

16 May 2022



Dear 

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2022-26

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2022 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

"...Forest & Bird is currently developing a league table comparing the efforts of every single council in the country and their track record of addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. ..."

1. *Does your council have a climate change strategy?*
2. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?*
3. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your climate change strategy?*
4. *Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?*
5. *Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?*
6. *How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objectives of your biodiversity strategy?*
7. *Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?*
8. *How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?*
9. *Does your council maintain SNAs?*
10. *How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?*
11. *Do you have vegetation?*
12. *Clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?*
13. *How often does your council monitor SNAs?*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

My response to your request is in the number order of your request below.

Question 1

CDC holds a joint climate change strategy between CDC and South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) called Ruamāhanga Strategy. The strategy was first adopted in 2020 and reviewed in 2021.

Question 2

An implementation plan for our climate change strategy was developed as part of the Ruamāhanga strategy.

Question 3

We measure the outcomes of the Green House Gas (GHG) inventory by our emissions dropping. Therefore, our climate change strategy is reviewed regularly and updates on the action plan are completed where required. CDC and SWDC also report regularly on GHG emissions.

Question 4

CDC and SWDC does not have a biodiversity strategy. Greater Wellington Regional Council has a biodiversity strategy that covers the Wellington Region (includes both Carterton District and South Wairarapa District).

Question 5

CDC does not have an implementation plan for our biodiversity strategy.

In response to your questions 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12, all information that relates to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are contained in the District Plan which is publicly available and can be found here: [3 \(mstn.govt.nz\)](https://www.mstn.govt.nz).

I am refusing questions 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 under section 17(d) of the Act for the reason that the information that you requested is publicly available.

Question 9

There has been no consent required for clearance in SNA.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA