

Christchurch City Council
Biodiversity Strategy
2008-2035

Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula*

Foreword



The Biodiversity Strategy provides a vision, goals and objectives for the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula over the next 27 years.

Christchurch City Council, in partnership with the community, landowners, iwi and agencies, is committed to protection of indigenous biodiversity as an essential part of the rural and urban fabric of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

A sustainable future for biodiversity is a responsibility that can only be provided for locally.

This strategy helps guide the Council and the community to protect, restore and manage the biological remnants that provide continuity with our past and also provide a unique point of difference that sets our district apart from other parts of New Zealand and the world.



Bob Parker
Mayor



CHRISTCHURCH CITY
A sustainable future for indigenous biodiversity is a responsibility that can only be provided for locally.

* These names have not been approved by the New Zealand Geographic Board. They are however in common usage and are used in this document.
CHRISTCHURCH CITY refers to the territorial area administered by Christchurch City Council.
CHRISTCHURCH refers to the urban area and its periphery.



PHOTO: REGENERATING FOREST
ON BANKS PENINSULA.

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Executive summary

The Christchurch City Biodiversity Strategy sets out a vision of what could be achieved for biodiversity by 2035. It also provides key goals and objectives to guide the efforts of the many organisations and individuals involved in the protection and enhancement of the city's biodiversity.

To retain Christchurch and Banks Peninsula's biodiversity, the Biodiversity Strategy's focus is on the plants, animals and ecosystems that comprise or support local indigenous species.

Maintenance of indigenous biodiversity is a legal responsibility for the Council and to be effective also requires strong community and other agency partnership and involvement. The *Resource Management Act 1991* section 31 functions include:

- “(a) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district*
- “(b) the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of*
- “(iii) the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity”.*

The Strategy recognises that healthy ecosystems are critical to the sustainability of indigenous biodiversity and also contribute to economic sustainability. It also recognises that currently many ecosystems are dominated by exotic plants and animals.

The Strategy aims to support those ecosystems with significant indigenous values to provide better protection. The national target of retaining at least 20

per cent of many representative land environments in indigenous vegetation is an achievable target for much of the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula.

The Strategy also recognises that the Council and its partners have a role in caring for introduced species that are threatened in their homelands by maintaining such species in cultivation.

Central to the Biodiversity Strategy, and in alignment with national priorities, is the protection and enhancement of threatened ecosystems and habitats of threatened species. These mostly occur on the margins of Christchurch and in the rural areas of Banks Peninsula and Kaitōrete Spit.

The Christchurch City urban area will continue to comprise a mixture of indigenous and exotic species, reflecting the combination of the natural and human heritage of the 'Garden City', with the long term aim of increased biodiversity as a living part of the City's fabric.

In the rural environment, a different mix will reflect the combination of farming, rural residential plantings and remnants of indigenous habitat and biota. It is essential to maintain good relationships between rural landowners and Council and acknowledge the practical issues of farm management and the farm as a working landscape.

Christchurch and Banks Peninsula have had some notable successes in conserving and restoring indigenous biodiversity.

Protection of significant areas of land on the Port Hills, Hinewai Reserve and Misty Peaks, the dry grassland park at McLeans Island, the creation of Travis Wetland and protection of white flippered penguins at Flea and Stony Bays are examples of such successes.

The advent of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and major initiatives such as goat and possum control programmes are making a major difference to biodiversity on the Peninsula. However, there are still some major challenges faced in other areas such as sustainable management of the city's remaining dry grasslands, endangered species and the degradation of urban and rural waterway ecology.

The health of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula's biodiversity depends on wider issues such as water and soil quality and land use, including how we provide for and manage transport systems, waste and open space.

Although they are important for the success of this Strategy, these issues and their implications for biodiversity will be addressed in other strategies.

Christchurch and Banks Peninsula residents have made it clear that the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is important to them.

The Christchurch City Council has committed itself to this goal in its Strategic Directions for 2006-16.

The strategy provides substance to the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) community outcome: 'A city of people who value and protect the natural environment'. The LTCCP Standards for Success are:

- » Everybody takes responsibility for their impact on the natural environment.
- » Biodiversity is restored, protected and enhanced, we manage our city to minimise damage to the environment.

The City Council has also committed itself to the objectives of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy by signing the charter statement contained in Appendix 2.

Biological diversity (biodiversity) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems’.

Resource Management Amendment Act 2003

PHOTO: HYBRID KOWHAI AT MCLEANS ISLAND.

