

8. Working Groups

8.1. Council Planting Regeneration Working Group

Council report

Date of meeting	23 rd July 2020
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Purpose

The purpose of the Planting and Regeneration 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.

The purpose of this paper is to provide Council with an update on discussions and actions from the meetings of the Working Group on the 25th June 2020.

Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives the paper with Planting and Regeneration Working Group notes and actions.**

Key points

Background

2. The purpose of the Planting and Regeneration Project is for the Working Group to develop a proposal for a region-wide ecological planting and native regeneration programme for inclusion in the next Long-Term Plan. This should:
 - Bring together existing 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).

In designing the proposal, the working group should explore external funding and partnership avenues and seek opportunities to support COVID-19 recovery including identifying and preparing short term 'shovel ready' projects. The intent is that the proposal will be essentially 'building the foundations for the journey' over the next 15-20 years that we are about to embark on.

This on-the-ground project would build on the work Environment Canterbury has done over the past 10 years establishing a comprehensive planning framework. This would provide an opportunity to connect with communities, landowners, and the private sector to deliver visible

biodiversity, freshwater and climate change projects. It is acknowledged that this would require a significant long-term investment – it would require additional spending, an investment in our land management expertise, and a new way of working with landowners.

Working Group Meeting – Notes and Actions

3. The attached table highlights the key topics of discussion and subsequent actions identified by the Working Group at the 25th June 2020.

Attachments

Working Group Notes and Actions

ATTACHMENT 1 – MEETING NOTES & ACTIONS

Issue/action/matter	Actions
<p>1. KEY PARTNERS</p> <p>The Working Group continue to identify potential partners to engage with both during the discovery and implementation phases of the planned programme. There are options for how we can collaborate, communicate and obtain long-term buy-in through mutual investment opportunities. The Working Group intend to kick off initial conversations during the discovery phase to ‘test’ thinking and obtain early feedback.</p>	<p>Staff to commence conversations with potential partners and feedback to Working Group at next meeting</p> <p>Provide a list of existing partners and potential project with them</p>
<p>2. DRAFT VALUE PROPOSITION</p> <p>A value proposition for this programme will assist in providing context, focus and help us to initiate conversations. We want to look at things from the customer’s point of view, which may be different from ours. There is a need to get focussed and think smart about people, the plants, and how we create the ‘energy’ to accelerate work. A draft value proposition was presented for the Working Group discussion, and it was agreed that this would be finalised at the next meeting in July.</p>	<p>Finalised version due for end July Working Group meeting</p>
<p>3. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY PROJECTS</p> <p>Over the past 10 years, Environment Canterbury has invested \$7m in planting regeneration projects. It is acknowledged this has been augmented with an estimated \$5m in ‘in kind’ investments through volunteering etc.</p>	<p>Staff to prepare a visual overview for next meeting</p>
<p>4. PROPOSED GUEST SPEAKERS</p> <p>The Working Group agreed there would be advantages hearing from external parties on their thoughts and experiences, possibly utilising them as a ‘sounding board’ for our proposed approaches. It was suggested Taranaki Regional Council would be a good starting point.</p>	<p>Working Group to investigate options for further discussion</p>