

2023

# PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

Selwyn Biodiversity Strategy







**BIODIVERSITY DESCRIBES  
EVERYTHING LIVING ON  
LAND, IN FRESHWATER, THE  
SEA, AND THE VARIETY  
OF OUR FLORA AND FAUNA.**





## SAFEGUARDING NATURE'S DIVERSITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Biodiversity describes everything living on land, in freshwater, the sea, including the diversity of life of our flora and fauna. This includes the genes they contain, and the ecosystems in which they live.

The Selwyn Biodiversity Strategy (the Strategy) focuses on species that naturally occur within Aotearoa New Zealand and the Waikirikiri Selwyn district; known as indigenous biodiversity. The Strategy recognises that healthy ecosystems are critical, not only to the sustainability of indigenous biodiversity, but also to the social, cultural, spiritual, environmental, and economic fabric of our district.

Selwyn District Council is required, under Section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991, to recognise and provide for the protection of areas of “significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna” on land it administers, as a matter of national importance.

The Selwyn District Plan is the key legal document for the protection and enhancement of the environment within Waikirikiri Selwyn. This strategy aims to complement and inform the District Plan and

is aligned with other crucial documents, including the Te Mana o te Taiao Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020, the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury Region 2008, and the Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013.

There are significant challenges and opportunities ahead for the management of indigenous biodiversity within Waikirikiri Selwyn. This includes the protection of significant habitats, halting further loss of endangered species, the enhancement of waterways and wetlands, and the protection and restoration of a range of healthy ecosystems stretching from the mountains to the sea.

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide an overarching view of how the Council intends to achieve the protection, maintenance, and restoration of indigenous biodiversity within Waikirikiri Selwyn. It establishes a strategic approach based on the concept of first protecting what remains and then restoring what has been lost, and it identifies priorities accordingly.







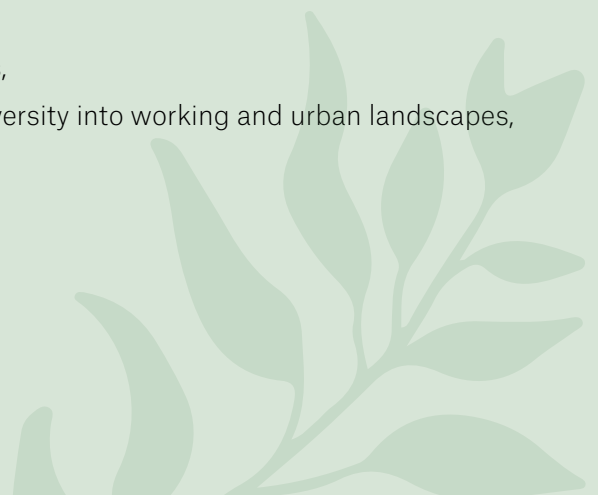


The Strategy aims to:

- Build on the good work already occurring in the district,
- Support and encourage the associated efforts of mana whenua, communities, landowners, and individuals,
- Raise awareness of biodiversity values,
- Facilitate the coordination of agency effort through alignment and partnerships.

The Strategy is aligned with the following regional targets:

- No further loss of significant habitats and ecosystems,
- An increase in biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives,
- A growing public awareness of incorporating indigenous biodiversity into working and urban landscapes,
- Biodiversity promotion,
- On-going monitoring and research,
- Partnerships that result in beneficial biodiversity outcomes.





# Highlights of the Strategy Goals, Targets, & Actions

## Goal 1.



*Work in partnership with mana whenua, landowners, and other stakeholders to protect, enhance, maintain, and restore indigenous biodiversity, mahinga kai, taonga species, culturally and historically significant sites.*

**Target** Align environmental reporting with cultural values-based environmental monitoring tools to assess and report on the cultural health of indigenous biodiversity and mahinga kai in Te Taumutu and Te Ngai Tuahuriri takiwa in Waikirikiri Selwyn.

**Action** Formalise an ecological and cultural monitoring regime for key waterways and water bodies in Waikirikiri Selwyn, in partnership with mana whenua and Ecan.

## Goal 2.



*Identify the state of indigenous biodiversity within Waikirikiri Selwyn and develop appropriate responses in accordance with our statutory responsibilities to halt the decline of our flora and fauna.*

**Target** Implement effective planning and prioritised actions that will effectively protect the flora and fauna of Waikirikiri Selwyn.

**Action** From 2024 onwards there will be no net loss of indigenous flora and fauna, habitats, and ecosystems within Waikirikiri Selwyn.

## Goal 3.



*Support actions by landowners and our community to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity and enhance public awareness of our natural environment.*

**Target** Work to educate our community on indigenous biodiversity issues and opportunities and promote Waikirikiri Selwyn's indigenous biodiversity through community outreach events.

**Action** Establish positive working relationships with landowners, community groups, and agencies through periodic forums and engagement.

## Goal 4.



*Encourage and increase the integration of indigenous species in modified environments, including urban spaces, lifestyle blocks, and managed waterways.*

**Target** Develop and action climate change responses to build resilience and adaption in our key areas of urban indigenous biodiversity

**Action** Ensure that Council reserves, district parks, and urban spaces have greater than 10% indigenous vegetation cover in line with national policy statements.





## Indigenous biodiversity

Aotearoa New Zealand is a global biodiversity hot spot, with many of our indigenous species found nowhere else (endemic). Because of its high level of endemism and distinctiveness, Aotearoa New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity contributes significantly to overall global biodiversity. Endemism among Aotearoa New Zealand plants and animals is one of the highest in the world, owing largely to the country's isolation from other land masses, as well as its diverse geography and climate, which has allowed for the development of our unique flora and fauna.

## Why is indigenous biodiversity important?

The indigenous biodiversity of Aotearoa New Zealand is important to the environment, culture, society, and economy in this country and district. Our biodiversity provides for the life supporting systems that enable all life on earth to survive. Wetlands purify water and aid in the prevention of flooding and drought. River flood plains contribute to managing floods, they naturally replenish aquifers and provide vital habitat for native species. Indigenous forests serve as carbon

sinks while also purifying the air we breathe. Healthy ecosystems provide food, medical properties, and a range of other resources. Indigenous biodiversity shapes our local and cultural identity while also sustaining our primary and tourism industries.

For Māori, the connection with nature is one of whakapapa (kinship). Māori culture and language evolved in the ecosystems and landscapes of Aotearoa New Zealand and its people are inextricably woven together with Te Taiao (the natural world). Te Tiriti o Waitangi provides the basis for the relationship between government and mana whenua in managing indigenous biodiversity, as per the duty of active protection of Māori interests and the principle of partnership.

The Strategy incorporates the indigenous biodiversity aspirations and the desired outcomes for Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki ki Taumutu and Ngāi Tūāhuriri. The partnership between mana whenua and the Council is key to improving biodiversity outcomes in Waikirikiri Selwyn.



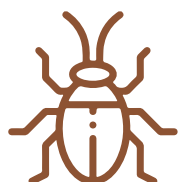
**72%**

of Birds (Land, Freshwater and Marine)



**84%**

of Vascular Plants (Land and Freshwater)



**81%**

of Insects (Land and Freshwater)



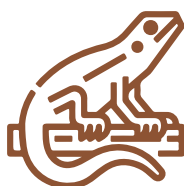
**88%**

of Freshwater Fishes



**88%**

of Marine Mammals



**100%**

of Reptiles, Frogs and Bats (Land and Freshwater)

Figure 1: Proportion of Aotearoa New Zealand's indigenous species found nowhere else on Earth. Note: This data does not include extinct species. Source: Biodiversity in Aotearoa





Photo courtesy: Steve Attwood





## Biodiversity Survey



### Submissions are public information

We ask for your contact details as part of your feedback — it also means we can keep you updated throughout the project and we can get in touch if you want to speak to your submission at a hearing. Your feedback, name and address are given to councillors to help them make a decision.

Your responses, with names only, are included in the meeting agenda for the meeting when the Council makes its decisions, and the agenda will be available on our website.

If requested, contact details are made available, as required by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

If there are good reasons why your details and/or feedback should be kept confidential, please contact us on 0800 SELWYN (735 996)

*For more detail about our management of personal information, please see our full Privacy Policy at [www.selwyn.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/privacy).*

**Submitter number: 24**

Full name

Street name and number

Suburb

Email

*Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? If so, please give full name of organisation*

Do you wish to speak about your submission at a hearing?

Yes

No



1

How would you describe the Council's working relationship with the community on biodiversity issues?

*Photo courtesy: Steve Attwood*



2

Do you feel the Council adequately recognises and supports the current efforts of landowners and community members to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity?



3

Which indigenous biodiversity needs in Waikirikiri Selwyn should the Council focus on?



4

How can the Council improve its response to indigenous biodiversity threats and losses in Waikirikiri Selwyn?





5

What do you see as four priorities to focus on based on the objectives mentioned in the strategy?

**Tick your four favourites.**

Identify and protect biodiversity and ecological values across the district

Identify and protect taoka (taonga) species and their habitats

Prevent further loss of threatened indigenous species through pest control

Control and manage negative impacts on biodiversity in the district

Increase indigenous vegetation cover

Research and collect data on the state of biodiversity within the district

Document and share knowledge of mana whenua on biodiversity

Share knowledge on indigenous biodiversity with the community

Sustain and improve school environmental programmes

Encourage cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders

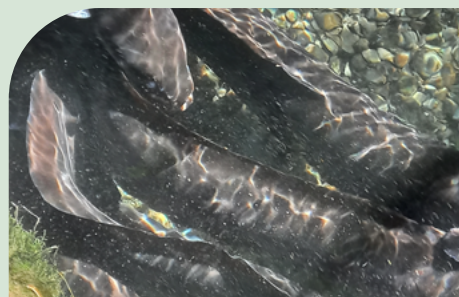
Council to take a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement

Encourage and support community projects that participate in conservation and celebration of biodiversity



6

Do you have any other comments or feedback?  
Please write these here







Ngā mihi.