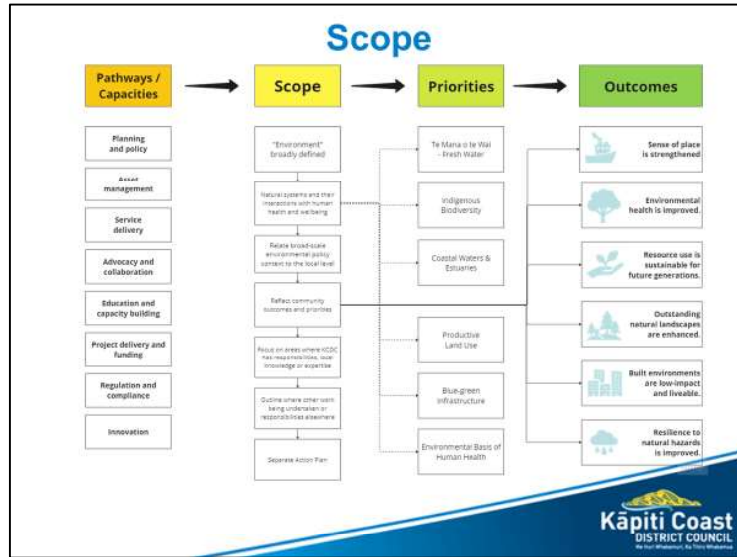


Environment strategy

Engagement on core material for the Direction of Travel document

7 November 2023

Recap – September 2023 discussion



Principles

Protect and restore	Protect and restore natural systems and ecosystem services.
Lead	Provide leadership, that is positive, pragmatic and proactive.
Support	Support participation and collaboration, to build capacity and enhance community connections.
Resilience	Build resilience to natural hazards and environmental challenges - prepare now (don't wait until an issue emerges), implement options to support communities to thrive, and explore opportunities for innovation which help to not only improve environmental outcomes but health, employment and wellbeing outcomes as well.

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Tiro Whakamua



Today's discussion

Material for discussion:

- Council's role in the 'environment ecosystem'
- Challenges and levers for change
- Target areas and pathways to improve the environment
- Timetable and next steps

Proposed decision and feedback areas:

- Are there any gap in the 'known challenges and levers for change' framework?
- Do the Target Areas accommodate the important environmental issues?
- Are there important environmental issues that we've missed or gaps in proposed focus?

What is Council's role in the 'environment ecosystem'?

Pathway	Includes
Planning and Policy	Providing strategic direction for council operations in the LTP, plan-making functions for controlling the impacts of land use and development under the RMA and establishing local bylaws relating to public health and safety under the LGA.
Public Land Management	Managing public land, including public reserves, community facilities, environmental restoration sites and coastal areas, and the maintenance and management of most designated road reserves in the district.
Asset Management	Holding and developing public assets in the interest of community wellbeing, including community facilities and housing.
Service Delivery	Delivering services to the public including waste management services.
Facilitation and Collaboration	Facilitating collaboration between government and non-government groups to deliver on community outcomes.
Education and capacity building	Delivering community awareness and education campaigns and supporting the capacity of other groups to deliver community outcomes.
Funding support	Providing funding support to others undertaking projects that will achieve the community's priority outcomes.
Project delivery	Delivering projects directly as part of Council's LTP, budget and delivery programs.
Regulation and compliance	Regulating national local regulations to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.
Innovation	Investigating, supporting, promoting, and implementing innovations and best-practice in policy, management, technology and systems and the public and private sectors.
Advocacy	Advocating the local concerns of our community to Central and Regional Government, calling for policy reform, funding and support.
Natural disaster response and recovery	Resourcing, planning, coordination and local leadership in the response and recovery from major natural hazard events.

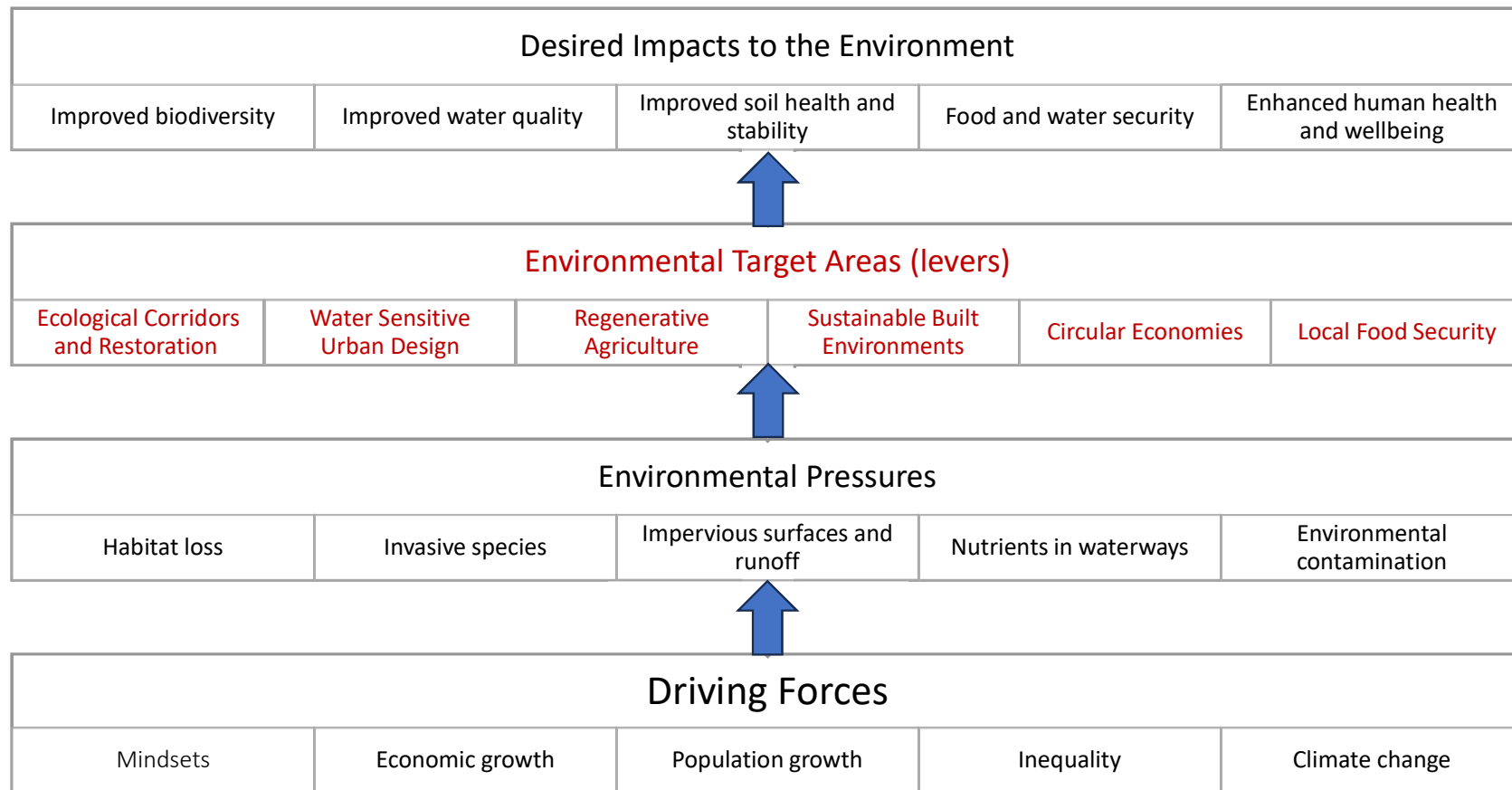
Local council's have three primary roles in the environment ecosystem:

- Collaboration and fostering partnerships between environmental organisations and groups.
- Integrating outcomes and aligning environmental programs and projects.
- Supporting and advocating on behalf of local environmental champions.

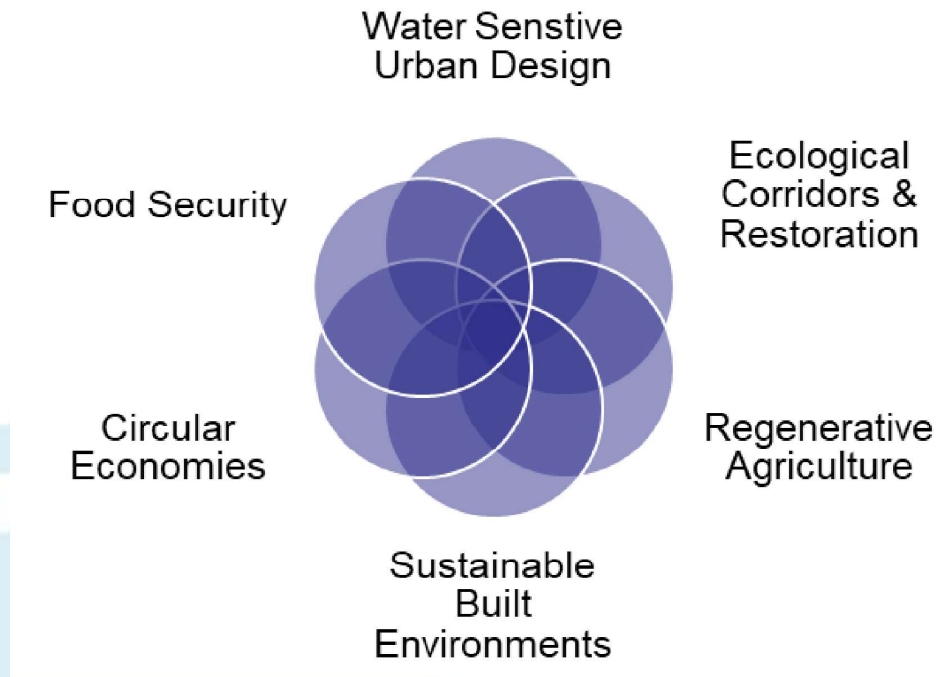
Other stakeholders:

- Other entities have more direct environmental responsibilities (GWRC, DOC, MfE, EPA, MBIE, MPI, MoT,)
- Local environmental "champions" in NGOs, business and community groups
- Territorial Authorities are peripheral to environmental management but central to community capacity and development.

Known environmental challenges and levers for change



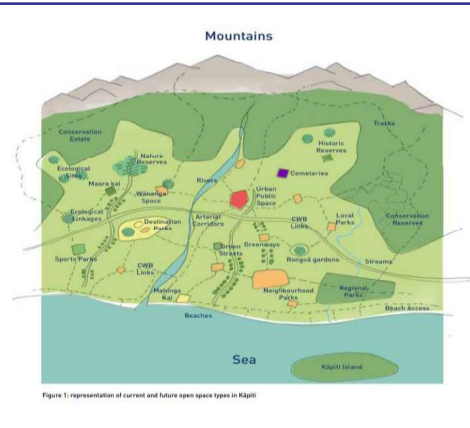
Unpacking Environmental Levers:- core Target Areas



Unpacking Environmental Levers:- core Target Areas #1

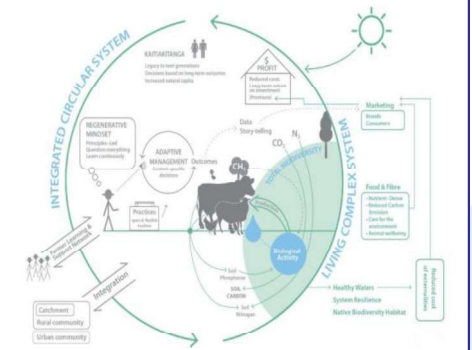
Ecological corridors & restoration:

- Involves restoring native habitat and reconnecting isolated remnants across the landscape by aligning riparian plantings, restoring remnants and wetlands, restoring fish passage and invasive pest management.
- To improve water quality, enhance genetic diversity and minimise the likelihood of local extinctions.



Regenerative Agriculture:

- A holistic approach to farming that prioritises the protection of highly productive land, and the restoration and enhancement of soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem balance.
- Fundamentally rooted in deepening relationships with the land and environment by “adaptive management”.
- To improve water quality, on-farm biodiversity and local resilience.
- Supports local innovation and economic development opportunities.



Water Sensitive Urban Design:

- Also known as “Sponge Cities” approach
- Involves mimicking natural processes to capture, store, filter, and purify rainwater through integrated systems of green roofs, permeable pavements, and urban wetlands.
- To help mitigate flooding, reduce runoff, improve water quality, improve urban amenity and enhance resilience



Local Food Security:

- Fostering a sense of collective responsibility and awareness about environmental stewardship and resource management.
- Involves prioritising sustainable local food production and markets and supporting local food processing.
- To reduce environment impacts of the global food system including deforestation, unsustainable resource consumption and transport, and improve local resilience.
- Supports local innovation and economic development opportunities.



Unpacking Environmental Levers:– core Target Areas #2

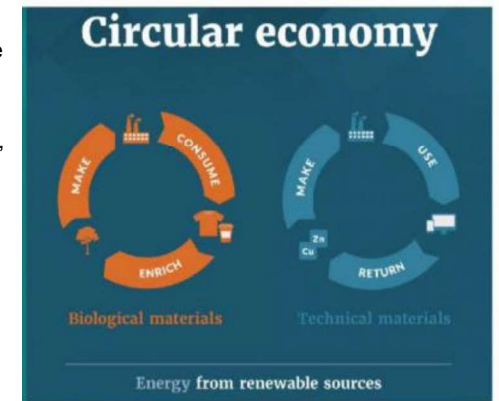
Sustainable Built Environments:

- Creating high-quality urban environments tailored to local needs and in harmony with the natural environment.
- Involves prioritising sustainable construction methods, native landscaping, and resource-efficient infrastructure informed by community engagement.
- To reduce environment impacts of urban development including water use, embodied energy, and materials and enhance biodiversity and local amenity, and improve resilience.
- Supports local innovation and economic development opportunities.



Circular Economy:

- A systematic approach to reducing waste by rethinking product design, consumption, and waste disposal.
- Involves transitioning from a "take, make, dispose" approach to innovating in sustainable products and keeping resources in use for as long as possible.
- To conserve valuable resources and reduce the environmental footprint associated with waste disposal and transport.
- Supports local innovation and economic development opportunities.



What might we do to improve the environment?

Focus Area	Activity area	Impacts	Outcome shifts
Ecological Corridors & Restoration	Partner with Central and Regional agencies and environmental restoration groups to map current activity and identify gaps and integrate activities.	Improved biodiversity	Sense of place is strengthened
Water Sensitive urban design	Apply Stormwater management framework and identify further areas for improvement in our urban parks.	Improved water quality	Environmental health is improved
	Connect water system pathways to nearby green spaces (blue-green infrastructure) and integrate into future urban planning.	Improved soil health and stability	Natural landscapes are enhanced
	Restore urban wetlands and waterways.		Built environments are low-impact
Regenerative agriculture	Support local farmers to adopt regenerative practices and promote success stories.	Food and water security	Resource use is sustainable for future generations
	Protect highly productive land.		Resilience to natural hazards is improved
Sustainable built environments	Ensure alignment of planning and development controls in the District Plan with sustainable built environment principles.	Enhanced human health and wellbeing	
	Support developers to use innovative approaches to sustainable and resilient urban development.		
	Support community-led placemaking efforts to ensure urban designs reflect community values.		
Circular economies	Continue to invest in waste minimisation efforts and use circular economy models to develop local opportunities.		
Food security	Support the Wellington Regional Food system strategy and align with other activity to support food self-sufficiency.		

Priority activities:

- State of the environment benchmarking
- Mapping out existing actors and activities
- Alignment with Target Areas
- Identifying gaps and opportunities

Key output from 24 October 2023 Council interactive briefing

Overview of feedback to date:

- Councillors mapped environment-related issues onto 'Known environmental challenges and levers for change' framework
- Common environmental concerns included:
 - mitigating the impacts of population growth and development
 - enhancing the community's connection with the environment
 - protecting water quality
 - shifting mindsets through community education
 - ensuring resilience and food security
 - protecting agricultural land and improving practice
 - improving urban design and amenity.

Discussion with you today:

- Are there any gap in the 'known challenges and levers for change' framework?
- Do the Target Areas accommodate the important environmental issues?
- Are there important environmental issues that we've missed or gaps in proposed focus?