

LGOIMA reference – 2022/852

17 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Email - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 19/04/2022. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

Climate change and biodiversity loss

1. Does your council have a climate change strategy?

Horowhenua District Council (HDC) has a draft Climate Change Action Plan which was presented at a Council meeting on 13 October 2021. See page to page 43-55 of the Council agenda at the link below <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/meetings-2021/council/horowhenua-district-council-open-agenda-13-october-2021.pdf>. The draft Action Plan recommends that a Sustainability Policy is developed and established. This policy will then be used as a roadmap for HDC.

2. Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?

Not currently, see above response to Question 1.

However, HDC has some responses to climate change which have been outlined in the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2041, please refer to page 250 of the LTP at the link below https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/council-documents/plans/ltp2021-41/hdc-ltp-2021-2041-11-august-2021_web.pdf.

3. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?

Currently outcomes are measured against the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 which is at a very high level.

4. Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?

Currently biodiversity is managed by the Horizons Regional Council for Whanganui and Manawatu region.

5. Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?

No, see response to Question 4 above.

6. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?

No, see response to Question 4 above.

7. Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?

There are no SNAs in the Operative Horowhenua District Plan – we have deferred to Horizons Regional Council in this regard, as the One Plan administers SNAs within the Horowhenua District and contains clear policy direction that they will administer them as a Regional Council function.

8. How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?

None, as above.

9. How does your council maintain SNAs?

HDC does not administer SNAs, Horizons administers via One Plan.

10. How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?

Horowhenua District Council has not issued any consents that allow for any vegetation clearance in SNA. This is due to any clearance of vegetation requiring approval from Horizons Regional Council. Horowhenua District Council refer all customers to seek advice from Horizons who will provide advice as to whether or not a consent is required. Horizons Regional Council have ecologists that offer free advice to the public on this matter.

11. Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?

There are no vegetation clearance rules in the Operative Horowhenua District Plan.

12. How often does your council monitor SNAs?

SNAs are not currently monitored – again we defer to Horizons Regional Council to monitor SNAs.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on 06 366 999 or email - LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Slade
Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA