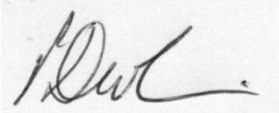


White heron/kōtuku (*Ardea alba modesta*)

Threatened species conservation plan

June 2026



Approvals Panel			
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Introduction

This is a **threatened species conservation plan** for white heron (*Ardea alba modesta*) (Figure 1), also commonly known as kōtuku in New Zealand, and internationally as the eastern great egret. This species is classified as ‘**Threatened – Nationally Critical**’ by the Department of Conservation (DoC) and is considered a taonga species by Ngāi Tahu.

The maintenance of indigenous biodiversity is a legal responsibility for district councils (RMA S.31(b)iii & the Council’s Biodiversity Strategy p.6). This plan has been written to assist the Council to meet its statutory obligations to halt the decline of indigenous biodiversity, and to assist with meeting two key goals and their associated objectives as set out in the Council’s Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035 (**Refer also Appendix 3**):

Goal 1: Conserve and restore indigenous biodiversity in Ōtautahi-Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

- ✓ Priority internationally, nationally and locally threatened species are protected and restored,
- ✓ Ecosystems, sites and habitats supporting biodiversity are protected and restored,
- ✓ Species and habitats important to Ngāi Tahu are protected, and where appropriate, restored, and
- ✓ Plant and animal pests are managed to minimise their impact on biodiversity.

Goal 4: Improve and facilitate research and monitoring of indigenous biodiversity.

- ✓ Monitoring programmes for the biodiversity of Ōtautahi-Christchurch and Banks Peninsula are established, coordinated and maintained,
- ✓ Biodiversity research is supported, coordinated and managed to enable sustainable management of biodiversity, and
- ✓ The community is involved in biodiversity research and monitoring.



Figure 1: White heron/kōtuku, Matuku lakes, Ferrymead, August 2024.

The need for a conservation plan

The iconic white heron/kōtuku is one of New Zealand’s most iconic and well-known native bird species. Despite being a species that most New Zealanders can name and identify, it also happens to be one of the rarest and most threatened species in the country.

The current threat designation of “Nationally Critical” is the highest category on the Department of Conservation’s threatened species classification system (Robertson *et al.* 2021). This places the white heron/kōtuku in the same “endangered species” category as the black stilt, kākāpō, black robin, shore plover and Australasian bittern.

Heralded by tāngata whenua as “*he kotuku rerenga tahi*” (‘bird of a single flight’), white herons/kōtuku are elegant and culturally significant birds (in each of Māori, Pakeha and some Asian cultures). In some Pasifika cultures a very similar-looking bird, the white reef egret (*Egretta sacra*) is also considered iconic and sacred.

White herons/kōtuku have persisted with a small population in Aotearoa-New Zealand for centuries, positioned at the very southern limit of an international range that stretches from India and northern Japan, through East and South-East Asia to New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. Although generally respected and left unmolested in this country, the species faces a number of threats including habitat loss and degradation, pollution and fuel spills in waterways; entanglement hazards; harassment by dogs, predation and occasional shooting.

During the autumn-winter period white herons kōtuku / disperse all over the country, with up to 10% of the total national population dependant on wintering habitats in the Greater Ōtautahi-Christchurch area.

This report provides background on the status and conservation issues for white heron/kōtuku in the Greater Ōtautahi-Christchurch area and provides guideline around how the species can be protected and encouraged to increase locally into the future.

National and local population trends

The national situation

Nationally, the white heron/kōtuku population is low (150-200 birds) but is considered stable (Adams 2022) and has slowly increased following the end of a phase of targeted persecution (for feathers & skins) in the late 19th Century. In the mid-1990s the population had been estimated at 100-120 birds (Heather & Robertson (1996) and is considered stable DoC 2025). White herons/kōtuku currently breed at only one location – a single colony of c.50 breeding pairs at Waitangiroto River in South Westland (Adams 2025).

The local situation

White herons kōtuku / have long had a presence in Ōtautahi-Christchurch but have always been a very rare bird, with a tenuous presence. As far back as the 1840s, John Deans shot one on the Avon River for his stuffed bird collection (Maling 1958), and regular visitations of single white herons/kōtuku on city waterways have been a regular topic of community and media interest for over a century and a half. Generally, the white heron is the most accessible and most readily recognised of New Zealand’s endangered wildlife species that Ōtautahi-Christchurch residents are likely to encounter as they live, work and enjoy recreation in the city.

Local distribution

White herons/kōtuku are seasonal visitors to Christchurch wetlands, usually arriving in late February and leaving in late September, with the occasional individual (perhaps immatures) remaining over the spring and early summer months. Sites where white heron/kōtuku occur annually or near-annually are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 2, and include:

- ✓ Lake Ellesmere/ Te Waihora (with 4-10 birds present)
- ✓ Lake Forsyth/Te Roto o Wairewa (2-3 birds)
- ✓ Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai area and tributary rivers/canal (1-2 birds)
- ✓ Brooklands Lagoon/Te Riu O Te Aika Kawa area (1-2 birds)
- ✓ Travis Wetland/Ōruapaeroa (0-1 birds)

Wandering individuals can potentially visit wetlands or waterways anywhere around Ōtautahi-Christchurch (E.g., Figure 2), but they are very seldom seen on Banks Peninsula away from the two large lakes. Individuals may faithfully return to a site annually and follow the same exact roosting and feeding habits from one year to the next. For example, a white heron has resided along the banks of the Linwood Avenue Canal near the estuary (Figure 4) every autumn-winter since at least 1982 – some 42+ unbroken years! This is assumed to include a succession of individual birds as white herons are known to live only 15 years in the wild, but up to 22 years in captivity.

Table 1: List of key sites for white heron/kōtuku in and around Ōtautahi-Christchurch.

Area	Specific key sites
Brooklands Lagoon/Te Riu O Te Aika Kawa	Styx River mouth saltmarshes
	Brooklands Lagoon northern end
	Beacon Street Wetland
	Brooklands Lagoon southern end
Ōtākaro/Avon River corridor	Travis Wetland
	ANZAC Drive Reserve/Lake Kate Sheppard
	Waitaki Street Basin
Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai	Bexley Wetland
	Tidal lower Avon River
	Raupo Bay
	Western shore
	Bromley Oxidation Ponds/Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge
	Heathcote Bay
	Linwood Ave Canal
	Heathcote Loop
	Ferrymead Wetlands/Matuku Lakes
Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora	Halswell Canal complex
	Eastern shoreline
	Kaituna Lagoon
	Eastern Kaitorete Spit
Lake Forsyth/Te Roto o Wairewa	Northern Shoreline
	Southern Shoreline
	Outlet Channel



Figure 2: Distribution of white heron/kōtuku sightings in the Greater Ōtautahi-Christchurch area over the last 20 years (2004 – 2024) in Christchurch-Banks Peninsula © eBird, downloaded 19.02.2025.

Ecology

Habitat

In New Zealand, the white heron/kōtuku is a bird of both tidal, brackish and freshwater wetlands and waterways. It rarely occurs on the coastline except within the protected shores of estuaries and lagoons. In the non-breeding season (when white herons visit the Christchurch area) they usually feed and roost as solitary individuals or rarely associate in twos. It is thought that the occasional reports of small flocks (E.g., Figure 3) may in fact be vagrant Australian birds that have come across the Tasman and retained their flocking behaviour which is common there.



Figure 3: Unusual local sight of a flock of white herons/kōtuku at the CCC Kaitorete Spit Reserve, Lake Ellesmere, July 2013.

Feeding and breeding

White herons/kōtuku feed by slowly stalking their prey or waiting motionless for prey to come to within striking range. Favoured feeding habitats are mudflats and channels in estuaries, shallow wetlands, riverbanks and wet pastures. Prey types include small fish, eels, frogs, tadpoles, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, skinks, mice, and small birds. They generally feed by day and roost in trees through the night.

Breeding occurs between August and November when the adult population and many younger birds congregate at the single breeding colony in South Westland. The colony is a congregation of individual nests positioned in kowhai and kamahi trees and the crowns of tree ferns (Heather & Robertson 1996). Breeding has never been recorded in the Greater Christchurch area (but see below).



Figure 4: A white heron/kōtuku as appeared annually on the Linwood Avenue Canal since at least 1984.

Conservation goals

This threatened species conservation plan for white heron/kōtuku focuses on habitat provision and the elimination and/or mitigation of potential threats. With such a tiny local and national population, the safety and longevity of every individual bird is an important contribution to the long-term viability of the species in New Zealand. Fortunately, the white heron already has a very high level of public awareness around its rarity, its annual migrations and its level of full legal protection. However, public awareness of threats to the species in the wider environment are much less understood. These include a range of issues from habitat loss, pollution and predation. This plan identifies and offers guidance on these potential threats:

Short term goals

- ✓ To safeguard the local wintering population of white heron/kōtuku within Christchurch city; on lakes Ellesmere/Forsyth and Brooklands Lagoon, and across the wider Christchurch District,
- ✓ To encourage white herons/kōtuku to visit a wider range of wetland and waterway sites across the Ōtautahi-Christchurch urban area including new habitats such as the Ōtākaro Avon River corridor, the Pūharakekenui-Styx River corridor, and storm water retention basins, and
- ✓ To maintain the current population size and proportion of the national population that winters in the Greater Ōtautahi-Christchurch area.

Long-term goals

- ✓ To facilitate an increase in numbers and the proportion of the national population of white heron/kōtuku wintering in Greater Ōtautahi-Christchurch, and
- ✓ To encourage the local breeding of white herons/kōtuku within Ōtautahi-Christchurch wetlands as an additional species at royal spoonbill colonies within the next 40 years.

Actions

Population monitoring

Monitoring requirements for white heron are relatively straight forward and sufficient to maintain an annual picture of winter population size and distribution. A winter census has been conducted by the Council and Birds New Zealand since the 1990s.

- ✓ Include white heron/ kōtuku as a key target species in the annual winter (June/July) national wader count undertaken locally by Birds NZ and Council. This includes counts of herons/egrets and royal spoonbills. **Very high priority**

Threat management

Potential threats to white herons/kōtuku (E.g., Figure 5) are many and include deliberate or accidental shooting; disturbance by humans, animals, vehicles and watercraft; harassment by dogs; predation by domestic and wild mammals pollution (such as fuel and chemical spills); rubbish in waterways; entanglement hazards; habitat loss, degradation and modification; collision with utility wires; windows, structures; wind turbines; radio masts; dust and noise; avian botulism and other diseases like H5N1 bird flu and avian malaria.

- ✓ Educate and remind hunters not to shoot white herons/ kōtuku and to avoid disturbing them when hunting other species nearby. **High priority**
- ✓ Take measures to restrict harassment and disturbance of white herons/kōtuku by dogs. **Very High priority**
- ✓ Monitor avian disease outbreaks and take any sick white herons/kōtuku into care for rehabilitation. **Very high priority**
- ✓ Prioritise rescue of white herons/kōtuku in cases where injured or entangled birds are reported. **Very high priority**
- ✓ Remove potential entanglement hazards from waterways such as wire, plastic waste, fishing lines, etc. **High priority**
- ✓ Utilise seasonal signage and media stories to inform local communities when white herons/kōtuku are present. This would both highlight the bird's local presence as well as provide key messaging around dog behaviour, harassment by people (including photographers), etc. **High priority**



Figure 5: Examples of media stories detailing harm incurred by white herons/kōtuku in the Greater Christchurch area in the past (Top: © Newsline 06/05/2018; bottom: © The Press 08/08/2017).

Habitat management

Protection of habitat quality at sites used by white herons/kōtuku is important, as well as provision of new habitat across the reserve network as opportunity allows.

- ✓ Habitat quality at key sites within the city and the Avon-Heathcote Estuary should be assessed annually with deteriorations in condition appropriately addressed. **High priority**
- ✓ Support actions to remedy these issues physical hazards, water quality issues, impacts of weed invasion and levels of disturbance at Brooklands Lagoon and Lakes Ellesmere/Forsyth. Undertake actions where required on Council-owned land and waterways around these sites. **Medium priority**
- ✓ Initiate mammalian predator control at sites where white herons/kōtuku are assessed as being at risk. **High priority**
- ✓ The disturbance environments should be assessed at key sites and mitigations put in place. These might include signage and/or physical barriers to human access; planting of screening/buffer vegetation; and warden activities. **High priority**
- ✓ Create or enhance roosting and feeding habitat for white herons/kōtuku when new waterway and wetland projects are initiated. **High priority**

Community awareness and support

Conduct education and outreach activities to motivate Christchurch communities to want to safeguard this iconic species.

- ✓ Promote the presence of white herons/kōtuku in the Christchurch landscape. **High priority**
- ✓ Engage with Rūnanga around possible cultural celebration of the annual return of white heron/kōtuku to the Christchurch area. **High priority**
- ✓ Continue to work with manawhenua to incorporate Māori cultural knowledge, perspectives and aspirations in the conservation and management of kōtuku on Lakes Te Waihora/ Wairewa, as well as local estuaries. **High priority**

Review Period

This Threatened Species Conservation Plan for white heron/kōtuku will be reviewed every five-to-ten years.

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Appendix 1: Identification

White heron/kōtuku

White herons have all-over clean white plumage, with long filamentous plumes developing on the back when in breeding plumage. Males and females are indistinguishable. Bare parts (skin) change colour in an annual cycle with birds having bluish-green skin around the eye, dark bills, legs yellowish tibia and dark tarsus when breeding. For the rest of the year they have yellow skin around the eye, yellow bills and uniform dark legs.



Figure 6: White herons/kōtuku in winter plumage (left) and breeding plumage (right).

There are several other similar-plumaged species which can be mistaken for white herons/kōtuku, including royal spoonbills, eastern cattle egrets, little egrets, intermediate egrets, and white-morph reef herons. All are noticeably smaller when seen well or when a white heron/kōtuku is present to offer direct comparison. Comparative metrics are:

- ✓ white heron/kōtuku, length 76-100 cm, wingspan 150 cm, weight 900g
- ✓ cattle egret, length 48-53 cm, wingspan 90 cm, weight 340 - 390g
- ✓ little egret, length 56-65 cm, wingspan 90 cm, weight 300g
- ✓ Intermediate egret, length 56-72 cm, wingspan 110, weight 400g
- ✓ white morph reef heron, length 60-70 cm, wingspan 95cm, weight 400g

These species are described further below:

Royal spoonbill (*Platalea regia*)

For reason of its abundance (up to 1000 individuals on Greater Christchurch wetlands with five local breeding colonies), the most likely confusion species is the royal spoonbill/ kōtuku ngutupapa. While the spoonbill seen well is unmistakable with its distinctive bill and seasonal shaggy crest, at a distance the two species look similar. White herons/kōtuku can always be distinguished by their long, elegant neck and more upright stature compared to the hunched stature of royal spoonbills. This is particularly evident when birds are feeding – herons have neck extended, slowly stalking its prey, while spoonbills will be hunched up, sieving for prey with sideways movements of its head and active forward walking movement. In flight, white herons/kōtuku always fly with their neck tucked in while spoonbills fly with necks full extended.



Figure 7 Plumage, structure and feeding posture differences between white heron/kōtuku (left) and royal spoonbills (right).



Figure 8: Differences between white herons/kōtuku (left, necks retracted) and royal spoonbills (right, necks extended) in flight.

Eastern cattle egret (*Bubulucus ibis coromandus*)

Cattle egrets are seasonal migrants from eastern Australia which form small flocks on farmland and associate with livestock, especially dairy cow herds. Most years 10-40 arrive in the Greater Christchurch area with most congregating on farmland near Lake Ellesmere. They are distinguished from white herons/kōtuku, by much smaller size, shorter necks and when in breeding plumage, by orange feathering in neck and head.



Figure 9: Left) Cattle egrets in breeding (orange) and non-breeding (white) plumage. Right) size comparison with white heron/kōtuku (right).

Little egret (*Egretta garzetta immaculata*)

Little egrets are an occasional visitor from Australia with usually at least individual present locally most year, rarely 2-4. They occur on estuaries and lakes and commonly accompany white herons/kōtuku when both occur.



Figure 10: Left) – Little egret. Right) size comparison between little egret (left) and white heron/kōtuku (right) (Lake Forsyth, June 2015).

Intermediate egret (*Ardea intermedia plumifera*) and white morph reef heron (*Egretta sacra sacra*)

Both species are very rare vagrants – from Australia and the Pacific Islands respectively. There are <5 records of intermediate egret in the Christchurch area and just one record of white reef heron. Both species are larger than the two preceding species, but of smaller stature and with much less body mass than the white heron/kōtuku. Although they have long necks these are of about equal length to the body length, rather than proportionately much longer in the white heron/kōtuku.



Figure 11: a) White heron/kōtuku, b) intermediate egret, and c) white morph reef heron.

Appendix 2: Actions

Action	Lead	Priority	Funding
Population monitoring			
Census white herons/kōtuku within the Greater Christchurch area each year in June/July as a continuation of the national wader count undertaken locally by Birds NZ and the Council. Includes counts of white herons/kōtuku, other herons/egrets and royal spoonbills.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team and Regional Parks Teams working with Birds NZ	Very high	Operational
Threat management			
Work with external agencies to educate hunters not to shoot white herons/kōtuku and to avoid disturbing them when hunting other species nearby.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team	High	Operational
Take measures to restrict harassment and disturbance of white herons/kōtuku by dogs.	Council's Regional Parks Team, Red Zone Team, Urban Parks & Land Drainage Teams	Very high	Operational
Monitor avian disease outbreaks and take any sick white herons into care for rehabilitation.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team, Regional Parks Team, Council's 3 Waters, MPI, DoC, ECan	Very high	Operational
Prioritise rescue of white herons/kōtuku in cases where injured or entangled birds are reported.	DoC	Very high	Operational
Remove potential entanglement hazards from waterways such as wire, plastic waste, fishing lines, etc.	Council's Land Drainage Teams and Contractors, ECan	High	Operational
Use seasonal signage and media stories to inform local communities when white herons/kōtuku are present, highlighting the bird's local presence as well as providing key messaging around dog behaviour and harassment by people (including photographers).	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team, Regional Parks Team and Visitor Experience Team	High	Operational
Habitat management			
Annually assess and remedy and deterioration in habitat quality at key sites within the city.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team, Regional Parks Teams, Red Zone Team and Land Drainage Teams	High	Operational
Remedy physical hazards, water quality issues, impacts of weed invasion and levels of disturbance on CCC-owned and managed land and waterways around Brooklands Lagoon, Lake Ellesmere and Lake Forsyth	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team and Regional Parks Teams	Medium	Operational
Carry out mammalian predator control at sites where white herons/kōtuku are assessed as being at risk.	Council's Regional Parks Teams and Red Zone Teams	High	Operational

Mitigate disturbance factors at key sites. These might include signage and/or physical barriers to human access, planting of screening/buffer vegetation, and/or and warden activities.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team, Regional Parks Teams and Red Zone Team	High	Capital
Create or enhance roosting and feeding habitat for white herons/ when new waterway and wetland projects are initiated.	Council's 3-Waters Teams and Red Zone team	High	Capital
Awareness raising			
Promote the presence of white herons/kōtuku in the Ōtautahi-Christchurch landscape.	Council's Visitor Experience Team	High	Operational
Engage with Rūnanga around possible cultural celebration of the annual return of white heron/kōtuku to the Christchurch area.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team	High	Operational
Accommodate Māori cultural knowledge, perspectives and aspirations in the conservation and management of white herons/kōtuku on Lakes Te Waihora/ Wairewa, as well as local estuaries.	Council's Parks Biodiversity Team	High	Operational

Appendix 3: Christchurch Biodiversity Strategy implementation actions relevant for white heron/kōtuku

Goal 1 objectives	Implementation target	Implementation actions	Priority
Objective 1.1: Priority Internationally, nationally and locally threatened species are protected and restored.	Target 1.1.1: Nationally and locally threatened species are identified, prioritised and monitored for conservation.	Action 1: Surveys of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula indigenous plants and animals [including birds] are undertaken.	Very high
	Target 1.1.2: Plans are prepared and implemented for nationally and locally threatened species protection.	Action 1: Conservation plans are prepared for nationally and locally threatened species.	High
		Action 3: Protection measures are initiated for priority species. See Action 1 above and Targets 1.1.1 and 1.2.1.	Very High
Objective 1.2: Ecosystems, sites and habitats supporting biodiversity are protected and restored.	Target 1.2.1: Ecosystems, sites and habitats with indigenous species on Council and private land are identified, prioritised, protected and restored where appropriate	Action 1: Surveys are undertaken of habitats with indigenous plants, invertebrates, lizards and fish [including birds], with priority given to land environments with <10% indigenous cover.	Very high
		Action 2: An assessment and prioritisation of biodiversity on Council owned or managed land is undertaken.	Very high
		Action 3: Management plan(s) and or other legal mechanisms provide long term protection for priority biodiversity on Council land.	Very high
		Action 4: High priority biodiversity sites are purchased on Banks Peninsula (including the Port Hills), Kaitōrete Spit and the plains. See Strategy concept plans for initial options.	Very high
	Target 1.2.3: Management of biodiversity on private land is appropriately supported.	Action 1: Technical advice is made available to landowners. See Target 2.1.1. Action 2.	High

	Target 1.2.6: The gene pool of locally occurring indigenous species is maintained.	n.a.	Very high
	Target 1.2.7: The relative costs and benefits of biodiversity restoration and protection projects are understood and projects prioritised on a City wide basis.	Action 1: Develop criteria and prioritise biodiversity restoration projects.	Very high
	Target 1.2.8: Ecosystem function is improved (including species restoration) to compensate for previous biodiversity losses and enhance remnant indigenous biodiversity	Action 2: Implement habitat restoration for priority sites on Council managed land. See Target 1.2.7 Action 1 and Target 1.2.8 Action 1.	Medium
		Action 3: Council works with Ngāi Tahu on species, habitat and ecosystem recovery programmes such as Kaupapa Kererū and Koukourārata Ki Uta Ki Tai, Te Roto o Te Roto o Wairewa Mahinga Kai Park and Te Waihora Mahinga Kai project	Very high
Objective 1.3 Species and habitats important to Ngāi Tahu are protected and where appropriate restored.	Target 1.3.1: Council is familiar with the species and habitats important to Ngāi Tahu.	Action 1: Work with Ngāi Tahu to identify and prepare a database of sites and species within Christchurch and Banks Peninsula and establish appropriate systems to protect sensitive information pertaining to sites.	High
Objective 1.4 Plant and animal pests are managed to minimise their impact on biodiversity.	Target 1.4.1: Pest management plans, policies and initiatives (internal and external), including for domestic animals on Council managed land, are prepared, contributed to, coordinated and implemented.	Action 1: A Council pest management strategy is developed.	Very high
		Action 3: Control of plant and animal pests is extended to new Council managed sites with priority on protecting nationally and locally threatened habitats and species.	Very high
		Action 4:	Very high

		Control of plant and animal pests is maintained on priority existing Council managed biodiversity sites with nationally important and or locally threatened habitats and species such as the species on the oxidation ponds.	
		Action 5: Council contributes to pest control programmes on private land in partnership with individual landowners where this improves biodiversity management of Council land, or is part of an agreed multi agency pest plan and or protects priority sites (subject to cost benefit analysis).	Very high
Objective 1.5 New Council policy will take account of and be aligned with the goals and objectives of the biodiversity strategy.	Target 1.5.1: Strategies, bylaws and policy decisions will ensure that priority biodiversity is protected and maintained	Action 1: Council policy will take account of indigenous biodiversity priorities	Very high
	Target 1.5.2: Council capital and operation programmes will ensure the continued protection of priority biodiversity.	Action 1: Biodiversity initiatives will be funded as appropriate in the LTCCP	Very high

Goal 2 objectives	Implementation target	Implementation actions	Priority
Objective 2:1 Information on local biodiversity is collated and readily available to Council staff and the community	Target 2.1.1: Council maintains a data base of easily accessible (subject to privacy and cultural sensitivity limitations) biodiversity information	Action 1: Biodiversity information about Council managed land is recorded on an asset management system.	Very high
		Action 2: Biodiversity information on private land is easily available to appropriate Council staff for project prioritisation, monitoring, grants assessment, and prioritisation of technical and management assistance to land owners.	Very high

Objective 2:2 Opportunities are promoted to inform and enhance community understanding of biodiversity values, issues and management	Target 2.2.1: Landowners, the public, conservation trusts and organisations sufficiently understand biodiversity issues, opportunities and constraints to enable appropriate protection and management.	Action 1: Public information, and training for landowners and conservation managers, is provided to assist biodiversity protection and enhancement.	High
	Target 2.2.2: There is general community support for biodiversity protection and restoration.	Action 2: Promotional initiatives are coordinated with DoC, ECan and other conservation organisations.	High
Objective 2:3 The community understands Ngāi Tahu values and roles in biodiversity management	Target 2.3.1: Cultural biodiversity information is made readily available by Council in partnership with Ngāi Tahu.	Action 1: Initiate discussions with Ngāi Tahu and disseminate culturally appropriate biodiversity information for staff and public use.	Very high
	Target 2.3.2: Ngāi Tahu information about culturally important areas and species is identified, collated and maintained.	Action 1: Consult with Ngāi Tahu and record information in Council data bases as appropriate.	Very high

Goal 3 objectives	Implementation target	Implementation actions	Priority
Objective 3:1. Strategic partnerships are facilitated, developed and maintained by Council with Ngāi Tahu, agencies, organisations and others with an interest in or responsibility for biodiversity, including other Canterbury local authorities	Target 3.1.1: Partnerships enable the conservation of indigenous biodiversity.	Action 1: Council actively seeks partnerships with institutional, community and business to promote, protect and enhance biodiversity	Very high
	Target 3.1.2: Partnerships with Ngāi Tahu (specifically ngā Papatipu Rūnanga) to sustain and manage biodiversity are built, strengthened and maintained	Action 1: Identify the appropriate individuals and group(s) within Ngāi Tahu to work with on specific biodiversity projects in consultation with ngā Papatipu Rūnanga.	Very high
		Action 2: Council staff training encourages familiarity with rūnanga biodiversity aims and objectives	High

		Action 3: Opportunities for joint projects are investigated including land purchase, protection, restoration and research projects.	High
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Goal 4 Objectives	Implementation target	Implementation actions	priority
Objective 4.1: Monitoring programmes for the biodiversity of Christchurch City are established, coordinated and maintained.	Target 4.1.1: Monitoring ensures biodiversity sites are appropriately managed and objectives for conservation and restoration are achieved.	Action 1: Council in partnership with other agencies develops and implements methods to measure the health of remnant and restored biodiversity	Medium
	Target 4.1.2: Monitoring programmes enable the viability and trends of priority ecosystems and species to be sufficiently understood to guide management actions.	Action 1: Monitoring programmes are maintained, and initiated where appropriate, to determine ecological change over the long term.	Very high
	Target 4.1.3: Pests are monitored to enable appropriate management to be undertaken	Action 1: Regular monitoring of priority pests is undertaken.	Very high
Objective 4.2: Biodiversity research is supported, facilitated, coordinated and managed to enable sustainable management of biodiversity.	Target 4.2.1: Research programmes enable the viability and trends of priority ecosystems and species to be sufficiently understood to guide management actions	Action 1: Research is undertaken on the maintenance of priority remnant habitats in areas with	High
	Target 4.2.3: Research programmes enable prioritisation of biodiversity protection and management.	Action 1: Biodiversity needs are prioritised and applied to research project objectives.	Very high
Objective 4.3: The community is involved in biodiversity research and monitoring	Target 4.3.1: Community biodiversity monitoring programmes provide better information on biodiversity.	Action 1: Existing monitoring programmes are evaluated and coordinated with Council programmes and research needs.	High
		Action 2: New community research and monitoring programmes are facilitated to complement and assist Council biodiversity protection and restoration.	Medium

Objective 4.4: Community attitudes to biodiversity are monitored.	Target 4.4.1: Monitoring gauges community support and concerns about biodiversity.	Action 1: Resident surveys (formal and informal) are undertaken.	High
		Action 2: Council will engage with iwi, community groups, organisations and trusts to maintain and increase understanding of community attitudes, concerns and initiatives.	Very high



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