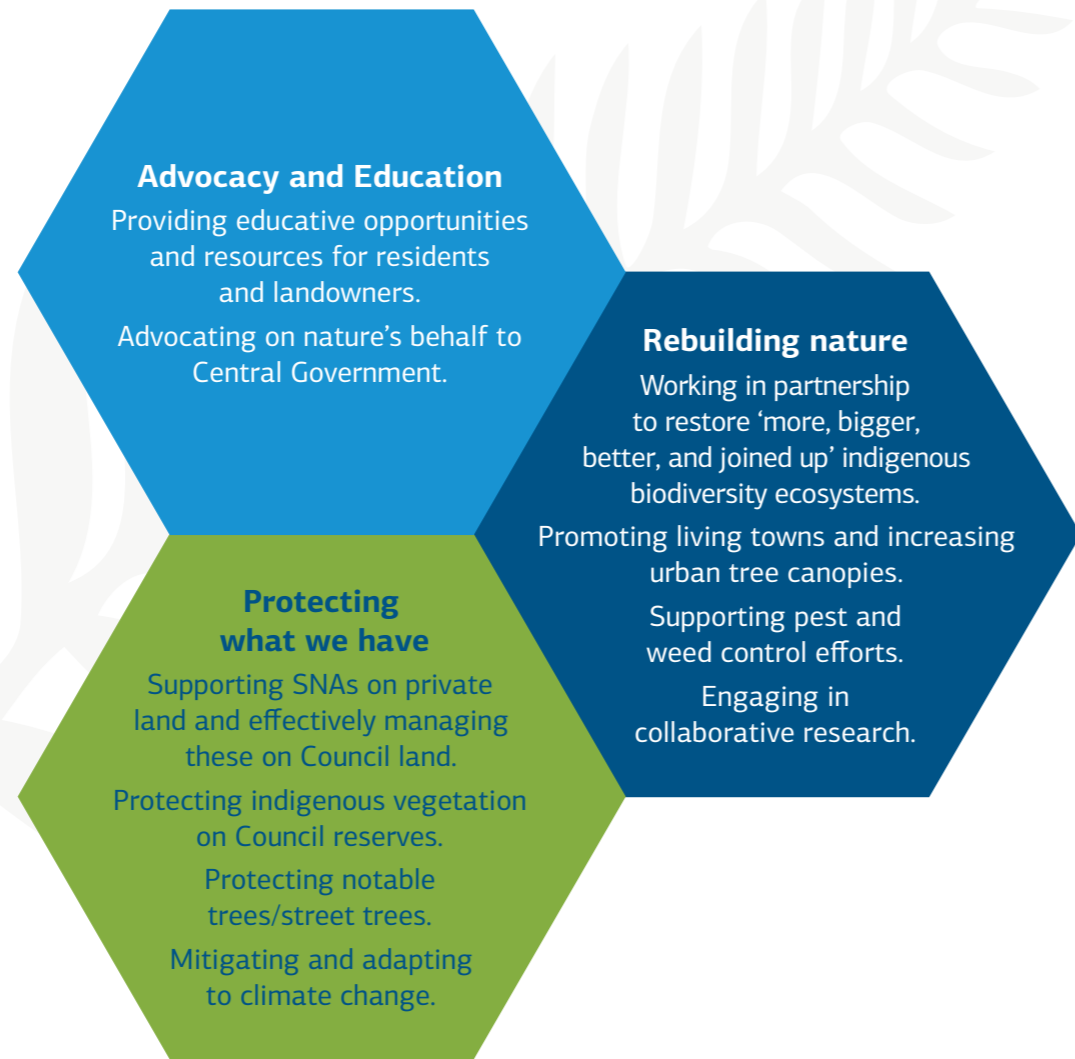
2024-34 Long Term Plan

The Implementation Plan for this strategy contains 124 actions that could be carried out over the next 30 years. Actions programmed for 2024 to 2034 have been included in the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP). Over this ten year period an additional \$1.2m operational expenditure and \$2.9m capital expenditure has been provided to support the implementation of these actions.

Implementation Plan actions have been prioritised as following:

1. Meeting Council's legislative requirements (protecting remaining indigenous priority ecosystems).
2. Very Important (restoring and managing natural ecosystems, education).
3. Important (educating residents in general).

Many of the actions are business as usual for the Council and have been captured to guide Greenspace biodiversity work programmes over the next few years. In order to make further progress on environmental outcomes the Council significantly increased its expenditure on biodiversity in the 2021-24 LTP and this increased activity is reflected in the Implementation Plan.



Key projects from the 2021-24 Long Term Plan include:

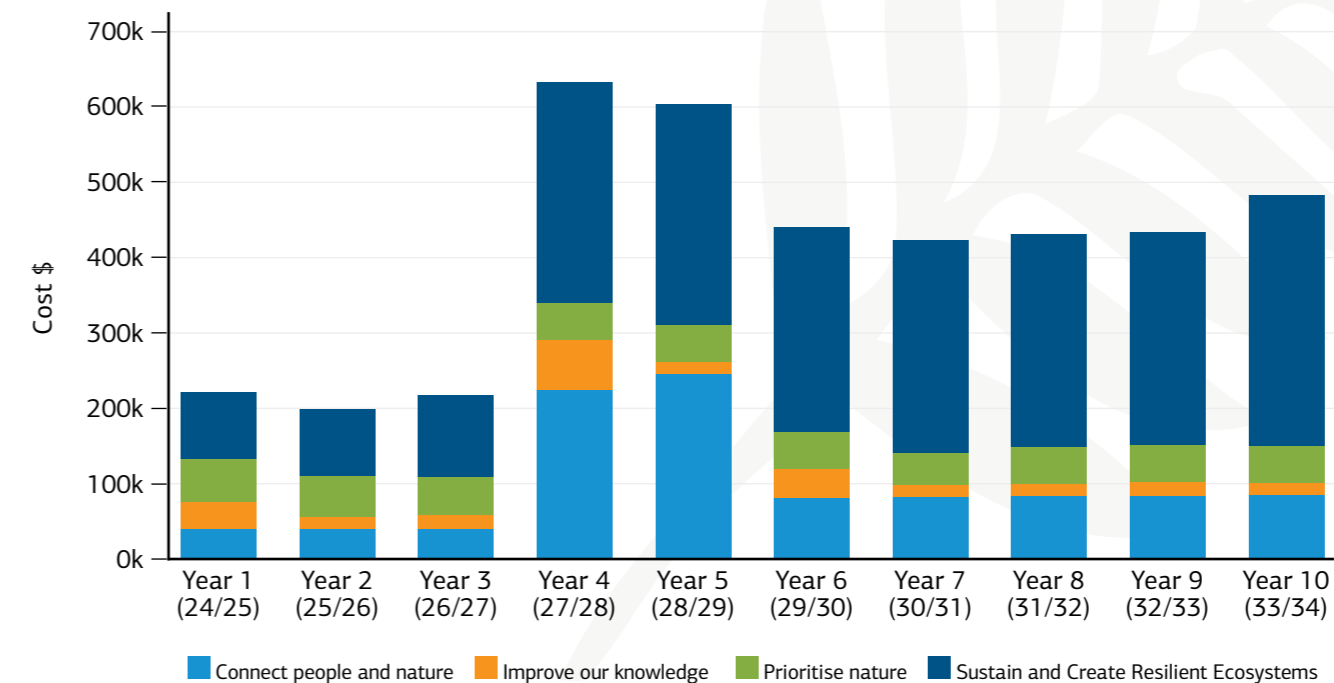
- Additional funding for SNA landowners in the form of rates relief and a contestable fund
- Funding to implement Arohaitia te Awa over 10 years
- Funding to support the establishment of the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust

- Funding to provide access to the coast for people with restricted mobility
- Additional biodiversity staff resource.

In addition to these new projects, 85ha of wetland off Lineside Road was purchased by the Council in 2023 to cover a shortfall in its stated levels of service for Natural Parks.

Strategy actions funded in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

This graph includes all the Implementation Plan actions and shows the logical progression of activities from ensuring internal resources, processes and knowledge are in order, to concentrating on connecting people and nature, and then making on-the-ground ecosystem improvements.



Key Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy implementation actions that have been funded in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan include:

- Operational funding for the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust
- An annual contestable fund to support community-based environmental groups to implement strategy actions
- New education and research programmes
- An increase in Council biodiversity capability and capacity in light of increased legislative requirements arising from the recent gazettal of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- New targets for additional tree planting to increase the size of urban tree canopies (approximately 12,000 more specimen trees by 2033) and increased indigenous biodiversity planting on Council reserves
- The development of the Lineside Road wetland
- Projects that increase access to the natural environment for those with restricted mobility
- An additional ranger to work with community groups, plant reserves and carry out pest and weed management
- Partnering in an integrated landscape-wide pest and weed control programme
- Developing more walking tracks at natural parks such as Ashley Gorge Reserve
- Part funding (with Department of Conservation) a new toilet at Coopers Creek.

Monitoring

Improving environmental outcomes takes time and the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy is intended to provide strategic direction for achieving this over the next 30 years. A key action is to identify, monitor and publicly report on biodiversity indicators for the Waimakariri District so progress can be tracked.

Review

The strategy document will be reviewed in eight years' time prior to the development of the Council's 2034 Long Term Plan.

The Implementation Plan needs to be flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances and priorities. This will therefore be reviewed every three years in line with LTP reviews to allow requests for funding to be considered by Council.





215 High Street
Private Bag 1005
Rangiora 7440, New Zealand
Phone 0800 965 468
waimakariri.govt.nz

240607092509