

# Tasman Bio-Strategy

## Working Group

### Draft Terms of Reference

#### Purpose:

The Purpose of the Tasman Bio-Strategy Working Group is to develop a Bio-Strategy meeting the needs of the Tasman community with an aim of finishing by 31 December 2020.

#### 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 *maturanga* (knowledge system) Maori 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. 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 the future of the community a broad base of contribution is required to develop content that will meet the needs of the diverse sectors of the community.

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:

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- 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)<sup>1</sup> 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, high level 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.

## Membership:

Membership of the Working Group will be determined by the Tasman District Bio-Strategy Governance Group. It shall comprise at least 8 and no more than 16 members. The Project Manager will appoint an independent facilitator for the Working Group subject to approval of the Governance Group. The facilitator shall attend and chair all meetings of the Working Group.

To select members of the Working the Governance Group will issue an open invitation to the community, including iwi, setting out its criteria for selection as favouring individuals who:

1. Are well respected and connected in the broader community while also connecting with one or more major sectors relevant to biodiversity and biosecurity.
2. Hold deep knowledge and understanding of matters relevant to forming the Strategy.
3. Are capable of working collaboratively towards consensus decisions.

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<sup>1</sup>

4. Are able to contribute at least 150hours to this work (in half day and full day meetings, work between meetings, and meetings with sectors and communities) over the next 18 months.

In developing an effective Working Group the Governance Group will select members that collectively connect with geographic and socio-cultural diversity of the community while meeting the other criteria.

## Terms of Reference:

### Areas of Responsibility:

- To develop the draft Tasman Bio-Strategy.
- To support consultation with right-holders/stakeholders.
- To ensure the Governance Group is kept apprised of progress to develop a draft Tasman Bio-Strategy and to respond to its guidance on content.
- To convene sub-groups to gain detail on matters of importance and complexity.
- To request support on matters requiring competence, knowledge and advice not available within the Working Group.

### Powers to Decide:

- Content of the draft Strategy.
- Establishment and scope of sub-groups and advisors as required.
- How to order its work and the frequency of meetings.

### Powers to recommend:

- To recommend to the Governance Group content of a draft Tasman Bio-Strategy.

### Procedure:

- Meetings will be convened by the independent facilitator who will organise agendas, meeting notes, and supporting papers and presentations.
- Decisions will be by consensus with the option of referring issues where agreement cannot be reached to the Governance Group for determination.
- The Tasman District Council will provide meeting spaces and catering and may pay contribution towards travel costs of members to support attendance but will not pay meeting fees to Working Group members.

### Role relationships

- The Working Group is appointed by the Governance Group and is accountable to it for progress and the quality of its advice.
- Tasman District Council assigns resources to achieve the purpose of the Working Group.