

Feedback on:

The Department of Conservations discussion document on proposals for a national biodiversity strategy, *Te Koiora o te Koiora – our shared vision for living with nature*

9 September 2019

For clarifications and questions, please contact:

Mal Ahmu

Local Board Advisor – Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

Context

1. The Department of Conservation is seeking submissions on a discussion document for proposals for a national biodiversity strategy, *Te Koiora o te Koiora – Our shared vision for living with nature*.
2. The new strategy is scheduled to be in place for 2020, replacing the current strategy *Our chance to turn the tide* from 2000. The strategy is non-statutory and will be approved by Cabinet in late 2019.
3. The discussion document proposes the following new matapopore/vision for 2070: *nature in Aotearoa is healthy, abundant, and thriving. Current and future generations connect with nature, restore it, and are restored by it*.
4. The discussion document sets out a strategic framework providing the pathway to the vision. The foundation of the framework is *mātāpono*/values from Te Ao Māori, with a set of principles and a series of long-term outcomes, supported by *Mātauranga Māori* and science.
5. *Te Koiora o te Koiora* suggests five system shifts as the most important changes required in the next five years, including getting the system right and empowering communities to act.
6. The strategy will cover all ecological domains including freshwater, land and the marine environment extending to the outer edges of the Exclusive Economic Zone. It is noted that Auckland Council's jurisdiction only extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit. The strategy also makes it clear that indigenous species are prioritised over non-indigenous species.
7. A submission from Auckland Council is considered appropriate as the new strategy will be the umbrella for biodiversity management in New Zealand proposing long-term directions out to 2070. Auckland Council has biodiversity and biosecurity functions playing a key role in achieving the vision. The previous opportunity to comment on a national biodiversity strategy was 20 years ago.
8. Some areas of the discussion document that may be of interest to local boards include:
 - New vision and strategic framework
 - Implementation
 - Five system shifts to support change, particularly Shift 3: Communities are empowered to act
9. At the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board's 27 August 2019 business meeting, it delegated authority to local board member, Nerissa Henry to input into Auckland Council's submission on the Department of Conservations discussion document on *Te Koiora o te Koiora – Our shared vision for living with nature* (resolution: MT/2019/123).

10. The due date for submissions to the Department of Conservation is 22 September 2019. The draft Auckland Council submission will be presented to the Environment and Community Committee for its approval on 10 September 2019. To meet these timeframes local board feedback is due by 5pm on 9 September 2019.

Relevance to the local board

11. Local boards are responsible for decision-making on local issues, activities and services and providing input into regional strategies, policies and plans. Local boards also have a role in representing the views of their communities on issues of local importance.
12. Every three years local boards set their strategic direction through a local board plan. *Te Koiora o te Koiora – Our shared vision for living with nature* has relevance to the following outcomes and objectives the 2017 Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Plan:

| Outcomes | Objectives |
|--|---|
| Maungakiekie-Tāmaki is an active and engaged community | Our young people are engaged in the community and have access to a wide range of opportunities. |
| Maungakiekie-Tāmaki is a community that cares about its environment | Demonstrate environmental leadership and support community sustainability initiatives. |
| | Clean, beautiful waters and waterside areas. |
| Maungakiekie-Tāmaki is the place to be | New developments are high-quality and reflect the flavour and character of our area. |
| | Our suburbs and town centres are sought-after destinations to live, work and play. |
| Maungakiekie-Tāmaki has quality infrastructure to match growth | Good-quality open spaces. |

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board feedback on the Department of Conservations, *Te Koiora o te Koiora – our shared vision for living with nature*:

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board provides the following input:

- a) endorse that Aotearoa needs a renewed strategy for nature, that highlights, enhances and protects our natural environment
- b) endorse in principle the proposed matapopore/vision for 2070: *nature in Aotearoa is healthy, abundant, and thriving. Current and future generations connect with nature, restore it, and are restored by it*
- c) recommend amending the vision to reflect the urgency of restoring nature
- d) endorse the values, principles and long-term outcomes, in particular points that express how local communities can connect, empowered and be a part of delivering this strategy:
 - i) manaakitanga (value) – we build trust and inclusiveness, and build mana in others around us to enhance the mana of the whole
 - ii) kaitiakitanga (value) – we enable stewardship of our natural environment
 - iii) whakahou/empower (long-term outcome) - In order to restore nature and realise the benefits for current and future generations, New Zealanders will need to be empowered to lead
- e) endorse the five system shifts that are aimed at improving Aotearoa New Zealand’s biodiversity, in particular:
 - i) getting the system right - the local board support all forms of collaboration to achieve the vision of restoring and connecting with nature

- ii) empowering kaitiakitanga and mātauranga māori – the local board support tāngata whenua in their role as kaitiaki, as well as imbedding Te Ao Māori throughout the planning and delivery of the strategy
 - iii) communities are empowered to take action – there are many community groups within Maungakiekie-Tāmaki that already deliver on the vision for this strategy. The local board recommend supporting these existing groups to further educate and empower their local communities to take part in this shift
 - iv) connecting ecosystems from the mountain tops to the ocean depths – the local board area consists of five maunga and is connected to the Manukau Harbour and the Tāmaki Estuary. Protecting these natural features and the ecosystems they are apart of is a priority for the local board
- f) note that there is a vast amount of development occurring and planned to occur in the local board area and in the Auckland region that will have a significant impact on biodiversity
- g) endorse adding an additional shift about embedding restoration of nature into urban development and planning considerations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nerissa Henry', written over a horizontal line.

Nerissa Henry
Local board member
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

End.