

AGENDA/KAUPAPA

Information Reports



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MEMBERSHIP: Andy Cranston (Chair), Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhona Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

DATE: Thursday 2 March 2023

TIME: 1:00PM

AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

AGENDA – OPEN SECTION

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Operations

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Reports to: | Council |
| Chairperson: | Cr Cranston – Environment & Communities Cr Foster - Infrastructure |
| Deputy Chairperson: | Cr Ria – Environment & Communities' Cr Thompson - Infrastructure |
| Membership: | Mayor and all Councillors |
| Quorum: | Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the membership is uneven. |
| Meeting frequency: | Six weekly (or as required). |

Functions

- To provide governance oversight of Council's operational programmes, services, activities and projects (including major projects) related to environmental operations, community development and infrastructural assets.
- To enable the progress of the Council's operational activities, projects and services.
- Its scope includes:

Environment Services and Protection

- Building Services
- Enforcement
- Environmental Health
- Pests and Plant management
- Biodiversity
- Integrated catchments
- Land management
- Animal control
- Harbour management

Infrastructure Services

- Urban Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Supply
- Land, Rivers and Coastal
- Local Roding Network – including associated structures, bridges and retaining walls, walkways, footpaths and road reserve, landscaping and ancillary services and facilities, street lighting and traffic management control
- Solid Waste – including landfill and transfer stations, recycling and waste minimisation

Communities

- Cultural Activities including Theatres, Museum and Public Art, Library and Tairawhiti Navigations
- Recreation and Amenity – including open spaces, parks and gardens, cemeteries, community property and the Olympic Pool complex

Planning and Development

- Customer Engagement
- Support Services

Terms of Reference

Operational oversight

- Provide governance direction for the Council's operational activities as outlined in the general purposes and scope section.
- Review and adjust relevant working programme priorities within agreed budgets, activity management plans and levels of service as per the Council's Long Term Plan.
- Receive updates on programmes, major projects/projects and activities.
- To have input into, and make decisions on, operational proposals, options and cost of projects/major projects.
- Contribute to the development of short term plans for community services and community facilities.
- Consider the strategic regulatory and compliance issues.
- Prepare submissions on any matter that is within its rationale and terms of reference for Council approval and submit on behalf of Council when timelines do not allow Council prior approval.

Asset management

- Oversee the management of all Council's physical assets – including land, buildings and roads.
- Make decisions on infrastructure and assets becoming Council's and on infrastructure and community assets on behalf of Council.
- Progress the sale of properties as approved in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Contribute to the development of and oversee delivery of economic development projects.
- Consider proposals to change the status or revoke the status of a reserve as defined in the Reserves Act 1977 (including the hearing of submissions).

Power to Act

To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role and scope of the Committee subject to the limitations imposed.

To establish subcommittees, working parties and forums as required.

To appoint non-voting advisory members and/or Tangata Whenua representatives to assist the Committee.

Power to Recommend

To Council and/or any standing committee as it deems appropriate.

9. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



23-17

Title: 23-17 Waingake Transformation Programme Update
Section: Community Projects
Prepared by: Amy England - Project Manager Waingake Transformation
Meeting Date: Thursday 2 March 2023

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

Report to OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee for information

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Waingake Transformation Programme and associated activities.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

Council's relationship with Maraetaha Incorporation, mana whenua of Waingake and Pamoā, was formalised in May 2022 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and establishment of a Joint Steering Group (JSG). The JSG will now begin development of a Joint Vision and Strategic Objectives which will set the foundation for the development of a Joint Action and Management Plan.

Operational activities focussed on planting over the winter months (July–September 2022) with our largest planting year to date seeing the installation of over 220,000 trees. Planting contractors have now moved into releasing of the plants over spring and summer. In September, wilding pine control contracts were awarded to three contractors, enabling ongoing control on an as-required basis.

This spring we have observed a large increase in emerging weeds, particularly pampas which is quick to establish on bare ground. Our Waingake Ngāhere Ora team is focused on early control of these pest plant species to ensure large infestations do not establish.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori Committee:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.**

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: Waingake, Pamoā, Maraetaha Incorporation, Restoration

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Waingake Transformation Programme was established following Council's decision to return 71% of the Pamoā Forest to native vegetation cover as harvest of the existing pine forest progresses.
2. The programme is being delivered in partnership with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporation, with support from Ngai Tāmanuhiri.
3. A formal Memorandum of Understanding between Council and Maraetaha Incorporation was signed in May 2022, and a Joint Steering Group has been established to progress a practical working relationship with a focus on matters of mutual importance across Waingake and Pamoā.
4. The programme aims to ensure security and resilience for key water supply assets and infrastructure, and to advance the cultural, environmental, economic, spiritual and social wellbeing of mana whenua, hapū, iwi, and citizens of Tairāwhiti through the protection, enhancement, and redevelopment of Waingake and Pamoā.
5. 29% of the land area at Waingake was intended to be put into a second rotation of pine, however Juken New Zealand declined this option under the current Forestry Right Agreement. To avoid deforestation liabilities under the Emissions Trading Scheme, Council conducted a Registration of Interest process to identify replanting options and is now progressing a replanting and apiary Licence with eLandNZ Limited. Under this 35-year Licence agreement, eLandNZ Ltd will plant the 29% in mānuka and receive apiary rights to the area.
6. For information on the history of the Waingake Transformation Programme see the following decisions and updates to Council:
 - 28 June 2018 [Report 18-230](#) "Protection of the Waingake Water Supply Pipeline".
 - 19 December 2019 [Report 19-404](#) "Long Term Future of Pamoā Forest".
 - 27 May 2020 [Report 20-125](#) "Pamoā Implementation Plan – 2020/21".

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

7. The following is a progress update on the Waingake Transformation Programme work which has been undertaken since April 2022.

Mana Whenua Partnership and Joint Steering Group

8. The Joint Steering Group (JSG) consists of three representatives from Maraetaha Inc and three from Council (governance and management) and has met twice since establishment in May 2022.
9. Two Councillor representatives on the JSG did not stand for re-election in 2022. Following the Local Body elections, two new Council representatives on the JSG were confirmed as Councillors Ria and Gregory.
10. In November 2022, Maraetaha Inc held their Annual General Meeting at which time new Trustees were appointed. Maraetaha Inc will now need to confirm their new representatives for the JSG.
11. One of the first tasks for the JSG will be to develop the Joint Vision and Strategic Objectives which will set the foundation for the development of a Joint Action and Management Plan.

12. Members of Maraetaha Inc, Council and eLandNZ Ltd met together at Waingake in August 2022 to share the history of the area, identify areas of significance prior to planting and to discuss future opportunities and ideas for the whenua.
13. In addition to the JSG forum, programme staff continue to work with Maraetaha Inc at an operational level on significant issues such as funding, procurement, communications and recruitment.

Operational Activities

Planting

14. The 2022 planting this season was very successful, with 223,000 mānuka and 2000 karamu planted by our contract teams, covering 180 hectares. Planting was targeted to areas adjacent to the pipeline infrastructure and supported with the installation of 675 willow and poplar poles in erosion prone gullies and on steep faces. Figure 1 shows planted areas from 2020 to 2023.

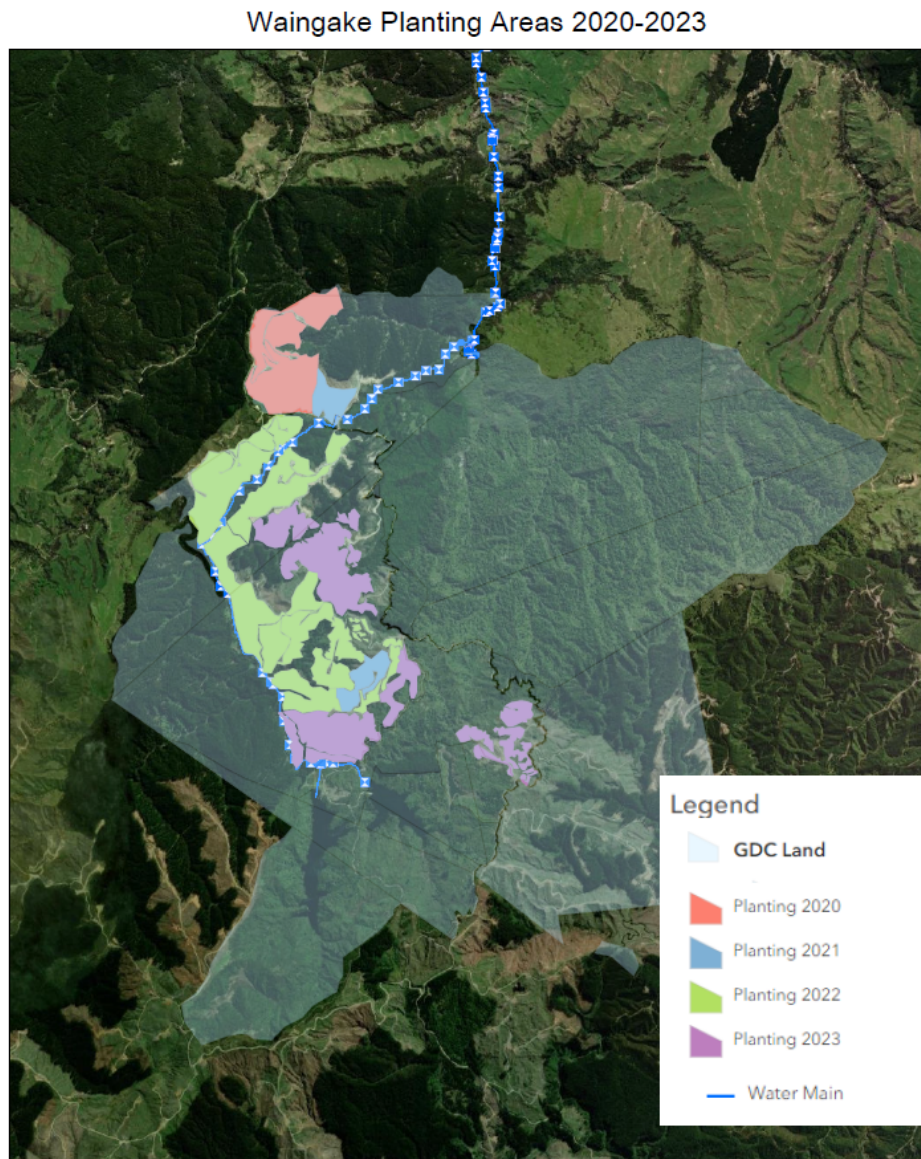


Figure 1: Map of Waingake showing planted areas by year.

15. Due to problems with low germination rates and a fungal disease in the mānuka crop, an additional 90 hectares of planned planting for the 2022 season was shifted to 2024 and the funding agreement with Ministry of Primary Industries (One Billion Trees funding) has been varied accordingly.
16. The wet spring and summer have created challenging conditions for planting contractors needing to release spray plants. Release spraying ensures the planted seedlings remain free from smothering by rank grass or being outcompeted by other weed species. This work can't be done in wet or windy weather. The rapid growth of rank grass in cutover areas, combined with spraying challenges means it has been necessary to complete some releasing by hand to ensure plant survival.
17. Planting plans and seed collection for 2023 are complete and propagation is well under way. We anticipate planting 276,000 manuka and 20,000–30,000 mixed natives across 140ha.
18. In addition to the planting outlined above, eLandNZ Ltd began planting of mānuka in the 29% land area with 36ha planted in 2022.

Weed and Pest Control

19. Wilding pine regeneration poses one of the greatest risks to the success of native reforestation at Waingake. Following a procurement process in August 2022, a panel of three suppliers was appointed for ongoing wilding pine control work. This panel approach enables flexibility around the timing and scale of control work, ensuring that we respond before wilding pines become established.
20. The suppliers responsible for wilding pine control also act in a surveillance capacity for targeted pest plant species such as pampas, buddleia and old man's beard. They provide GPS coordinates for any observations of these species, which are then followed up by our Waingake Ngahere Ora team for control.
21. This spring we have observed a significant increase in the spread of pampas across the site. The Waingake Ngahere Ora team is currently focussing on the systematic control of pampas by removing flower heads and spraying all observed plants. During November 2022, they controlled close to 400 individual pest plants. To date this spring and summer the team has completed surveillance and control of pampas, buddleia, banana passionfruit, convolvulus, ivy and other weeds across 176 ha of cutover areas.
22. The installation of traplines through the interior of the Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush was completed as per our Jobs for Nature funding milestones. The team has completed clearing, marking and installation of over 16km of traplines within the forest, installing DOC 200 traps for rats and stoats, along with Trapinator possum traps and SA cat traps.
23. With assistance from the Biosecurity team, we completed a baseline possum wax-tag monitor with the QEII Bush in November. The bite mark index result was 84% indicating high possum abundance. We will now bait and set all the new traplines and begin regular maintenance of these. Follow up wax tag monitoring will enable us to determine the success of trapping efforts going forward.

24. We have recently completed a contract review of our ungulate control contract with Trap and Trigger Ltd. This included an external review of the methodology and results by a representative from the Department of Conservation. Key results (Figure 2) from the previous year of control include:
- 422 goats removed, with an 87% reduction in goat density in the QEII Bush.
 - 73 pigs removed with the assistance of members of the Ngai Tāmanuhiri hunting roopu.
 - 18 deer removed, with low densities within the QEII Bush and Dams catchment. Deer numbers appear to be increasing within the buffer areas.
25. The review confirmed that initial control has been successful, with goat numbers decreasing rapidly within the first two years. Continued sustained control, pulsed throughout the year is the most effective method for achieving low to zero density of goats within the core restoration area.
26. It is important to be aware that a reduction in goat numbers can create a vacuum for deer to move in due to extra feed available in the understorey. Contractors will continue to apply pressure to deer (and pigs) within the QEII Bush and Dams catchment to prevent an inadvertent increase in deer numbers.
27. Following on from the success of the ungulate control programme in 2021/22, the contract with Trap and Trigger Ltd was extended for another 12 months, with control rounds spaced three months apart in November 2022 (complete), February and May 2023.

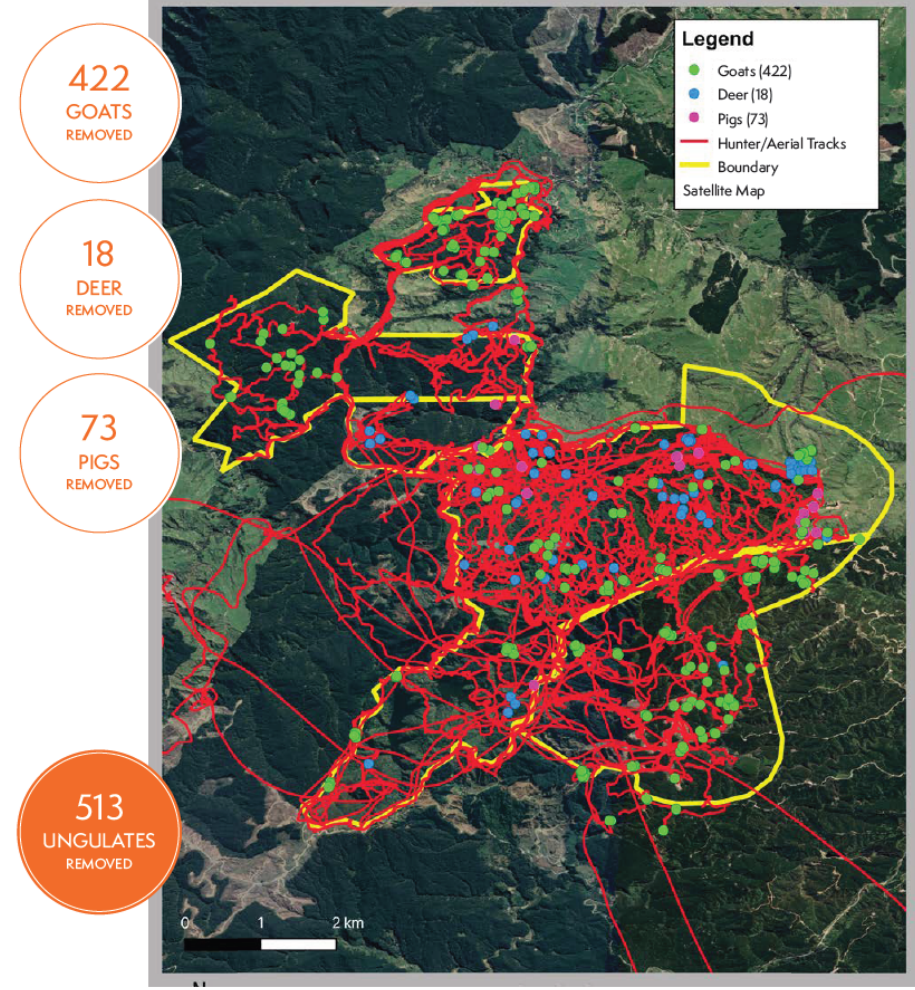


Figure 2: Summary of ungulate control effort August 2021 to June 2022

Licence Agreement – 29% Land Area

28. In September 2022, Council and eLandNZ Ltd signed a Heads of Agreement relating to the replanting of the 29% land area (originally proposed for a second rotation of pine). We are now working through development of a Licence agreement under which eLandNZ Ltd will be responsible for replanting the 29% in eco-sourced manuka. The Licence will provide eLandNZ Ltd with apiary rights to the 29% for a 35-year term, with an annual fee payable to Council based on the area planted. We have engaged an external consultant to oversee development of the Licence along with external legal advice where required. We anticipate having the agreement finalised by March 2023.

Science and Monitoring

29. During the 2021 planting season we established some planting trials using a locally developed product called Respond. Respond delivers beneficial mycorrhizal fungi to the roots of the plant, which may aid in plant survival, health and growth. The plants within the trial plots were measured following planting and again 12 months later. Preliminary results showed a significant difference in treatments, with plants treated with Respond having greater median stem diameter and height compared to the control plots.
30. We established further Respond trials during the 2022 planting season and will continue to monitor both trials for at least two years to determine if the differences remain significant.
31. MPI and Tane's Tree Trust are undertaking research on transition forestry (transitioning pine to native) and have approached Council to be involved in this research. We will be working with Tane's Tree Trust to identify suitable sites at Waingake to contribute to this research.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: Medium Significance

This Report: Low Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: Low Significance

This Report: Low Significance

32. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

33. Refer to paragraphs 8-13 of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

34. Regular updates are being provided to the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board and to Te Ropu Taiao Group reporting to Rau Tipu Rau Ora.
35. A public event for Conservation Week had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions on the day.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

36. Overall, the Waingake Transformation Programme will have positive mitigation and adaptation impact through carbon sequestration, adaptation and ecosystem services, wider socio-economic and cultural benefits.
37. The conversion to native vegetation will sequester carbon that is otherwise released with the harvest of commercial pine forest. In the medium to long term, carbon sequestration by the native vegetation will help Council to achieve our target of zero carbon by 2050 through gross emissions reduction. The eventual mixed species indigenous forest at Waingake will provide greater carbon resilience than a monoculture pine forest.
38. According to the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, biodiversity loss in forest ecosystems is expected to be moderate to high in the near term (2021–2040). Adaptation for natural forests includes creating a diversity of species and habitats to build resilience and managing the risks from pests, disease and wildfires, alongside increased connectivity to facilitate the movement of species (Figure 3). Restoration of forests also contributes to enhanced resilience of carbon stocks. The IPCC Report further states that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience increase with the size of the natural area.
39. As a region Tairāwhiti retains only 7% of indigenous forest vegetation, much of it fragmented or found at higher elevations, leaving very little lowland forest ecosystems for biodiversity. The Waingake Waterworks (QEII) Bush is the largest and most significant primary lowland forest remaining in the region and is home to several rare and threatened species. The transition of 1600ha of pine to native forest ecosystem at Waingake, supported by sustained control of pest animal and plant species at Waingake, will provide significant benefits to biodiversity in the region through:
- Providing a matrix of old and new growth forest and multiple habitat types, across a range of elevations.
 - Providing a buffer of protection to the south from natural impacts such as wind damage and desiccation.
 - Creating a stepping-stone and corridor for native fauna to move across the landscape (particularly important for less mobile species).

- Proximity to several large Protection Management Areas both coastally and inland.
- Improvements in water quality and reduction of sediment within the headwaters of three key catchments.
- Ongoing protection of flora and fauna through control of predators and browsers.
- Creation of a biodiversity haven with potential for species reintroductions to support species management across the motu.

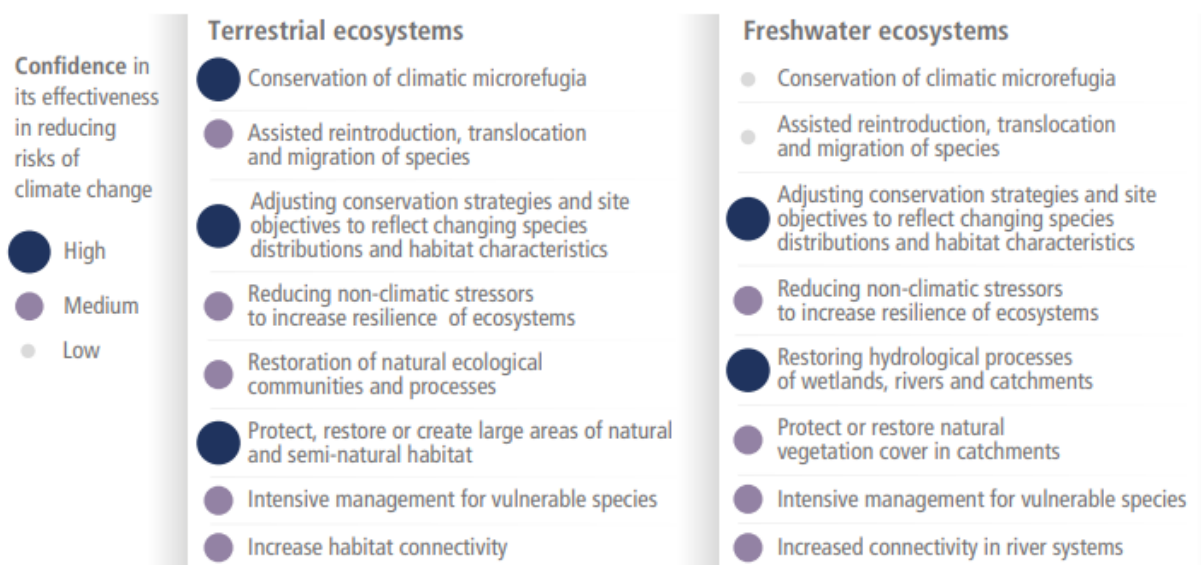


Figure 3: Examples of adaptation actions for ecosystems and biodiversity. Source, IPCC 6th Assessment Report.

40. Climate change impacts on the hydrological cycle, with intensification of droughts and floods and negative impacts on urban water uses, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. Reforestation with native species can help to restore hydrological processes, leading to improved water quality and resilience of supply.
41. Establishing permanent indigenous cover in Tairāwhiti's water supply catchments and removing pest species provides an integrated approach to mitigating climate change impacts. The positive co-benefits include a long-term reduction in sediment, improved water quality, restoration of mauri and upholding Te Mana o Te Wai. The implementation of green infrastructure enables Council to build resilience for a long-term, high quality water supply in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

42. There are no financial issues arising from this report.

Legal

43. There are no legal issues arising from this report.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

44. The matters in this report are consistent with Council's policies and plan including the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

45. Failure to meet Emissions Trading Scheme criteria for pre-1990 forested land at 4, 10 and 20 years would incur a financial penalty. This risk is being closely managed through the planting programme.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

| Date | Action/Milestone | Comments |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| February 2023 | Ungulate control phase 2 | |
| March 2023 | Licence Agreement signed | For 29% land area |
| April 2023 | Pre plant preparation begins | |

