

Agenda 2023

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee

Date: Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Time: 10.30 AM

Venue: Council Chamber

Environment Canterbury



Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee Membership

Committee Chair: Councillor Greg Byrnes

Deputy Committee Chair: Councillor Nick Ward

Committee Members: Chair Peter Scott

Councillor Iaean Cranwell

Councillor Joe Davies

Councillor Paul Dietsche

Councillor David East

Councillor Grant Edge

Councillor Tutehounuku Korako

Councillor Ian Mackenzie

Councillor Claire McKay

Councillor Craig Pauling

Councillor Genevieve Robinson

Councillor Vicky Southworth

Councillor John Sunckell

Councillor Deon Swiggs

BIODIVERSITY AND BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted by Council 14 December 2022

REPORTING TO:	Council	
MEMBERSHIP:	All members of Council	
QUORUM:	Eight (8)	
MEETING FREQUENCY:	Three meetings per annum	
CHAIR:	One Chair One Deputy Chair	

A. PURPOSE

- 1. Oversee the development, implementation and review of Council's biodiversity and biosecurity related plans and strategies (including the Canterbury Biodiversity-Strategy and the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan).
- Oversee the Council's compliance with its statutory functions and responsibilities relating to biodiversity and biosecurity, including functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Biosecurity Act 1993, and any relevant national direction.
- 3. Work in the spirit of genuine partnership and assist the Council in fulfilling its duties as a partner with Ngāi Tahu and in alignment with the principles contained within the Tuia Agreement. In particular, the committee will support effective partnerships with Papatipu Rūnanga, recognise the relevance of Te Ao Māori and affirm the importance of an enduring and collaborative relationship between Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga.

B. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Consider emerging environmental issues relating to protecting and enhancing ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity in accordance with the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement and Resource Management Act 1991.
- 5. Oversee activities that protect, maintain, and enhance priority landscapes and ecosystems across the region.
- 6. Oversee activities that:
 - a. prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms
 - b. meet requirements under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
 - c. support the Biosecurity Advisory Groups,
 - d. encourage community involvement in biosecurity management and;
 - e. help deliver our biosecurity programme

- 7. Support external initiatives that deliver on shared regional biodiversity and biosecurity goals.
- 8. Receive regular monitoring reports and presentations on the matters set out in the Purpose.
- 9. Consider and, where relevant, make submissions on, regional, national, and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in legislative frameworks in relation to biodiversity and biosecurity for their implications for Council's:
 - a) Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives
 - b) Regulatory systems, processes, and tools
- 10. Ensure that the Committee's decision making:
 - a) Considers climate-change related risks; and
 - b) Is consistent with Council's plans and initiatives to give effect to Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 16 May 2019.

C. DELEGATIONS

- 11. Subject to sections 12 and 13 below, Council delegates to the Committee all the powers, functions, and duties necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities, except those that must not be delegated.
- 12. The Committee may make decisions on matters with a financial impact only where the related costs are budgeted for within a current, adopted Long Term Plan or Annual Plan, otherwise the matter must be referred to the Council for decision.
- 13. The Committee may not make a decision that is materially inconsistent with the Council's Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan.

Document history and version control

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1.0	14 December 2022	Council	New Committee Terms of Reference.

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1. Mihi / Karakia Timatanga - Opening

The meeting will be opened with a mihi whakatau, followed by a member of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee with a karakia.

2. Apologies

At the time the agenda closed there were no apologies received.

3. Conflicts of Interest

Members are reminded to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

4. Public Forum, Deputations, and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations and petitions at the time the agenda was prepared.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

The Chairperson will give notice of items requiring urgent attention not on the agenda as follows.

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the Chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

- 1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
- 2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting. The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and Chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. The meeting may not make a resolution, decision or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

6. Notices of Motion

At the time the agenda closed there were no notices of motion received.

7. Minutes

7.1. Minutes - Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee Meeting

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee

Date of meeting Wednesday, 8 March 2023		
Author	thor Oliver Neal, Committee Advisor	
Endorsed by Catherine McMillan, General Manager Governance		

Purpose

1. To advise that there are no minutes as this is the first meeting of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee.

Recommendations

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Notes that this is the first meeting of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee and therefore there are no prior minutes to confirm.

Attachments

Nil

8. Report Items

8.1. Update to the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committees' Terms of Reference

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee report

Date of meeting 8 March 2023		
Author	Alex Morgan, Team Leader - Biodiversity and Biosecurity Strategy	
Responsible Director	sponsible Director Katherine Trought, Director Strategy and Planning	

Purpose

- 1. This paper seeks a resolution to make amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee.
- 2. Updating the Terms of Reference provides a clear focus for the committee and provides for consistency across the entirety of council's committee structure.

Recommendations

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Recommends to Council that it adopts the amended Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee in Attachment 8.1.1.

Key points

- 3. The Terms of Reference for Council's standing committees define the business of each committee. Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee are recommended. The proposed amendments:
 - a. clarify the elements of the biodiversity and biosecurity portfolio that are the specific responsibility of this committee
 - b. add the ability for the committee to update the Terms of Reference provided it remains comprised of all members of council
 - c. add the ability for committee to appoint members of community groups that support the portfolio including the Biosecurity Advisory Groups
 - d. include minor wording and grammatical changes in order to provide clarity and consistency.

Background

- 4. The Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee is one of nine standing committees established by Council at its meetings on 17 November 2022 and 14 December 2022¹.
- 5. Each Committee has a specified purpose, responsibilities, and delegations. These form the Terms of Reference for the Committees.
- 6. Clarity within the Terms of Reference is important, as clear roles and responsibilities can streamline processes, while providing for better and more transparent decision making on relevant issues. The proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee are attached.
- 7. The Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee has been established to align with the functions of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio as described in the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031. This includes overseeing the development, implementation and review of biodiversity and biosecurity related plans and strategies, and compliance with its statutory functions and responsibilities.
- 8. Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee are proposed for two primary reasons.
 - a. While most of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio activities will be reported to Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee, matters relating to the Braided River Revival (Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi) Programme will instead be reported to the Catchment Resilience Committee. Amendments to the Terms of Reference make this distinction clear, establishing a clear focus for both committees and avoiding duplication or gaps in reporting.
 - b. Amendments are also made to ensure greater consistency with the Terms of Reference for other committees. Applying consistent wording in the purpose and specific responsibilities of the committees is desirable as it will allow for a consistent and transparent approach across the work of all of the standing committees.
- 9. The proposed amendments do not alter the committee makeup, the chairperson or deputy chairperson.

Cost, compliance and communication

Risk assessment and legal compliance

10. There are no legal implications from this proposal.

¹ In addition to the nine standing committees there are meetings of Council, two statutory committees and 12 joint committees (which includes Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone/Regional Committees).

Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation

11. The Committee structure will continue to ensure there is genuine partnership with Council fulfilling its duties as a partner with Ngāi Tahu and in alignment with the principles contained in the 7 December 2012 Tuia Agreement.

Consistency with council policy

12. The proposed amendments will provide a greater degree of consistency across the standing committees. The proposed amendments do not impact other council policy.

Next steps

13. Following the committee's resolution to recommend the Terms of Reference be adopted by the Regional Council, they will be presented to the next Regional Council meeting for adoption.

Attachments

1. Draft Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee TOR [8.1.1 - 2 pages]

Legal review	
Peer reviewers	Maree Willetts, Principal Strategy Advisor – Biodiversity & Biosecurity
	Verity Halkett, Senior Strategy Advisor – Biodiversity & Biosecurity



BIODIVERSITY AND BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted by Council 14 December 2022

REPORTING TO:	Council	
MEMBERSHIP:	All members of Council	
QUORUM:	Eight (8)	
MEETING FREQUENCY:	Three meetings per annum	
CHAIR:	One Chair One Deputy Chair	

A. PURPOSE

- 1. Oversee the development, implementation, and review of Canterbury Regional Council's:
 - a. strategic direction and policies for biodiversity and biosecurity (including the Canterbury-Biodiversity-Strategy and the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan)
 - compliance with its statutory functions and responsibilities relating to biodiversity and biosecurity, including functions under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, any relevant national direction and Council bylaws.
- 2. Work in the spirit of genuine partnership and assist the Council in fulfilling its duties as a partner with Ngāi Tahu and in alignment with the principles contained within the Tuia Agreement. In particular, the committee will support effective partnerships with Papatipu Rūnanga, recognise the relevance of Te Ao Māori and affirm the importance of an enduring and collaborative relationship between Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga.

B. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3. Oversee activities within the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio excluding activities within the Braided River Revival / Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākahi Programme.
- 4. Consider and provide strategic direction on emerging issues/opportunities relating to the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Portfolio.
- 5. Engage with partnerships to deliver shared regional biodiversity and biosecurity outcomes.

- 6. Receive regular monitoring reports and presentations on the matters set out in section A: Purpose.
- 7. Consider and, where relevant, make submissions on, regional, national, and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in legislative frameworks in relation to biodiversity and biosecurity with regard to their implications for Council's:
 - a. Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives
 - b. Regulatory systems, processes, and tools
- 8. Appoint members to groups that support the work of the portfolio (including the Biosecurity Advisory Groups).
- 9. Ensure that the Committee's decision making:
 - a. Considers climate-change related risks; and
 - b. Is consistent with Council's plans and initiatives to give effect to Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 16 May 2019.

C. DELEGATIONS

- 10. Subject to other clauses within these Terms of Reference, Environment Canterbury delegates to the Committee all the powers, functions, and duties necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities, except the powers that the Regional Council cannot lawfully delegate, including those under clause 32(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 11. The Committee may make decisions on matters with a financial impact only where the related costs are budgeted for within a current, adopted Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan, otherwise the matter must be referred to the Regional Council for decision.
- 12. The Committee may not make a decision that is materially inconsistent with the Regional Council's Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan.
- 13. If all Councillors of the Regional Council are appointed to the Committee, then the Committee can change any part of its own Terms of Reference.
- 14. Only Councillors of the Regional Council may vote on a change to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Document history and version control

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1.0	14 December 2022	Council	New Committee Terms of Reference.
2.0	08 March 2023	Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee	Updated for consistency and clarity, and alignment with portfolio responsibilities. Updated delegation wording and added ability to update own Terms of Reference. Added ability for committee to appoint members of community groups that support the portfolio.

8.2. Biodiversity & Biosecurity quarterly work programme update

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee report

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 8 March 2023	
Author	Katherine Trought, Director Strategy and Planning	
	Kate Rutherford, Principal Advisor - Portfolio Management	
Responsible Director	Katherine Trought, Director Strategy and Planning	

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the progress of the Biodiversity & Biosecurity portfolio (excluding the Braided River Revival programme which is reported to the Catchment Resilience Committee).

Recommendations

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Receives the work programme report for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio (excluding the Braided River Revival programme which is reported to the Catchment Resilience Committee).

Background

- 2. On 17 June 2021, the Council adopted its Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP) which established the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio. Within this portfolio sits the:
 - Leading and Partnering for Biodiversity Outcomes programme
 - Regional Pest Management programme
 - Priority Habitats and Wetlands Protection programme
 - Me Uru Rākau programme
- 3. The Braided River Revival programme also sits within the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio, but is reported to the Catchment Resilience Committee.
- 4. Through these programmes we will accelerate regeneration of the natural environment by implementing the Canterbury Biodiversity; take decisive action for healthy freshwater, land and coastal eco-systems; build community engagement and action and foster relationships through forging partnerships and alliances.
- 5. The Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio (excluding the Braided River Revival programme) has a total budget of \$25 million in 2022-23. These budgets were established through the LTP and updated where necessary in the Annual Plan 2022-23.

Key updates to the work programme

- 6. Key updates to the work programme will be reported to the Committee as at the end of the nearest quarter to the Committee date. This report relates to the period up to the end of quarter two.
- 7. There are four levels of service and twelve targets within the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio (excluding the Braided River Revival programme levels of service). At the end of quarter two (December 2022), three are on track (green status) and one is at risk (amber status).
- 8. There are five key initiatives being reported on across the four programmes in 2022-23. At the end of quarter two, four are on track (green status) and one is behind target (amber status).
- 9. The combined report is provided as Attachment 1. For the key initiatives, this includes recent achievements and milestones met in quarter two and upcoming milestones for quarters three and four.
- 10. Notable recent achievements/issues for the portfolio include:
 - Total funding allocated to targeted biodiversity projects for 2023 is just over \$1.1 million and covers a broad range of focus areas; including braided river revival projects, wetland, fish habitat and passage, habitat restoration, and regionwide terrestrial projects.
 - Staff have been working to monitor and reassess previously completed biodiversity projects. In the first two quarters, 55 projects have been monitored and a further 20 have been identified to be monitored this year.
 - A grazing consent application with Mackenzie District Council, which will be exercised on key sites at risk of wilding conifer regrowth within the Mackenzie Basin, was drafted in consultation with Charitable Trust Wilding Free Mackenzie, who is a key member of the Steering Group.
 - Our usual supplier of wallaby bait has advised that they will have no capacity for bait production until late June 2023. We are working with the Ministry for Primary Industries to secure approval of an alternative supplier.
 - The National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) has been further delayed by Central Government. The NPS-IB will inform the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

11. No decisions concerning funding are sought through this report, and financial portfolio and programme reporting is provided to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

12. No legal compliance issues have been identified for this progress report.

Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation

13. Engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga, mana whenua and the community are an important aspect of much of the work that occurs in these programmes and is ongoing where required.

Consistency with council policy

14. The levels of service, programmes and initiatives outlined in this report are consistent with the Council's Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

Climate Change Impacts

15. The work being reported to this committee is central to addressing the impacts of climate change.

Communication

16. Staff have developed a new online quarterly reporting format on Environment Canterbury's website for reporting the progress of our work to our communities. This has been available since February 2023, providing another source of information for Councillors and the community on the progress of the Levels of Service and work across the portfolios.

Next steps

17. Staff will continue to deliver the work programme and provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the progress made.

Attachments

1. BBC work programme update table [8.2.1 - 3 pages]

Legal review	
Peer reviewers	Alex Morgan, Team Leader Strategy & Planning - Biodiversity & Biosecurity
	Emma Davis, Senior Strategy Manager, Strategy and Planning

Biodiversity & Biosecurity Portfolio Levels of Service Performance Summary

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Levels of Service Reporting (excluding Braided River Revival)		
Level of Service	Status	Status Update
13. Lead a shared regional approach to biodiversity in Canterbury		Target 13.1 Continue to revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (CBS). This project is contingent on release of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity by Central Government. This was expected before the end of 2022 but has been delayed.
		Target 13.2 Provide Ngāi Tahu with the roles sought for developing and implementing the CBS This project is contingent on release of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity by Central Government and has been further delayed which is impacting our ability to progress engagement with Ngāi Tahu.
		Target 13.3 Provide two updates a year to the Mayoral Forum on the regional biodiversity framework development On track
14. Provide regional leadership to act early and work in partnership to protect indigenous biodiversity, economic production and mahinga kai from harm caused by declared pests and other invasive organisms		Target 14.1 Undertake pest monitoring, as outlined in the regional pest management operational plan, to assess progress towards Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan objectives. On track. We are continuing to collect data where we are carrying out control work. The Nasella monitoring programme is a focus.
		Target 14.2a Identify high-risk invasive organisms and develop a surveillance approach for prioritised organisms On track
		Target 14.2b Develop and implement one pest pathway management initiative in collaboration with others On track - Check Clean Dry initiative i
		Target 14.3 Undertake at least 25 community engagement activities across the region, with support from Biosecurity Advisory Groups, to increase community awareness and reporting and action taken to manage pests and invasive organisms On track.

15. Work with landowners, Ngāi Tahu, the community and agencies to protect, enhance and regenerate priority habitats including wetlands	Target 15.1 Report annually on delivery of biodiversity protection and restoration projects undertaken in priority habitats On track
	Target 15.2 Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of Environment Canterbury funded biodiversity protection and restoration projects On track
	Target 15.3 Develop a wetland management plan for all Environment Canterbury funded wetland projects On track
17. Engage communities to protect and regenerate priority ecological catchments	Target 17.1 Engaged communities, implementing projects in one ecological catchment Engagement has been undertaken with landowners, a community group and school. Approximately 11 projects have been scoped.
	Target 17.2 Monitor biodiversity outcomes against project objectives On track

Biodiversity & Biosecurity –key initiatives update

Programme – Leading and partnering for biodiversity outcomes	Q2 Status	Milestones achieved Q1 22/23	Milestones achieved Q2 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q3 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q4 22/23
Develop a biodiversity monitoring framework		Testing and evaluation of monitoring methodologies included new work starting Nov-Dec. Work includes testing both Tier 2 monitoring methods and developing methodologies to monitor naturally uncommon ecosystems.	Continuation of testing and evaluating monitoring methodologies	Paper goes to the Mayoral Forum.	Investigation of monitoring methodology for another Naturally Uncommon Ecosystem
Programme – Regional pest management	Q2 Status	Milestones achieved Q1 22/23	Milestones achieved Q2 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q3 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q4 22/23

National Wilding Conifer programme		Wilding conifer control work has progressed across the region. Contractors deployed across management units as weather and conditions allow.	Wilding conifer control work has progressed at a strong pace across the region	Aerial spray season commences	Obtain approvals for operations for the next financial year
National Wallaby Control programme		As expected, lambing has restricted access to farmland and reduced some service delivery. Also warmer weather limits field work with increased baiting expected from April.	Our usual bait supplier has no capacity for production until June 2023. We are currently working with MPI to identify an alternative supplier.	Continue implementation of National Wallaby Control programme	Continue implementation of National Wallaby Control programme
Programme – Priority habitats and wetlands protection	Q2 Status	Milestones achieved Q1 22/23	Milestones achieved Q2 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q3 22/23	Anticipated milestones Q4 22/23
Working with landowners to protect, enhance and regenerate priority habitats		We have partnered with landowners and allocated funding to projects across the region.	We have partnered with landowners and allocated funding to projects across the region.	Continue to support landowners to implement projects	Continue to support landowners to implement projects
Delivery of on the ground biodiversity projects		Sites from a variety of ecosystems, spread across each of the megazones have been identified. Projects include weed control, ongoing operational wetlands work, braided river bird habitat and predator control. The projects are currently in various stages of development - either at the grant agreement stage or in	Funding has been allocated for targeted biodiversity projects across braided rivers, wetlands, fish habitat and pest control in partnership.	Implement biodiversity projects	Implement biodiversity projects

9. Resolution to go into Public Excluded

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee report

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 8 March 2023	
Author	Oliver Neal, Committee Advisor	
Endorsed by	Catherine McMillan, General Manager Governance	

Recommendations

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely items listed overleaf.

Reason for passing this resolution: good reason to withhold exists under section 7. Specific grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Section 48(1)(a)

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- "(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):
 - a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
 - b) Shall form part of the minutes of the local authority."

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

NO.	GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	SECTION	SUBCLAUSE AND REASON UNDER THE ACT	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORTS CAN BE RELEASED
9.2.1	Biodiversity Advisory Group Appointments	7(2)(a)	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	To protect the privacy of persons prior to appointment	Names of the successful appointments will be released after the written acceptance from community members has been received and for the territorial authority representatives, after Committee confirmation; no personal information will be released.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 2 August 2023 at 10.30am. Any changes to this time will be publicly advertised and updated on the Environment Canterbury website.

11. Mihi / Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

The meeting will conclude with a karakia by a member of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee.