

SUBMISSION

Ashburton District Council – Long Term Plan 2021-2031

SUBMITTED TO: Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740

By email: submissions@adc.govt.nz

INTRODUCTION

1. The Kānuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust is a charitable trust. The Trust became a registered Charitable Trust under the Charities Act 2005 on 19 June 2019 (registration number CC56917).
2. The Trust Board consists of six trustees from a range of backgrounds and professions. All trustees either reside in, or have strong connections to, the Ashburton district.
3. The Trust has been established with the purpose of connecting our land and water, cultures and communities within the Ashburton district. More specifically, the Trust's purposes include trying to promote and facilitate the conservation, regeneration and enhancement of biodiverse ecosystems in Mid Canterbury for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. As such, the Trust is committed to addressing the overall loss of biodiversity values in the Ashburton district.
4. To fulfil the Trust's purposes, the Trust Board has been working alongside and in partnership with individuals, schools and other groups in our community. This includes facilitating a recent community planting day at Wakanui Beach, in conjunction with assistance from Ashburton District Council officers.
5. The Trust has also been a member of the Council's Biodiversity Advisory Group since early 2020.

SUBMISSION

6. The Trust Board is aware that, through the Long Term Plan 2021-2031, Council is considering creating a new biodiversity officer (ecologist) position at Council. The creation of this role is a recommendation from Council's Biodiversity Advisory Group. The Trust Board fully supports funding being allocated for this new role for the reasons set out in this submission.
7. Having a biodiversity officer will enable Council to more effectively carry out its numerous statutory biodiversity responsibilities, with these responsibilities only set



**Kānuka Mid Canterbury
Regeneration Trust**

to increase if the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity is eventually implemented. The officer can also be a fundamental link within Council to ensure Council can effectively implement the biodiversity aspects of the Ashburton District Plan, the Ashburton Biodiversity Action Plan and the Council's Open Spaces Strategy.

8. The Trust Board also believes this biodiversity officer could constructively work with local landowners to both educate and assist those who want to undertake projects on private land to increase the protection, regeneration and enhancement of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity values. In the Trust Board's experience, there are many landowners in the district wanting to undertake such projects, but they are often lacking the knowledge or confidence to know where to start. Having a dedicated resource within Council who is able to assist these landowners will therefore be a significant benefit to not only these individual landowners, but also to the wider district.
9. This officer role could also manage biodiversity projects on Council's land, thereby reducing (to an extent) the amount of external consultants being used.
10. It is vital that the community works together to address the overall loss of biodiversity values in the Ashburton district. The Trust Board strongly believes the creation of a biodiversity officer is one important step in addressing these losses for the benefit of the wider district.
11. For the reasons set out above, the Trust Board considers this role will enable the Council to more effectively promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future (as required by section 10(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002).
12. The Trust Board looks forward to working alongside the biodiversity officer, should the role be created.
13. I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission at the hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Riach
Chairperson



**Kānuka Mid Canterbury
Regeneration Trust**