

10 May 2022

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Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: 2122-238

I refer to your information request we received on 19 April 2022 for the following:

1. *Does your council have a climate change strategy?*

Yes, Kāpiti Coast District Council (Council) does have a climate change strategy, which is embedded in two primary documents.

The first is Council's Climate Emergency Action Framework, adopted on 29 July 2021. The Framework, which outlines our climate change vision and principles, can be found on our website at <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/40387/climate-emergency-action-framework.pdf>.

The second is Council's Carbon and Energy Management Plan, which sets our objectives for measuring, managing and reducing our corporate emissions. The current plan can be found on our website at <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/30508/cemars-carbon-and-energy-management-plan.pdf>. As the plan is nearing the end of its timeframe, a new plan is currently under development.

Climate change is also embedded into other strategies, policies and plans. For example, Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy includes outcomes related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It can be found on our website at <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/41982/sustainable-transport-strategy.pdf>.

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

Yes. The implementation of Council's Climate Emergency Action Framework and Carbon and Energy Management Plan is embedded throughout the Long-term Plan 2021–41. To provide greater transparency to our community, a climate change report will be presented to Council in June 2022. This report will summarise the aspects of the Long-term Plan 2021–41 that are specific to climate change.

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

Council's Carbon and Energy Management Plan sets targets for corporate emissions reductions. These are measured annually and independently audited and verified by Toitū Envirocare's CarbonReduce programme.

Emissions for the entire Kāpiti Coast District are measured using the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (GPC). This work is carried out by Greater Wellington Regional Council as part of the Wellington Region Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Progress on specific projects that have been approved through the Long-term Plan (for example, strengthening or relocating infrastructure that is threatened by coastal erosion or installing a solar array to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a water treatment site) are reported quarterly and annually to Council.

Finally, a wide range of information is collected and reported to central and regional government partners as required. Much of this information – particularly in relation to environmental quality – can be used to help measure our progress towards our climate change objectives.

4. Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?

No.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

Yes, we have, and the maps are in the operative District Plan. These areas are publicly mapped at [Kapiti Coast Maps](#): Operative District Plan 2021>District Plan Overlay>Natural Environment Values>Ecological Sites.

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

176 Ecological Sites are identified in the Operative District Plan 2021. These encompass a total area of 45,024 ha. These are the equivalent of an SNA. The majority of this area is K017, the Tararua Ranges, which is 41,239 ha.

9. How does your council maintain SNAs?

Council does not maintain SNAs where they fall on private land, but it provides incentives for protection by private landowners through Rates Remissions for Conservation Purposes, the Heritage Fund and the Riparian Fund.

Council owned SNAs are managed on an ad-hoc basis where major issues are identified.

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

Council's records show that 4 resource consents have been issued within the last 5 years to allow vegetation clearance within an SNA/ ecological site. No applications have been declined however a couple of consents applied for were withdrawn or returned as incomplete.

Please note that Council has issued resource consents for the removal or modification of notable trees or other trees protected by the District Plan which are not located within 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?

SNAs are monitored on an ad-hoc basis but there is no overall monitoring programme.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen O'Connor".

Glen O'Connor

Acting Group Manager Infrastructure Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Pakiaka