

## 4.3 ECOLOGY

### 4.3.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a continuous band of indigenous vegetation mainly on the eastern slopes and including remaining bush remnants and natural stream courses.
2. To protect species of threatened plants, and protect and enhance indigenous ecosystems and sites or features of ecological importance within the Outer Green Belt.
3. To recognise and enhance the ecological connections between the Outer Green Belt and other parts of the city and the region, based on sound ecological principles and data wherever possible.
4. To achieve environmentally sustainable land uses in all parts of the Outer Green Belt.

### 4.3.2 POLICIES

#### 4.3.2.1 Identifying and establishing a continuous band of indigenous vegetation

- a) The Council will discuss with individual private landowners opportunities for a partnership approach in achieving ecological connections across private land, this may be particularly important for or near significant areas of native bush.*
- b) Planting in existing key native ecosystems and open areas of the Outer Green Belt will be prioritised according to a city-wide framework and priorities for ecological restoration.*
- c) Community interest groups involved in planting within the Outer Green Belt will be consulted on planting priorities and programmes.*
- d) The Council recognises the important role individuals, community-based organisations, landowners and private businesses play in restoring the indigenous ecosystems of the Outer Green Belt and will support community initiatives with advice and, where possible, plants and other materials.*
- e) The Council will work with other agencies such as the Department of Conservation, other territorial authorities and Greater Wellington Regional Council in achieving the above policies.*

#### Explanation

This Plan seeks to define areas of Wellington City Council land which will form part of the vegetation corridor. Refer Section 5.

#### 4.3.2.2 Protection of forest remnants and other important vegetation

- a) The Council will protect all forest remnants and other important vegetation on Wellington City Council land in the Outer Green Belt. Bush remnants are those identified in the survey and report by Geoff Park in 1999. All other areas of indigenous bush to be managed as part of the natural ecosystems of the Outer Green Belt will be protected for this purpose.*

- b) *Through this Plan and other means the Council will seek the protection of all bush remnants on private land.*

#### **4.3.2.3 Protection of streams**

- a) *The Council will protect all streams and natural water courses on Wellington City Council land in the Outer Green Belt with particular emphasis on stream headwaters.*
- b) *Through this Plan and other means the Council will seek the protection of all streams and water courses on private land.*
- c) *Riparian planting will occur as resources permit on Wellington City Council land and be encouraged in all areas to enhance stream ecosystems and water quality (indigenous species will be used where practical).*

#### Explanation

Streams in the Outer Green Belt have particular significance as the headwaters for all the major streams of the city. If these headwaters are protected and restored to a healthy condition and a catchment-wide approach is taken, there will be significant downstream benefits.

#### **4.3.2.4 Plant and animal pest management**

- a) *Plant and animal pest management will be carried out in accordance with the relevant policies and priorities set out in the Council's Bush and Streams Restoration Plan and any future Pest Management Strategies.*
- b) *The Wellington City Council will work closely with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to ensure both statutory and strategic requirements are achieved in terms of pest management in the Outer Green Belt.*
- c) *Darwin's barberry will be monitored and managed vigorously to ensure it does not impede forest restoration or threaten existing vegetation or open areas.*
- d) *Recognise and manage the risk that ecological corridors also provide a conduit for pest species as well as indigenous species.*

#### Explanation

Existing pest management priorities include:

- Key vegetation remnants
  - Removal or neutralisation of pest threats in at-risk primary remnants
  - Removal or neutralisation of weed threats in advanced secondary regrowth areas associated with primary remnants.
- Stream corridors
  - Containment and suppression of weed threats along the Kaiwharawhara catchment, stream corridors and associated parks and roads open space (areas of road reserve not part of the road carriageway).
- Darwin's barberry is recognised as the most significant plant pest in the Outer Green Belt.

#### **4.3.2.5 Biodiversity research and monitoring**

- a) *Biodiversity will be monitored in accordance with the Council's city wide monitoring programme.*
- b) *As far as possible, future monitoring will coordinate with biodiversity monitoring in Karori Sanctuary, recognising the sanctuary's important role in achieving biodiversity outcomes.*
- c) *The Council will encourage and, if possible, assist in the use and study of the Outer Green Belt for biodiversity research by other organisations.*

#### **4.3.2.6 Management of fire risk**

- a) *To minimise the threat of fire risk, open fires will be strictly prohibited on Wellington City Council lands in the Outer Green Belt.*
- b) *Fire resistant plants will be planted in high fire risk areas.*
- c) *Information about fire risks will be included where appropriate on signs and other Outer Green Belt information.*
- d) *A fire plan for the Outer Green Belt will be developed in conjunction with the Wellington Emergency Management Office.*