

WORKSHOP OF ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

Cr R A Budd	Cr A R McKay
Cr T K Burke	Cr A G Neill
Cr A S Carroll	Cr M E Oldfield
Cr E H Cunningham	Cr J F Slee
Cr R H M Johnston	Cr N J Wagner
Cr R M Kirk	Cr J M Waters
Cr R I R Little	Cr W E Woods

DATE: **Wednesday 27 June 2007**
(and continuing at the completion of the Council meeting on Thursday 28 June 2007, if necessary)

TIME **9.30 a.m.**

VENUE: Council Chamber
First Floor
Pegasus Building
58 Kilmore Street
CHRISTCHURCH

TOPICS

Note: For items 1, 2 & 3 draft reports are attached for comment, they will then be presented to the Council meeting of 28 June 2007 for adoption.

1. Contaminated Land Management Strategy
2. Contaminated Sites Information Management Strategy
3. Regional Energy Strategy 2007
4. Conway River Flow Regime – following from the 29 May workshop there will be a further presentation from interested parties.

Items 5, 6 & 7 draft reports are also attached for comment. Further reports will be presented at a later date for further consideration.

5. Waihao River Flow Regime
6. Hurunui River Flow Regime
7. Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy – background information also attached.

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Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy Background Information

In order to help fulfil its statutory obligations and functions relating to biodiversity, ECan has been working on the development of a Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

The purpose of this workshop item is to provide Councillors with some brief background to the development of the Strategy, to provide an overview of the Strategy itself, to seek Council feedback on the Strategy, and to outline the proposed process towards adoption of the Strategy.

One of the key concepts behind the strategy is that it is a region-wide strategy rather than ECan's strategy, and that ultimately, it is adopted by as many key agencies and stakeholders involved in biodiversity management in the region as possible. Important reasons for this are that the complexity and wide-ranging nature of biodiversity means that it crosses multiple boundaries, both physically and in terms of governance and agency responsibilities. In addition, maintaining and improving biodiversity requires action on private as well as public land, and this presents significant challenges that will require action and effort at all levels of the community and in a variety of different forms.

In order to ensure a structured and on-going process for stakeholders and potential strategy partners to provide input to the development of the strategy, and to thereby increase the level of buy-in from stakeholders who will ultimately be involved in implementation of the strategy, an Advisory Group was formed in 2006. This group is made up of representatives of the following organisations –

- all Canterbury TLAs (with the exception of Mackenzie DC, which has been on the mailing list, but not represented at meetings)
- ECan
- DoC
- Ngai Tahu
- NZ Landcare Trust
- Federated Farmers
- Forest & Bird
- QEII Trust
- Fish & Game (only attended first few meetings)
- Fonterra
- Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
- Landcare Research
- LINZ
- University of Canterbury

Since August 2006 the Advisory Group has met monthly to go through key parts of the Strategy, including development of a Vision statement, Goals, Targets and Actions, and identification of priorities. This work has culminated in the attached Draft Strategy. The Draft Strategy was issued to members of the Advisory Group at the last Group meeting on 18th June. Final feedback from the Advisory Group representatives has been requested by 16th July.

Following this we will undertake a round of presentations with the organisations represented on the Advisory Group, with the objective of obtaining those organisations' agreement to adopt the Strategy. This process will involve individual meetings and presentations with the organisations represented, with particular emphasis on other agencies involved in biodiversity management, such as TLAs, DoC, QEII Trust, LINZ, NZ Landcare Trust etc. These meetings are being programmed for August. At this stage, we are aiming for Strategy adoption by most of the parties by mid-September.

As a representative on the Advisory Group (represented by Councillors Little, Waters and Slee), feedback on the Strategy from Environment Canterbury will be sought via circulation of the Draft Strategy to relevant staff for written feedback, a workshop with Council (27th June), and ultimately, a decision to adopt the Strategy will be sought from the Council at the July meeting.

The Strategy is a non-statutory document and consultation with the wider public is not required, nor at this stage, proposed. The principal audience of the Strategy are the agencies and stakeholders represented on the Advisory Group, and likely to become signatories to the Strategy and/or be involved in its implementation. It is with these organisations that initial communication will continue to be focussed.