

## **4. State of the Environment Report on Biodiversity**

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**Reporting officer** Elise Batelaan (State of the Environment Co-ordinator)

**Date** 06 May 2011

Subsequent to the Focus Group meeting held for the State of the Environment Report on Biodiversity on 3 May 2011, some changes have been made to the report. These are as follows:

1. Inclusion of the percentage change in native land cover between Land Cover Database 1 and 2 (0.4%), on pages 1 and 21, as requested at the Focus Group meeting.
2. Wording changes to the last two paragraphs of the executive summary as follows:

“In order to ensure that the objectives regarding biodiversity are achieved in future, a number of options are provided for future responses to pressures on biodiversity. A specific biodiversity strategy for the district could be beneficial to direct and prioritise management activities and day-to-day decisions affecting biodiversity in the district. Another possible response to a decline in indigenous biodiversity is establishing a policy and/or strategy for biodiversity improvements to be taken into account when taking esplanade reserves. There are provisions for acquiring esplanade reserves at development stage that are available to create riparian margins and ecological corridors. Riparian margins play an important role in providing habitat for indigenous biodiversity, and vegetation along riparian margins are often important linkages between habitats; they also promote public access.

Other response options include facilitating further restoration and enhancement of biodiversity, education, advocacy and collaboration methods, economic incentives and strengthening statutory provisions and methods for biodiversity protection and enhancement, particularly within the District Plan. This could include identifying significant areas of indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous species, and including policies and rules relating to protecting biodiversity within these areas. Particular attention will need to be directed towards ensuring the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (when finalised) are incorporated into Council’s planning documents and operational procedures. This could be assisted by the proposed biodiversity strategy for the Whangarei District.”

As a result the original recommendation is amended to read:

### **Recommendation**

That the State of the Environment Report on Biodiversity, as updated and outlined above, be received.