

Memorandum

12 November 2018

To:	Kaipātiki Local Board
Subject:	Natural Environment Targeted Rate
From:	Gael Ogilvie – General Manager Environmental Services

Purpose

- This memorandum provides:
 - information on the regional criteria that will be used to consider natural environment targeted rate funding for new biodiversity conservation projects
 - an opportunity for local boards to provide feedback on potential new community-led conservation projects.

Summary

- Following governing body approval of the natural environment targeted rate in June 2018, Environmental Services held local board workshops to discuss the proposed programme of work. The workshops ran during September and October 2018 and have now concluded.*
- Feedback provided by the Kaipātiki Local Board during its 5 September 2018 workshop has been summarised in this memorandum.*
- Further suggestions on potential community-led conservation projects for inclusion in the programme are requested from local boards by Tuesday 5 December 2018. This feedback will be considered against regional priority criteria outlined in this memo to identify any projects that could be considered for funding under the natural environment targeted rate.*
- A template to guide local board feedback is attached to this memo (Attachment A). Please send any local board feedback on potential projects to Theresa.pearce@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz by Tuesday 5 December 2018.*

Context

- On 5 September 2018, a workshop was held with the Kaipātiki Local Board on the proposed natural environment targeted rate work programme.
- The natural environment targeted rate programme focuses on new opportunities to reverse biodiversity decline, such as native species extinctions and ongoing degradation of native ecosystems.
- The natural environment targeted rate will invest \$311 million into a range of environmental work programmes over the next ten years. This represents an approximately four-fold increase on current general rates-funded investment in these areas.
- The natural environment targeted rate will fund 10 programmes as outlined in the workshop (see Attachment B). The fund is intended to grow regionally significant conservation activities and outcomes. The natural environment targeted rate funding is not intended to replace local board investment in environmental projects, however it can be used to amplify local board efforts where initiatives align with regional priorities.
- The informal feedback provided by your local board during the workshop session included:
 - the board's support for kauri dieback disease management
 - the need to get local tracks upgraded so parks can be reopened while protecting kauri
 - the board supports urban stream ecology and health, particularly around riparian margins.

7. In some cases, local boards requested additional information or had queries that will be addressed by their Infrastructure and Environmental Services relationship advisor separately to this memo.
8. This memorandum requests further feedback from local boards on potential projects that could be considered for funding through the natural environment targeted rate.
9. Once suggestions have been received from local boards, staff will consider and prioritise projects against the regional priority criteria outlined in this memo. Local boards will receive an update on projects that have been shortlisted for natural environment targeted rate funding in early 2019.
10. All shortlisted projects will be subject to an internal business case process, consistent with other projects funded by the natural environment targeted rate, before they can be confirmed as future natural environment targeted rate projects.

Discussion

11. One of the core work programmes to be covered by the natural environment targeted rate is the expand work programme. This programme increases support to community-based conservation activities and offers scope for local boards to align projects and regional priorities.
12. The expand programme will support community-led action required to put Auckland on track to be Pest Free by 2050. More specifically, its objectives are to:
 - enable community groups, landowners, schools, iwi and individuals to protect and restore Auckland's biodiversity
 - amplify the efforts and benefits delivered by the conservation community.
 - contribute to the conservation of a range of ecosystems and species and secure them from regional extinction
 - support Auckland's diverse communities to be actively engaged in biodiversity management, protection and restoration
 - increase protection and active management of native biodiversity in priority sites on private land
 - increase partnerships with external agencies, business and philanthropic organisations to grow the resources available for community conservation.
 - deliver social learning, connectivity and increased valuing of the natural environment and biodiversity.
13. A set of regional priorities has been developed to assess potential projects to be supported through the expand programme. Priorities where there is scope to give feedback are outlined in Table 1 below. These are intended to enable local boards to assess potential community-led projects against regional criteria.

Table 1. Regional priorities for expanding community, household and school action

Regional Priority	Explanation
1. Projects which create new or support existing landscape scale ecological corridors or defined defensible pest free areas, for example isthmus or islands.	Identifying, managing and enhancing landscape-scale ecological connections to provide safe, healthy and linked habitats.
2. New, emerging conservation initiatives in areas or communities where there are currently limited opportunities for active participation.	Growing and amplifying conservation activity across Auckland's diverse communities - including those that aren't currently engaged in conservation action.

<p>3. Projects which foster innovation in conservation management and enable step-change, as we upscale activity to reach our goal of Pest Free Auckland 2050.</p>	<p>Innovative solutions will be needed to reach Pest Free Auckland goal by 2050.</p>
<p>4. Projects which share conservation learning and best-practice knowledge across the region.</p>	<p>Sharing knowledge and best-practice guidance across Auckland's communities is key to removing barriers, growing participation and supporting effective biodiversity management.</p>
<p>5. Projects which enable commercial involvement in delivering Pest Free Auckland at a sector-wide or regional scale.</p>	<p>We will be working in partnership with business to grow Pest Free Auckland across both community and commercial sectors.</p>
<p>6. Projects with significant positive social and cultural outcomes in addition to ecological outcomes.</p>	<p>Recognising that there are parts of Auckland where residents have very little access to areas of high biodiversity value. In these cases, there could be significant cultural and social benefits arising from restoring currently degraded natural environments.</p>

14. Staff are engaged in planning the effective management of regional priority indigenous ecosystems and species and will update on how this will occur in public land in local board areas in early 2019.

Local board feedback

15. Some local boards have already provided informal feedback on potential community-led conservation projects, as has been summarised earlier in this memo.
16. This memo requests further feedback from local boards on potential projects that could be funded from the natural environment targeted rate. Please use the feedback form attached (Attachment A) to provide your feedback.
17. To assist with your feedback, please find attached the existing known community groups in your local board area (Map A).

Next steps

18. If you have any questions about the regional criteria or the contents of this memorandum, and to return your feedback form, please contact Theresa.pearce@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz no later than Tuesday 5 December 2018.
19. An update on the projects selected for natural environment targeted rate funding will be provided to local boards once the initial shortlist is confirmed in early 2019. Further updates will be provided to local boards after the business cases have been completed, and future work programme planning has concluded. This update will occur no later than mid-2019.

Attachments

Attachment A – Feedback form

Attachment B – Natural environment targeted rate programme of work

Map A – Existing, known community group presence/activity by local board area

Attachment A - Feedback form for potential projects to be considered for natural environment targeted rate funding

Please email all feedback to your relationship advisor Theresa.pearce@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz by Tuesday 5 December 2018.

Please list any potential projects in your board area you want to be considered for inclusion as part of the natural environment targeted rate work programme (see Map A showing current community activity).

These projects will be considered for natural environment targeted rate funding against the regional priority criteria. All shortlisted projects will also be subject to a business case process in late 2018-early 2019.

Proposed project	Location of activity	Alignment to regional priorities? (provide priority number as per the list below)

List of Regional Priorities where there is scope for local board feedback

1. Projects which create new or support existing landscape scale ecological corridors or defined defendable pest free areas, for example isthmus or islands.
3. New, emerging conservation initiatives in areas or communities where there are currently limited opportunities for active participation.
4. Projects which foster innovation in conservation management and enable step-change, as we upscale activity to reach our goal of Pest Free Auckland 2050.
5. Projects which share conservation learning and best-practice knowledge across the region.
6. Projects which enable commercial involvement in delivering Pest Free Auckland at a sector-wide or regional scale.
7. Projects with significant positive social and cultural outcomes in addition to ecological outcomes.

Attachment B. Natural environment targeted rate programme of work



PROTECTING OUR PARKS



PATHOGEN PEST MANAGEMENT



MARINE ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT



EXPAND COMMUNITY, HOUSEHOLD & SCHOOL ACTION



REGION-WIDE BIODIVERSITY



REGION-WIDE BIOSECURITY



ISLANDS BIOSECURITY



FRESHWATER BIOSECURITY



MARINE BIOSECURITY



ENABLING TOOLS

CONTROLLING PIGS ON PARKS	KAURI DIEBACK INFRASTRUCTURE	MAPPING & PROTECTING HABITATS	BUILD ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS	BIODIVERSITY FOCUS AREAS (PUBLIC + PRIVATE LAND)	DEER CONTROL	GULF ISLANDS PEST PREVENTION	TOMORATA & ROTOTOA SITE-LED PEST CONTROL	INTER-REGIONAL MARINE PEST PATHWAY MANAGEMENT PLAN	CRM
CONTROLLING RATS ON PARKS	KAURI DIEBACK INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT	SEABIRD MONITORING & RESTORATION	COORDINATE CONSERVATION EFFORTS	PRIVATE LAND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION	GOAT CONTROL	GULF ISLANDS ANIMAL PEST CONTROL ON BFAS	ENGAGEMENT & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	INCURSION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	DIGITAL PORTAL
CONTROLLING MUSTELIDS ON PARKS	KAURI DIEBACK RPMP		FUNDING SUPPORT	THREATENED SPECIES	COCKATOO CONTROL	GULF ISLANDS PEST PLANT CONTAINMENT		ENGAGEMENT & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	BIO-DATABASE
CONTROLLING WEEDS ON PARKS	KAURI DIEBACK COMPLIANCE		GROW CONSERVATION CAPABILITY & KNOWLEDGE	COVENANT ENGAGEMENT & MANAGEMENT	RABBIT CONTROL	AOTEA GREAT BARRIER WEED CONTROL			REGIONAL TELEMETRY NETWORK
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION CONTRACT EXPANSION	KAURI DIEBACK SURVEILLANCE		TOOLS & RESOURCES	STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY	WALLABY CONTROL	AOTEA GREAT BARRIER PLAGUE SKINK CONTAINMENT			OUTCOME MONITORING
RPMP ON-PARK CONTROL	KAURI DIEBACK TREATMENT & RESEARCH		ENGAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR		POSSUM CONTROL	AOTEA GREAT BARRIER DARWIN'S & ARGENTINE ANT ERADICATION			
RPMP PARKS PEST PLANT BUFFER CONTROL	KAURI DIEBACK ENGAGEMENT & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE		COMMUNICATE & CELEBRATE SUCCESS		UNOWNED CAT CONTROL	WAIHEKE PIG ERADICATION			
PROJECT HUNUA	KAURI DIEBACK LANDOWNER SUPPORT				RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP	WAIHEKE RAT & STOAT ERADICATION			
BIODIVERSITY FOCUS AREAS MANAGEMENT ON PARKS	DUTCH ELM DISEASE MANAGEMENT				PET INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT & ENFORCEMENT	WAIHEKE PEST FREE			
	MYRTLE RUST MANAGEMENT				NURSERY ENGAGEMENT & ENFORCEMENT	KAWAU PREDATOR FREE			
					LOW INCIDENCE PEST PLANT CONTROL	KAWAU DARWIN'S & ARGENTINE ANT ERADICATION			
					BIOSECURITY ADVICE				
					PEST PLANT BIOCONTROL				
					INCURSION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK				
					HUNUA HALO				