

Guidelines

Planting and Regeneration Working Group of Canterbury Regional Council

As resolved by the Council on 16 April 2020

Purpose

The purpose of the Planting and Regeneration Working Group (the Working Group) is to develop a proposal for a region-wide ecological planting and native regeneration programme for inclusion in the next Long-Term Plan.

Background

Environment Canterbury structures its work and activities into six portfolios. This allows the Council and its staff to focus on achieving progress in areas of relevance and importance to the community. The Local Government Act 2002 requires Councils to group activities for the purpose of developing and reporting on a Long-Term Plan. Environment Canterbury uses the portfolio structure to meet this requirement.

While the portfolio structure effectively provides a framework to engage with communities and stakeholders and to align related activities and policies for maximum effectiveness, there are some projects and/or issues which either do not fit neatly into an existing portfolio, or span across several or all portfolios. These projects and issues may be of a short-term or long-term nature. A working group structure and process is best placed to address these issues.

Scope

Matters subject to the Working Group's consideration will include:

- Scoping and designing a long-term Council-led proposal including capacity and capability requirements
- Bringing together existing and planned Council and non-Council initiatives (rivers planting, forest management, the Soil Conservation and Revegetation programme and others), seek alignment with existing non-Council initiatives, and seek benefits across a range of Council priorities (climate change, freshwater quality, biodiversity, carbon offsets).
- Exploring external funding and partnership avenues, and seek opportunities to support COVID-19 recovery, including identifying and preparing short term 'shovel ready' projects.

Duration

The Planting and Regeneration Working Group will meet until such time as it is able to bring a proposal to full Council.

It is anticipated that this will align with the development of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31, concluding on or before the approval of the draft Long-Term Plan 2021-31 in early 2021.

Membership and operation of the Working Group

The Working Group is chaired by a Councillor appointed by the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council.

Chair Hughey is ex-officio on the Working Group. Other members include six appointed Councillors: Pauling (Chair), Pham, Mackenzie, Southworth and Edge; the Chief Operating Officer or their delegate, and key staff from across the Council.

The Working Group may co-opt expert advisors, or members of the community to 'test' ideas and solutions. Reasonable costs of attendance at working group sessions for these external members will be agreed in advance and met by Council.

The Working Group should meet at least monthly.

The Chair of the Working Group will report monthly to full Council at Council meetings.

Notes and actions of the Working Group will be made public.

Support for the Working Group will be provided by the staff of the Council's Governance team.

Decision Making

The Working Group has no decision-making authority. It brings recommendations to Council for Council consideration. Expenditure undertaken by the Working Group over and above normal Council business must be agreed by Council.

Changes to the Guidelines

The Working Group may recommend changes to the Guidelines to the Council for consideration and agreement.