



<b>Notes for:</b>	SDC Ecosystems & Indigenous Biodiversity Working Group –District Plan Review			<b>Date:</b>	29 Nov 2017
<b>Meeting held at:</b>	SDC Head Quarters, 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston				
<b>Time:</b>	5.30pm-6.35pm			<b>Room:</b>	Executive Room
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initis</b>	<b>Title/Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initis</b>	<b>Title/Role</b>
<b>Working Group Members:</b>					
Murray Lemon	ML	Chair (Councillor SDC)	Nicky Snoyink (substitute for Jennifer Miller)	NS	Forest & Bird
Ben Rhodes	BR	S & P Team Leader SDC	Cathy Begley	CB	Federated Farmers
Ken Murray	KM	Department of Conservation	Peter Graham	PG	Landowner
Jenny Ladley	JL	Landowner (University Canterbury)	James Guild	JG	Landowner
Hamish Rennie	HR	Waihora Ellesmere Trust	Scott Pearson	SP	Fish & Game NZ
<b>Absent:</b>					
Lizzie Thomson	LT	Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd	Sam Leonard	SL	Environment Canterbury
<b>In Attendance</b>					
Stephanie Styles	SS	Group Co-ordinator Planning Consultant (Boffa Miskell)	Hilary Riordan	HR	Student Planner SDC
Andrew Mactier	AM	Group Co-ordinator S & P Planner SDC	Carol Jensen	CJ	Consultant Ecologist
Andrew Spanton	AS	Biodiversity Co-ordinator SDC	Tina Van der Velde	TV	District Plan Administrator SDC (Note taker)



## Agenda:

Item #	Item	Lead
1.0	Confirm Minutes from first meeting	AM
2.0	Amendments to Terms of Reference to reflect feedback from Ngā Rūnanga and Ngā Rūnanga representation on Working Group	AM
3.0	Field Trip debrief	AM
4.0	Timing(s) & itinerary and Working Group members expectations for subsequent field trip(s)	AM
5.0	Discussion / presentation on SNA briefing note	AM

## Notes:

The meeting was preceded by a field trip (2.45pm-5.30pm) around 5 sites southwest of Rolleston.

Chair: Opened the meeting.

### 1.0 Confirm Minutes from first meeting

Chair: Asked Working Group to confirm the meeting minutes for meeting 1 November 2017.

BR: Moved for Working Group Members to be identified separately from advisors on the cover page of minutes.

Minutes confirmed.

Moved: Ben Rhodes

Seconded: Ken Murray

**CARRIED**

### 2.0 Amendments to Terms of Reference (Tor) to reflect feedback from Ngā Rūnanga and Ngā Rūnanga representation on Working Group

AM: Spoke to the second slide of his presentation and handout

- Te Taumutu and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga advise that Terms of Reference do not adequately reflect RMA in terms of dealing with cultural values
- They request that the ToR be amended to include section 6(e), and 6(g) of the RMA:
  - *(e) the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga;*
  - *(g) the protection of protected customary rights*
- They also request that they be amended to include section 7(a), and Section 8 of the RMA:
  - *(e) the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga;*



- *Section 8 – Treaty of Waitangi*
- Ngā Rūnanga advise that due to over stretched resources that they will not be able to participate in the Working Group, but would like to present to the Working Group the expectations of the Rūnanga at some point in the New Year.

In summary, Terms of Reference to be updated to reflect changes requested from Ngā Rūnanga. Ngā Rūnanga are unable to participate in the working group due to lack of resourcing.

AM: Asked Working Group if they were happy for the ToR to be amended to address Ngā Rūnanga concerns.

Also asked the Group if they were satisfied in regards to the wording of the Terms of Reference regarding recording when members disagree on particular matters being discussed and/or making decisions - the ToR implies areas of agreement/disagreement will be clearly recorded but AM is open to rewording it if required.

*No objections to proposed amendments and wording in ToR.*

### **3.0 Field Trip Debrief:**

AM: Asked Working Group if there was value in having a Field Trip?

CB: Found it very helpful and interesting going to sites that were not expected. It highlighted to her the different issues that the different areas (plains to foothills to highlands) are grappling with. Being out in the field allowed a feel for what the issues are and how to deal with them differently.

BR: Field trip provides context and helps provide ideas going forward. We are able to look back at framework and have examples.

HR: Field trip gives us credibility to say we have been out in the field and seen it first-hand.

JG: Allows us to make headway in the field and interaction with the land is beneficial.

AM: Conscious of timeframes when it comes to field trips. We have lost a Bio-diversity Working Group meeting in July 2018 due to council stand down (break).

AM: Suggested a field trip to the High Country would most likely take a full day –Noted that a full meeting to discuss substantive issues after a full day's field trip may be too much to ask for?

SP: Keen to bring someone along from Fish and Game to next field trip to provide the team with their perspective.

PG: Felt uneasy at third stop as we were overlooking private land. Suggested we should have land owner present at site visits. If landowner is unwilling should find alternative site.

Chair: We will take that suggestion on board as courtesy to the landowner.



AM: Get some other experts out there e.g. Fish and Game and Department of Conservation, maybe Ecan, and Phil Grove?

Overall feedback from working group positive and good assistance with indications of sites to visit at next field trip.

#### **4.0 Timing(s) & itinerary and Working Group member's expectations for subsequent field trip(s)**

Field Trip number two options:

AM: Looking at third week of February, would prefer the field trips to be in summer, and for them to be completed by March 2017.

Part of work programme will include a Planning Assessment which includes looking at statutory documents among other things. A 'State of the Environment' briefing note (tracking health of indigenous biodiversity in Selwyn) will be circulated in the new year which can be discussed during field trips and, along with the recently circulated Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) briefing document, can be referred back to as required by Working Group members.

The Group can then have a more in depth discussion on what approach to take with listing/not listing SNAs at a full meeting subsequent to 3<sup>rd</sup> field trip (around April?).

CB: Going to an executive meeting after this and will ask members for their ideas of useful places to go and have landowner involvement.

JG: Will put together list of suggestions of places to go in the foothills etc.

*CB: Left meeting 6.02*

AM: Meet in Glentunnel? Asked the group if they are happy to focus on Malvern Hills/Lake Coleridge and Rakaia River catchment? Asked Group if both catchments (Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers) in the High Country would be useful to look at?

SP: Suggested both catchments would be useful -priorities would be upper part.

KM: Ideally we should do both to get a feel of the different aspects i.e. Indigenous, wetlands, etc.

AM: Let AM know about timings when you want to start etc. Please feedback ideas to AM in 10 days. AM to follow up with JG about a possible itinerary in the Malvern Hills/Lake Coleridge area

SP: Make it whole day leaving at 8am.

Chair: Will look at the programme of day and see what fits.

AM: Third field trip to Castle Hill area – worth going to.

AM: Any comments or questions?  
*No further comments or questions.*



## 5.0 Discussion / presentation on SNA briefing note

AM: Briefing AM sent out last week (apologies from AM for the lateness of sending out documents). District and SNAs (potential and confirmed) how do we identify landowners for assessment process?

Slideshows showing Data sets of potential SNAs used to assist in which landowners to engage with when considering carrying out ecological assessments.

Slide 10: Lower Plains –Less cluttered with sites (potentially significant sites).

Slide 11: High Country - Red polygons is data from Boffa Miskell 'final 115' a basis of identifying land owners to engage with. Discovered there are potentially thousands of sites e.g. past ecological advice is that a lone cabbage tree could be deemed a SNA, and that many sites may not have been previously identified in any past ecological surveys. Maps are not a complete picture.

Slide 12: NZ Landcare Trust engaged by Council to act as its 'Agent' in co-ordinating ecological assessments – Areas of Prioritisation focused on Canterbury Plains, Hill Country and intermontane areas. Method was to divide Plains into 4 sub areas and engage with landowners whose property was shown with potential SNAs from the various data sets. Progressively contact landowners in Area 1, Area 2 and so on. However, if any landowner not in priority areas (or whose property did not have potential SNA) showed an interest in participating in assessment process we would consider carrying out assessments – assuming there were ecological values present on the property.

The NZ Landcare Trust process resulted in 6-10 assessments with 2-3 going on to legally protect through QEII Trust.

Slide 13: 2007 - National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Species on Private Land report released <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/biodiversity/protecting-nzs-biodiversity/statement-national-priorities-biodiversity>

Reinforces Councils approach to focus on Plains and inter-montane areas. One of the flaws with the process as set out in the operative District Plan is it is voluntary process, not necessarily a 'whole of farm' assessment and may not capture all significant sites – hence still require general vegetation clearance rules to deal with significance.

Canterbury Plains have less Boffa Miskell Final 115 (red polygons) and other potentially significant sites due to historically high levels of modification–yellow shading on map means lower threat category

All of this data is on the Ministry for the Environment website - AM link above.

Slide 18: Green Stars = Restoration activities on SNA's / Farms / corner areas – need to filter to so we can get a better understanding of what is SNA, what is being actively managed and what are not SNA's but establishment of 'new' sites. A lot going on in Selwyn mainly in the Plains.

AM: Any questions?



JL: Identified a site and asked why it has no green star?

AM: This is not full picture of sites, there may be data entry errors, no data entered for sites by contributing agencies (for whatever reason).

SP: Made an observation leaving it to the landowner alone is not a good policy. We will have to work with the landowners to manage the risk.

JG: Believes landowners are much more receptive and alert.

SP: A combined approach is needed.

AM: Agreed we are not at a point where we can rely on voluntary mechanisms. Any approach the Group recommends will have to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement and pass the Section 32 test. Council has been very willing to work with landowners at a cooperative approach. All green stars are within the last 10 years – but we are not there yet.

Chair: Asked any further comments / clarifications  
*No further comments / clarifications*

AM: Happy to take e-mails and phone calls.

Chair: Closed meeting.

### 6.35pm Meeting concluded.

#### Action Table:

Team Member	Action
All	Any suggestions for next field trips to AM by 8 December.
AM	To follow up with JG about a possible itinerary in the Malvern Hills/Lake Coleridge area.
AM	Circulate Field Trip Details