

Laura Bowman

From: official information
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2022 4:33 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: official information
Subject: Final Response - LGOIMA 261416 - [REDACTED] - Councils climate change and biodiversity strategies
Attachments: Forest and Bird LGOIMA Response.pdf

Kia Ora,

I refer to your **information request below**, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

Please find attached our response which addresses each of your questions below.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

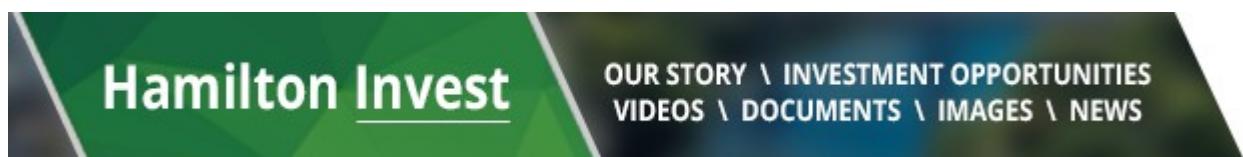
Kind Regards,

Laura | Official Information Coordinator
Legal Services & Risk | People and Organisational Performance
Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz



Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | www.hamilton.govt.nz

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From: Forest & Bird <>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 9:00 am
To: official information <officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: [Mass email/Possible SPAM] Forest & Bird LGOIMA request on climate change & biodiversity loss



Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act request

To whom it may concern,

Forest & Bird is currently developing a league table comparing the efforts of every single council in the country and their track record of addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

We therefore request the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:

1. Does your council have a climate change strategy?
2. Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?
3. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?
4. Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?
5. Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?
6. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?
7. Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?
8. How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?

9. How does your council maintain SNAs?
10. How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?
11. Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?
12. How often does your council monitor SNAs?

Please email your completed answers to:



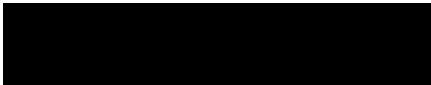
email: [REDACTED] @forestandbird.org.nz

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27 May 2022



Dear [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request under Section 10 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

This letter provides the response to your request for information under Section 10 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

1. Does your council have a climate change strategy?

No, however a Climate Change Strategy is currently in development and will be implemented from 30 June 2022 (subject to Council approval).

2. Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?

There will be an Action Plan that outlines the programmes, projects and initiatives to deliver on the Climate Change Strategy vision and outcomes (currently in development).

3. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?

The Action Plan (that will outline the programmes, projects and initiatives to deliver on the Climate Change Strategy) will be reviewed each year. This Action Plan will contain measures of success (yet to be determined as this is still in development). The Climate Change Strategy will include emissions reduction targets for both city-wide emission and corporate emissions. We plan to measure corporate emissions yearly and city-wide emissions every three years, in line with regional greenhouse gas assessments.

4. Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?

Yes – the Nature in the City Strategy was adopted in December 2020.

5. Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?

Yes – the establishment of the Nature in the City programme with funding of \$29 million over the next 10 years was approved in May 2021.

6. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?

The Nature in the City programme has set the following key outcomes:

- Improved indigenous biodiversity on Council land.
- Improved indigenous biodiversity on non-Council land.

- An increase in native fauna and a decrease in pest species within our natural areas.
- Increased access to our natural areas has a positive impact on community wellbeing.
- More of our community take care of our natural spaces.
- Kirikiriroa Mana Whenua exercise kaitiakitanga on their land and wider rohe.

7. Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?

Yes, in part. There are 59 SNA currently identified in the ODP. These sites were identified for their floristic values. Plan Change 5 – Peacocke Structure Plan recently identified new SNA for this southern greenfield area within the city boundary. We are also currently underway with a citywide reassessment and identification of SNA, and that will include significant habitat of indigenous fauna, which aims to substantially increase the area protected as an SNA.

8. How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?

ODP – 59 sites (approx. 168ha); Peacocke – additional 3 sites (area tbc); Citywide review – initial ecological assessment has identified a potential of 119 sites (approx. 760ha – noting that this includes the extent of Waikato River within the city boundary).

9. How does your council maintain SNAs?

Prior to the Nature in the City programme, it was reactive maintenance largely involving some weed control and restoration planting, unless the SNA overlapped with community group activity (such as Seeley Gully and Hammond Park) where there was more strategic active management. The Nature in the City programme is looking to develop strategic and proactive SNA maintenance, enhancement and monitoring as well as connecting and building capacity of communities to undertake restoration and enhancement with appropriate guidance and support tools.

10. How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?

We have issued two resource consents for actual SNAs, these were not declined. Although we have issued consent for two SNAs, please note we have issued other consents for the gully hazard areas not identified as an SNA.

11. Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?

No.

12. How often does your council monitor SNAs?

There has only been intermittent monitoring of SNAs, usually coinciding with district plan review processes. Monitoring is usually of extent (ground truthing of boundaries) with some limited ecological condition SNA monitoring. As part of the Nature in the City programme we will be looking at monitoring and reporting on SNAs as part of the

broader Nature in the City monitoring programme and to meet the outcomes of that programme.

Please contact us if you require any further assistance.

Regards

Poppy Barran
Sustainability and Climate Change Advisor

Council Building
Garden Place, Hamilton
Phone [REDACTED]
Email poppy.barran@hcc.govt.nz

Jamie Sirl
Team Leader City Planning

Council Building
Garden Place, Hamilton
Phone [REDACTED]
Email jamie.sirl@hcc.govt.nz