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LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Amelia Geary – Forest and Bird
Information requested:	Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss
Response by:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

09 May 2022

Amelia Geary
Regional Conservation Manager
Forest and Bird

Via Email: a.geary@forestandbird.org.nz

Dear Amelia

Official information request for information on climate change and biodiversity loss

I refer to your official information request dated 19 April 2022 for information on climate change and biodiversity loss.

You have asked for the following information:

1. Does your council have a climate change strategy?

No.

2. Does your council have an implementation plan for your climate strategy?

N/A

3. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objective of your climate change strategy?

N/A

4. Does your council have a biodiversity strategy?

No.

5. Does your council have an implementation plan for your biodiversity strategy?

N/A

6. How do you measure outcomes relating to the achievement (or not) of the objective of your biodiversity strategy?

N/A

7. Has your council mapped its Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)? Are these maps in your operative District Plan?

No. The operative District Plan does not contain SNAs. The new District Plan is presently in the form of a draft and the elected committee members have yet to confirm the detail of the inclusion of SNAs within this future proposed District Plan. A position from council is expected by the end of May.

8. How many SNAs have you identified in your district/region? Could you please quantify the total area these SNAs represent?

None.

9. How does your council maintain SNAs?

Resource consents are applied for and assessed on a case by case basis. Planners must rely on existing legislation and case law when identifying and assessing SNAs and activities which may affect them.

10. How many consents have you issued in the last five years to allow for vegetation clearance in SNAs? How many have been declined?

Of the 8 vegetation clearance consents granted from 2017 to present day, no consents have formally been granted with reference to SNA. One vegetation clearance consent application associated with an area which was to be identified as a SNA during the consent process was withdrawn.

11. Do you have vegetation clearance rules that enable identification of additional SNAs through the consenting process?

Vegetation clearance rules in the Operative Westland District Plan include the following:

C. Discretionary Activities

- Forestry above an altitude of 1000 m.
- The clearance of more than 2000 m² of indigenous vegetation per 5 years per site:
 - (a) Where the contiguous land is managed for conservation purposes, or;
 - (b) From an area of indigenous vegetation in excess of 5 hectares.
 - (c) From a natural wetland.

This rule does not include:

- (a) Exotic plantation forest area.
- (b) The clearance of regrowth vegetation to maintain existing tracks and stock crossings.
- (c) The incidental clearance of indigenous vegetation to control gorse, broom or other exotic plant pests.

12. How often does your council monitor SNAs?

Council does not have a monitoring program in place as they have not been identified.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Senior Administration Officer at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB