

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6	SUBJECT MATTER: REVIEW OF THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (CRPS)
REPORT: Regional Planning Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 15 April 2009
FILE REFERENCES: RPS/2008/PREP/CONS	PORTFOLIO: Democratic PROJECT: Regional Policy Statement Review OUTPUT: A reviewed CRPS
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek directions for the drafting of an “Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity” chapter of the CRPS and initial endorsement of the proposed policy directions.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

BACKGROUND

Since the CRPS was drafted in 1998, there have been many new matters relating to indigenous biodiversity both within the Region and nationally that need to be considered. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) has had several changes including the 2003 amendments to Section 30 that give regional councils additional functions for the control of use of land for the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems in water bodies and coastal waters and the establishment of objectives, policies and methods for maintaining indigenous biodiversity. In addition, a 2005 amendment to the RMA determined that a regional policy statement must state the local authority responsible for specifying objectives, policies and methods for the control of the use of land for the maintenance of biodiversity.

Other matters of significance included the following, (not in chronological order or order of importance):

- The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy was introduced in 2000 – this strategy identifies priorities for the management of biodiversity in New Zealand, but it does not have the same status or legal force as a National Policy Statement;
- A Regional Biodiversity Strategy has been developed by the region’s key biodiversity stakeholders and adopted by those stakeholders including the Regional Council and 8 Territorial Authorities (TAs);
- “Protecting our Places - Information about the Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land” was published in 2007 by the Ministry for the Environment.
- The Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (PNRRP) was notified in 2004, and Chapter 7 – Wetlands in particular;
- The Regional Coastal Environment Plan dealing with ecological matters in the coastal marine area was made operative in 2005;

- Many district plans have been put in place with provisions that address biodiversity issues and the clearance of indigenous vegetation in particular;
- The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (NTCSA) was enacted – this is significant because it identifies areas of high cultural value having indigenous biodiversity values;
- Regional Pest Management Strategies have been put in place, including provisions for controlling pests for indigenous ecological purposes (environmental pests); and
- There has been significant intensification of land use throughout the region, particularly involving irrigation, cropping and dairy farming and there has been land tenure changes in the high country which has reduced grazing of indigenous tussock grasslands, all of which has impacted on the region's indigenous ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

Existing CRPS Provisions

Provisions for ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity are found principally within the CRPS Chapter 8 – Landscape, Ecology and Heritage, however there are further provisions relating to indigenous biodiversity within chapter 9 – Water, chapter 10 – Beds of Lakes and Rivers and their Margins, and chapter 11 – The Coastal Environment. In addition, Chapter 20.4 of the CRPS includes provisions to assist in determining the regional significance of biodiversity features (habitat and ecosystems) and effects on these features.

Reference is made in the existing policies to the criteria for determining regional significance in Chapter 20 as a means of identifying areas or natural features that are to be subject to protection.

Ecological factors are featured in the Coastal Environment, Water and the River and Lake Beds chapters as part of the values of natural features that are to be protected through the chapter provisions. The other CRPS chapters also have references to ecosystems in relation to possible adverse effects on them that are dealt with in the chapters.

THE PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Committee approve the proposed directions for drafting an “Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity” chapter of the CRPS. The proposed direction for this chapter is set out below after considering the options.

CONSIDERATION OF THE OPTIONS

A consideration of options for redrafting the chapter is attached as Appendix 1 of this report. These options are broadly the ones put to stakeholders, including Territorial Authority staff, (see comments under “Views of Affected and Interested Parties” below). Appendix 2 of this report shows the indigenous ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity provisions in the existing CRPS Chapter 8 Landscape, Ecology and Heritage in the context of a discussion of the need for changes to those provisions. Appendix 3 shows possible methods for implementing the policies in the chapter.

PROPOSED DIRECTIONS

On the basis of environmental and policy changes, together with staff and stakeholder comments, the following directions for drafting are proposed:

- Chapter title to be Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity.
- Still include wetlands in this Chapter.
- Leave detailed SNA type specification to plans (District and Regional)
- Include a Policy for Environment Canterbury's functions to be guided by the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy's vision, goals, target actions and priorities.
- Under Section 62:

Assign to Environment Canterbury:

- (a) The responsibility for the regional overview of the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity through its Regional Policy Statement.
- (b) The responsibility for the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity in water bodies, including wetlands, in river and lake beds and in the coastal marine area through its Regional Plans.

Assign to Territorial Authorities:

The responsibility for the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity in all other areas through their district plans.

- Include threats to indigenous biodiversity in the issue as well as effects.
- Include policy identifying the ecological and indigenous biodiversity values to be protected by the region and territorial authorities and the selection of protected areas based on current thinking adapting the material presently in Section 20.4 Regional Significance.
- Cover maintenance, enhancement and restoration of indigenous biodiversity.
- Leave detailed provisions relating to ecology, indigenous biodiversity and pests:
 - (a) in the coastal marine area to the "Coastal Environment" Chapter,
 - (b) in river and lake beds to the "River and Lake Beds and their Riparian Zones" Chapter, and
 - (c) in water bodies other than wetlands to the "Water" Chapter
(*Other than assigning the Section 62 indigenous biodiversity functions.*)
- Use the CRPS to establish the key statutory approach to biodiversity management rather than the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.
- Include specific requirements in the chapter's policies and methods for District and Regional Plans so that the districts and the region must apply consistent criteria to select priority areas for maintaining indigenous biodiversity; and must have methods, including rules controlling specified activities to achieve this outcome.
- RPS identifies matters of national and regional significance as priorities for biodiversity protection in the region, including (where appropriate) specific areas or habitat types or species/ecosystems.
- Include provisions for other methods such as environmental offsets and biodiversity banking relating to ecosystems or indigenous biodiversity.

- Amend the other ecology provisions (including wetland provisions) in the existing chapter broadly as indicated in Appendices 2 and 3.

CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING POLICY PLANS OR LEGISLATION

The above proposals are consistent with, and in some cases required by, legislation. Changes to the CRPS may require subsequent changes to regional and district plans.

VIEWS OF AFFECTED AND INTERESTED PARTIES

The issues and options for dealing with indigenous biodiversity issues were discussed with TA staff and other stakeholders as far back as May 2006. More specific discussions on an Issues and Options paper occurred with TA staff in December 2008 and January 2009.

The Issues and Options paper concluded that indigenous biodiversity was a better focus than simply ecology and endorsed the transfer of the landscape and heritage issue to other chapters. An issue discussed was the extent to which objectives and policies should aim for enhancement as well as protection of indigenous biodiversity.

Other issues were whether the focus should be on indigenous biodiversity generally or only areas of regional significance, what criteria for protection should be included, and whether the threats to indigenous biodiversity (including Pests threats) should be identified.

The issue of specifying the respective Territorial Authority and Environment Canterbury roles for indigenous biodiversity was also considered following the new provisions in the RMA requiring such responsibilities to be specified in the CRPS.

There was broad agreement from those consulted that indigenous biodiversity should be considered in a separate chapter. The separation into Landscape and Heritage chapters has already been approved by the Council for drafting and consultation purposes.

It was considered by Territorial Authority staff that the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy should underpin the CRPS policies. However the strategy promotes a non-regulatory or voluntary approach and the strategy has not been adopted by two of the constituent district councils. The CRPS can require a regulatory approach to maintaining indigenous biodiversity by requiring provisions to be included in district and regional plans.

It was acknowledged that the respective roles of Territorial Authorities and the region would need to be specified in the chapter in accordance with the RMA. It was noted that TAs have already addressed indigenous biodiversity issues in their district plans and that this should continue.

There was consensus that the new chapter should deal with *indigenous* biodiversity only and that the level of detail in the chapter should not extend to identifying specific land areas to be protected. It was considered that detailed specification of areas to be protected should be left to district plans, (and regional plans in relation to water bodies, river and lake beds and the coastal marine area).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommend to Council that approval is given to drafting an “Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity” chapter of the CRPS following the directions outlined in this report to the committee.

Appendix 1 Consideration of Options

Options	Discussion
Chapter Title/Coverage	
Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a sufficient description of the areas covered.
Include Pests in the title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Biosecurity Act deals with pests but they should only be acknowledged as affecting indigenous biodiversity. We are only interested here in effects of pests on indigenous biodiversity, not production effects.
Remove Ecosystems from title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems are not necessarily already included in "biodiversity". Ecology is dealt with by other chapters (e.g. the beds and water chapters) but inclusion here would be an integrating factor.
Add Indigenous to Ecosystems in the title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A more narrow focus is not appropriate given the focus of the RMA. Non-Indigenous ecosystem concerns are mainly trout and salmon and dealt with in Chapter 9 Water. HOWEVER, non-Indigenous species are a threat to Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
Include Wetlands and/or other Water Bodies	
Still include wetlands in this Chapter but leave detailed policies on other Water Bodies to the Water Chapter, (apart from assigning the indigenous biodiversity functions for water bodies generally) [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands are in the existing CRPS Ecology Chapter 8. Wetlands are more than just a water issue. Separating out the biodiversity aspect of wetlands in this not an integrated approach.
Leave wetlands to the Water Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands are a very important part of Indigenous Biodiversity Wetlands involve mainly drainage and discharge issues in the water chapters of the CRPS and the NRRP. Wetlands can have a more ecological focus in a biodiversity chapter.

<p>Include detailed policies for all water bodies in the chapter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bodies are a very important part of Canterbury's ecology and indigenous biodiversity. • Water policies need to be treated in an integrated way that cannot be achieved by separating out parts for this chapter. • Ecology and indigenous biodiversity aspects of water bodies are going to be referenced in the chapter anyway without the detailed policies.
<p>List specific Sites for protection at a regional and district level?</p>	
<p>Leave SNA type specification to plans (District and Regional) but still include (where appropriate) some broadly specified areas or habitat types or species/ecosystems that are of regional significance, (e.g. Canterbury Mudfish). [Preferred option]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This does not preclude new priority areas from being addressed • Area specification is not in existing CRPS Ecology chapter. • We can still have criteria for selection of areas. • We can still include the special features identified in the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy. • There are other planning and voluntary mechanisms for establishing and protecting specific areas. • This is the preference of Territorial Authority staff.
<p>Include detailed specified areas to be protected</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive SNA type consultation would be needed • This is duplicating provisions of most district plans • Opposed by Territorial Authority staff.
<p>Incorporation of Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy</p>	
<p>Include a Policy for Environment Canterbury's functions to be guided by the Strategy's vision, goals, target actions and priorities. [Preferred option]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy has features that provide guidance but are not readily adopted as policy or methods in planning documents. • Not all districts have committed to the Strategy.
<p>Include a method for Environment Canterbury and districts to be guided by the Strategy Reference the Strategy's vision, goals, target actions and priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy is non-prescriptive and voluntary, with a non regulatory approach • Environment Canterbury can commit to it, but not all districts
<p>Simply repeat Strategy provisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory document • Not region wide adoption. (Mackenzie and Hurunui not signatories) • Some Goals read more like Policies or Methods than suitable CRPS objectives and would need redrafting in the CRPS

	<p>context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We could also restrict to Environment Canterbury non-regulatory functions but this could show a lack of commitment to the strategy.
<p>Local Authority Responsibilities for Specifying Objectives, Policy and Methods for the Control and Use of Land to Maintain Indigenous Biodiversity</p>	
<p>Assign regional overview responsibilities for the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity to Environment Canterbury through the CRPS; assign the responsibility for the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity in water bodies, including wetlands, in river and lake beds and in the coastal marine area to Environment Canterbury through its Regional Plans; with the responsibility for the control of use of land for maintaining indigenous biodiversity in all other areas assigned to territorial authorities through their district plans. [Preferred option]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can still have a regional overview whilst being specific for region and district plans. Wellington Region does this. Environment Canterbury already has bed and CMA functions under RMA Environment Canterbury has other responsibilities for beds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As owner - Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act Many rivers are district boundaries. Control of use of land for this purpose implies rules.
<p>Assign to Environment Canterbury for Water Bodies, including wetlands, River and Lake Beds and the CMA with all other (land) areas to territorial authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No region wide overview. Environment Canterbury already has bed and CMA functions under RMA Environment Canterbury has other responsibilities for beds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As owner - Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act Many rivers are district boundaries.
<p>Regional Council has total responsibility (Also is the do nothing option)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could still specify district plans as a method Lack of local autonomy We could still chose to do so for any district which is seen not to take up the responsibility.
<p>Assign all responsibilities to territorial authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of integration with Environment Canterbury other functions in beds and water bodies. Territorial authority have boundaries along the middle of many rivers TAs have no planning role in the CMA unless it is delegated.
<p>Assign responsibility according to individual territorial wishes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confusion over responsibilities Territorial authorities boundaries are along many rivers

Identify Threats to Indigenous Biodiversity	
Include threats in issue 1 [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests are already identified as a threat • Danger some threats will be missed and ignored • Other threats are not precluded.
Leave to district plans and regional bed and coastal plans to identify.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regional guidance
Identify Regionally Significant Matters (as for existing Regional Significance Section 20.4).	
Include policy identifying the indigenous ecological and indigenous biodiversity values to be protected by the region and territorial authorities and the selection of protected areas based on current thinking adapting the material presently in Section 20.4 Regional Significance. [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More appropriate for overview document • Applies both regionally and locally not just for regionally significant matters.
State the matters of regional significance only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing regional significance provisions have been largely found wanting • Ignores localised matters which may not qualify as of region wide concern.
Enhancement and Restoration as well as Maintenance of Indigenous Biodiversity Values	
Cover maintenance, enhancement and restoration. [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with other Chapters • Guidance only can be given, this is not necessarily dictatorial • Regional function of enhancement in relation to water ecosystems including wetlands (Section 30)
Maintenance only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement and Restoration requires a commitment that may be inappropriate or unaffordable • Maintenance only is referred to in Section 62 of the RMA, (assignment of responsibilities) and Section 30 functions.
Dealing with the Coastal Marine Area	
Leave CMA to the Coastal Environment Chapter (apart from assigning the indigenous biodiversity functions in the CMA) [Preferred option]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMA is a distinct area subject to special /separate controls under the RMA. • We need not be too specific in this Chapter if indigenous biodiversity is covered by the Coastal Environment Chapter as well.
Include CMA in this Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Environment is more than the CMA.

Specific Requirements for Regional and District Plans	
<p>Use RPS to establish the key statutory approach to biodiversity management, (not the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy).</p> <p>Include specific requirements in the chapter's policies and methods for District and Regional Plans so that the districts and the region must apply consistent criteria to select priority areas for maintaining indigenous biodiversity; and must have methods, including rules controlling specified activities to achieve this outcome.</p> <p>RPS identifies matters of national and regional significance as priorities for biodiversity protection in the region, including (where appropriate) specific areas or habitat types or species/ecosystems. [Preferred option]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives a more certainty to biodiversity outcomes for the region • Consistent with Section 62 to give direction for RMA plans as a major role for the CRPS. • Provides for consistency of approach across the region. • Increases integration across territorial boundaries • Increases integration across responsibility boundaries (cma and river/lake beds) • Can use a variety of methods (both regulatory and non-regulatory) to achieve outcomes - including reference to the Biodiversity Strategy as one such method. • BUT may be seen as conflicting or overriding the voluntary approach developed in the Biodiversity Strategy, particularly if there is a requirement for district rules on vegetation clearance and grazing on private land containing priority areas.
<p>RPS uses the Voluntary Approach as in the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy as the CRPS framework for biodiversity management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Canterbury has already adopted the voluntary approach in the Strategy. • There is a view by some that non-regulatory approach will be more effective. • There is a danger of non-cooperation if we depart from an already agreed non-regulatory strategy. • BUT it is not universally adopted across the region. • More room for local approaches • BUT could result in less consistency across the region • AND could constrain the ability to use regulatory measures to protect indigenous biodiversity (e.g. mudfish habitat) within regional and district plans.
Specific Provisions for other methods such as Environmental Offsets or Biodiversity Banking.	
<p>Include provisions for other methods such as environmental offsets and biodiversity banking or incentive systems related to ecosystems or indigenous biodiversity. [Preferred option]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can identify where this is appropriate or not appropriate based on the significance of the site and the biodiversity involved. • Less discretion for consent authorities. • Needs more investigation

Leave up to the consent authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One size does not necessarily fit all circumstances.• No overall policy guidance.
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Appendix 2 Do the Existing Issues, Objectives and Policies need to be changed?

Provision	Comments
<p>Introduction (headings)</p> <p>(a) Landscapes and ecosystems (b) High country landscapes (c) Indigenous vegetation (d) Forestry (e) Freshwater habitats (f) Natural character of the coast (g) Plant and animal pests (h) Landscape and ecosystem restoration (i) Geological features (j) Cultural values (k) Amenity values (l) Heritage sites (m) Recreation and tourism (n) Biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Scope of the Chapter section. Reference the water, soils, beds, coastal, landscape, historic heritage and urban and rural development chapters as also dealing, at least in part, with indigenous ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity. • Replace sections on landscapes and heritage sites with appropriate references to other chapters. • Update to reflect legislation and recognise the NZ and Regional Biodiversity Strategies and National Priorities. • Focus on the Canterbury examples. List important Ecological areas and features. • Refer to climate change effects. • Refer to current role of other agencies (e.g. TAs, DOC, pest agencies, NGOs.) • Add positive economic and other benefits of indigenous biodiversity.
<p>Issue 1</p> <p>Adverse effects of the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources on the integrity, distinctive characteristics, and contribution to a regional sense of identity of:</p> <p>(a) wetlands, including their overall area and functioning. (b) the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and their margins. (c) natural features and landscapes including their cultural, amenity and recreational values. (d) indigenous vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna and ecosystems. (e) the historical and cultural heritage of Canterbury including its amenity and recreational values. (f) the relationship of Tangata Whenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain relevant ecosystem and biodiversity values listed but more context and focus on the adverse effects of land use on those values as the main issue rather than the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources • Give more prominence to (d). • Replace (e) and (c) with cross references as appropriate. • Include effects on Indigenous flora and fauna as well as their habitats. • Consider more specific issues relating to indigenous ecology, indigenous biodiversity and

	pests, (i.e... as threats to indigenous biodiversity).
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Protection or enhancement of wetlands, particularly the gross area of wetlands in the region, their ecological integrity and functioning, their cultural amenity and recreational values, and the preservation of their natural character.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection (Maintenance) and enhancement and restoration of wetlands. • Reorder- this is not the primary indigenous ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity objective. • Remove focus on gross area in favour of a values based approach.
<p>Policy 1</p> <p>a) Adverse effects on the ecological integrity, functioning, natural character, cultural, amenity and recreational values of wetlands (including the effects of drainage, reclamation, clearance of vegetation, burning, grazing, cultivation, dumping, subdivision or building) should be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Where practicable these wetland areas should be enhanced.</p> <p>The particular sensitivity of wetlands to the effects of land use activities should be reflected in the provisions of regional and district plans.</p> <p>b) Significant adverse effects on the natural flows and water levels, or the natural quality of water in any wetland, resulting from an adjoining use of land, the discharge of contaminants, or the damming, use, taking or diversion of water, should be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>c) Encourage restoration or enhancement of lost or degraded wetland areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace statements of what “should” happen with more prescriptive policy, particularly for regional and district plans? • Replace water policy b) with appropriate references to the water chapter.
<p>Policy 2</p> <p>Encourage artificial wetland areas in suitable places, either as a strategic improvement in the provision of natural habitats, or as a means of dealing with discharges of contaminants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reword to be less subjective
<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Protection or enhancement of the natural features and landscapes that contribute to Canterbury’s distinctive character and sense of identity, including their associated ecological, cultural, recreational and amenity values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection (Maintenance) and enhancement and restoration. • Delete landscape aspects. • Combine with Objective 3.

<p>Policy 3</p> <p>Natural features and landscapes that meet the relevant criteria of sub-chapter 20.4(1) should be protected from adverse effects of the use, development, or protection of natural and physical resources, and their enhancement should be promoted. Activities that may have adverse effects include those involving the clearance or modification of areas of indigenous vegetation (particularly tall tussock), earthworks, alteration to landforms, tree planting, or the erection of structures.</p> <p>The particular sensitivity of these natural features and landscapes to regionally significant adverse effects in terms of sub-chapter 20.4(2) should be reflected in the provisions of district plans in the region.</p> <p>Assessments of effects should be made by considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) aesthetic values; (ii) expressiveness; (iii) transitory value; <p style="padding-left: 40px;">natural science factors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine into a more general policy 4 dealing with protecting and enhancing indigenous biodiversity as well. • Remove “regional significance” parts and replace with specific relevant criteria for districts and the region, using and adapting the material in the existing CRPS and the NZ and Regional Biodiversity Strategies (and other regional policy statements, (e.g. Waikato). • Broaden the criteria to encompass local effects. • Replace Natural feature and landscape aspects with appropriate references to the Landscape chapter. • Replace the “should” statements with more directive policies and methods. • Replace the lengthy associated details in the explanation with definitions of the terms. • Bring in pest effects here.
<p>Objective 3</p> <p>Protection or enhancement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Indigenous biodiversity, (including the survival of threatened species, communities and habitats, and species, biological communities and habitats unusual in, or characteristic of Canterbury); (ii) Indigenous ecosystem functioning; and (iii) Indigenous vegetation and habitats which contribute to the region’s natural character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection (Maintenance) and enhancement and restoration. • Combine with Objective 2.

<p>Policy 4</p> <p>(a) Areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna that meet the relevant criteria of sub-chapter 20.4(1) should be protected from adverse effects of the use, development, or protection of natural and physical resources, and their enhancement should be promoted. In particular, indigenous species, communities and habitats that are threatened, unusual in, or characteristic of Canterbury should be identified, and their survival, and the survival of ecosystems on which they depend, safeguarded as far as practicable.</p> <p>(b) The particular sensitivity of these areas of vegetation or habitats to regionally significant adverse effects in terms of sub-chapter 20.4(2) should be reflected in the provisions of district plans in the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove “regional significance” parts and replace with specific relevant criteria, using the material in the existing CRPS and the NZ and Regional Biodiversity Strategies. • Adopt appropriate parts of the NZ and Regional Biodiversity (national and regional) Strategies and priorities into the CRPS • Bring in pest effects here too
<p>Methods</p> <p>1. Regional Council:</p> <p>(a) Regional plans (b) Investigations (c) Encourage the preparation of iwi management plans (d) Information provision (e) Use of other legislation (f) Advocacy, promotion and co-operation (g) Heritage orders (h) Resource consents</p> <p>2. District/city councils in the preparation, variation, change or review of their district plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New/amended methods specific to the policies. • Adopt appropriate methods from the NZ and Regional Biodiversity Strategies • More specific directions to Territorial Authorities for their district plans. • See the possible suite of methods attached as Appendix 3

<p>Environmental Results Anticipated</p> <p>(1) Protection or enhancement of distinctive characteristics of the Canterbury region, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) natural values within wetland areas identified in Policy 1(a); (b) landscape values within areas identified in Objective 2; (c) biological values within areas identified in Objective 3; (d) heritage values within historic places or areas identified in Objective 4; (e) wahi tapu and other taonga of value to Tangata Whenua within any of the above areas. <p>(2) Protection of the quantity and quality of water within existing wetlands.</p> <p>(3) Greater use of artificial wetlands as means of water treatment or as natural habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link explicitly to the new objectives, (without actually needing to refer back to them).
<p>Monitoring Effectiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace with provisions in a new monitoring chapter.

Appendix 3 Possible Suite of Methods

1. The Regional Council will undertake investigations, and coordinate with the investigations of other agencies, to identify wetlands, areas within the coastal marine area, and areas within the beds of rivers and lakes and their riparian zones where there are significant indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values that need to be protected from inappropriate use and development of those wetlands and other areas.
2. The Regional Council must give effect to Policy 8.x.x by setting out objectives, policies and methods in regional plans to enable and to control the use of land in river and lake beds and in the coastal marine area; and the entry to and passage along those beds and in the coastal marine area, for the purpose of maintaining the indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values of those areas.
3. The Regional Council in undertaking its functions under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, River Improvement Acts, the Reserves Act 1971 and the Biosecurity Act 1993 will avoid significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values, unless such effects cannot be avoided and are necessary for the prevention of damage to life or property by floods.
4. The Regional Council will advocate and promote the appropriate establishment of: reserves, covenants, heritage orders, bylaws and management agreements that will avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values.
5. Territorial authorities must give effect to Policy 8.x.x in district plans by setting out objectives, policies and methods to control the effects of the use development, or protection of land that is not in the beds of rivers and lakes, and not in the coastal marine area, in order to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values. Such provisions must cover all forms of land ownership, use and tenure regardless of its existing protective or non-protective status.
6. Territorial authorities must give effect to Policy 8.x.x in district plans by:
 - (a) identifying areas of significant indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological value for special protection, applying the criteria in Policy 8.x.x, including providing for setbacks from water bodies; and
 - (b) controlling the adverse effects from land use on the indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecological values of those areas, including control of the adverse effects of the provision of public access, land development, forestry, vegetation clearance and stock grazing.