

Tasman District Bio-Strategy

Governance Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Purpose of the Tasman District Bio-Strategy Governance Group is to ensure that a Bio-Strategy meeting the needs of the Tasman community is completed for Council consideration ideally by 30 June 2021.

Scope:

The scope of the Tasman Bio-Strategy will include the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments and will consider biodiversity and biosecurity with the context of broader issues such as climate change.

The geographic scope will be the boundaries of the Tasman District with consideration of cross boundary issues with other districts and beyond the boundary of the Territorial Sea.

The approach will reflect the holistic thinking inherent in mātauranga (knowledge system) Māori where the human community exercises kaitiakitanga (guardianship and responsible utilisation) in its interaction with Te Taiao (the natural world). The Strategy will therefore span:

- Restorative management of indigenous biodiversity;
- Humane and sustainable management of biodiversity and unwanted organisms such as pests and weeds;
- Humane and sustainable management organisms used to benefit people; and
- The cultural elements of tikanga Maori relevant to Te Taiao.

Context:

The Tasman District Council has resolved to create an over-arching Strategy aligning and unifying efforts in the district for biodiversity and biosecurity. The intention is to build on the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Strategy recently ratified by the Council and a number of Te Tau Ihu mana whenua iwi. The Tasman Bio-Strategy will add detail for places, policy issues, and for aspects of biosecurity outside the scope of the Kotahitanga Strategy which is restricted to natural heritage. It will be adopted by the Council as policy and inform future plans including Long Term and Annual Plans and Resource Management and Biosecurity Plans. Because the Bio-Strategy will strongly influence these statutory responsibilities of Council governance of the process and the outcome is vested at the level of elected members.

The Council has relationships and shares responsibilities – kaitiakitanga – with tangata whenua in this rohe. These are cultural and historic, and also defined by statutory responsibilities imposed by

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Government, under a range of Acts of Parliament, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and through instruments such as Deeds of Settlement, Deeds of Recognition and Statutory Acknowledgements. Therefore, TDC at the governance group level is seeking a partnership with mana whenua/mana moana iwi to share decision making through this governance group, to ensure that the process and outcomes accurately express and reflect its continuing collaborative partnership relationships with iwi.

The idea of getting better strategic integration across the district has been emerging as limitations of current approaches have been recognised. The development of a Bio-Strategy has also become timely because of other initiatives underway nationally and in the Top of the South as a whole. These include:

- Collective policy development by unitary (regional) councils defining their approach to biodiversity issues.
- The effect of the National Policy Direction under the Biosecurity Act on pest management that has constrained the scope of the Tasman/Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan that is nearing completion.
- Release of a proposed National Policy Statement (NPS)¹ under the Resource Management Act by the Ministry for the Environment which in its current form would require all regional councils to complete a regional Biodiversity Strategy within 3 years of gazettal.
- Beginning by DOC of the process to review the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.
- Treaty settlements that have defined particular role relationships between the council and local iwi in dealing with natural world management.
- Participation by the Tasman District Council in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and progress in completing a natural heritage strategy for the Top of the South Island as a whole.

Also of relevance are:

- Input from tikanga Maori.
- The Leathwick and Singers mapping and prioritisation of indigenous ecosystems in Tasman.
- Native Habitats Tasman ongoing work.
- Wetlands work.
- DOC knowledge kete and databases.
- TET Waimea/Moutere strategy and action plans.
- Community environmental groups and engagement including surveys.
- Zero Carbon Act.
- One Billion Trees initiative.
- Regional Provincial Growth Fund.

The Strategy will therefore be a non-statutory but high level TDC policy document that seeks the wide integration of relevant matters. It will take into account the emerging requirements of the proposed National Policy Statement and will identify what is needed to satisfy those once it comes into force. It will therefore go beyond the requirements of the proposed Policy Statement in scope but not aim to satisfy all its requirements in terms of detail at this stage.

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http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Biodiversity/Proposed%20National%20Policy%20Statement%20on%20Indigenous%20Biodiversity_0.pdf

Membership:

Membership shall ideally comprise six members, three Tasman District Council elected members from different parts of the district along with three iwi representatives (representing the three Te Tau Ihu waka?) appointed by the Iwi Leaders' Forum (yet to be confirmed).

For the initial establishment, membership is as follows: Councillors Brown, Tuffnell and Ogilvie and interim iwi representatives Aneika Young and Harvey Ruru or their proxies.

- The quorum for the Committee is three members and must include at least one iwi representative;
- Chairperson: Appointed by Group members;
- Deputy Chairperson: Appointed by Group members.

The project manager shall attend and support all meetings of the Governance Group. The project manager shall be appointed by the Environment and Planning Manager Tasman District Council.

Terms of Reference:

Areas of Responsibility:

- To govern preparation of the Tasman District Council Bio-Strategy.
- To govern consultation with key right-holders/stakeholders.
- To establish and provide direction to a Working Group and any other groups necessary to complete the Strategy.
- To ensure Council and mana whenua/mana moana iwi are kept apprised of progress to develop a Tasman Bio-Strategy.

Powers to Decide:

- Membership of the Working Group.
- Process for establishing the Strategy.
- Processes for engagement.
- Content and timing of public statements.
- Approve reports for Council and other bodies.
- Approve a final Strategy recommended for Council adoption.

Powers to recommend:

- To keep full Council and iwi apprised with progress to develop a Tasman Bio-Strategy.
- To recommend to Council and to iwi adoption of a Tasman Bio-Strategy.

Procedure:

- Standing Orders to be applied at each meeting shall be Model Standing Orders.
- The Council in collaboration with mana whenua iwi retains the power to discharge members of the Governance Group.
- The Chairperson shall not have a casting vote.
- These delegations/terms of reference may be varied by resolution of the Governance Group.
- Minutes of meetings of the Governance Group will be resolved to be received by Council and managed as per standard Council procedures.

Role relationships

- The Governance Group is arranged by and is accountable to the full Tasman District Council and to mana whenua/mana moana iwi.
- The Governance Group appoints the Working Group.
- Tasman District Council assigns resources to achieve the purpose of the Governance Group.
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