

Climate and Biodiversity Plan feedback

Earlier this year we asked for your feedback on our draft Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to share their views. It was clear that a lot of effort had been put into sharing feedback.

Here's a snapshot of what we received, as well as our response.



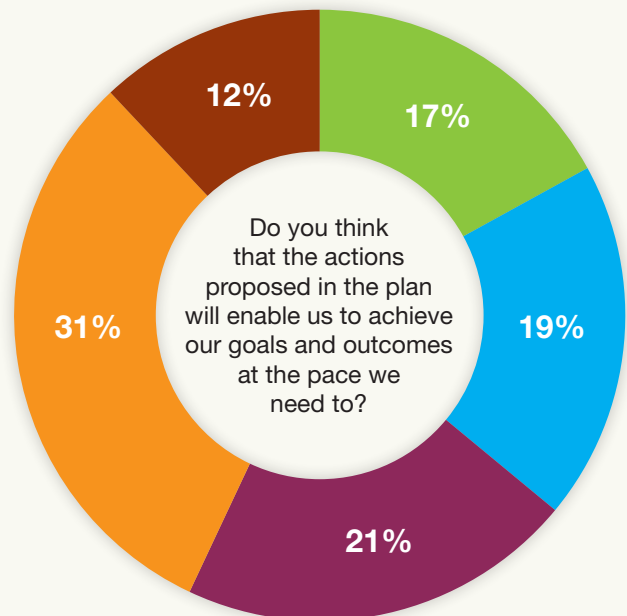
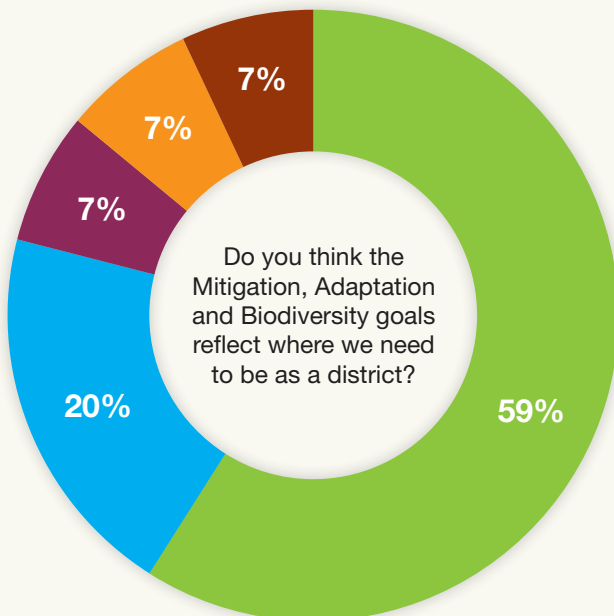
Feedback summary.

Strong sentiment that climate and biodiversity action should be prioritised by Council.

Appreciation of the overall progress that has been made by Council, since the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency in 2019.

The hottest topics were aviation, growth, urgent action, and biodiversity.

A small number of people argued that Council should not be investing resources in climate action or should not follow policies such as encouraging high density housing.



What you said and our response.

WHAT YOU SAID	OUR RESPONSE
Biodiversity should be a clearer strategic priority.	<p>We increased emphasis on biodiversity throughout the plan to demonstrate that this is a strategic priority and not an add-on.</p> <p>We also provided more detail on the interconnectedness of the climate and biodiversity crises.</p>
<p>Requests for increased urgency, additional resourcing, and faster action in high profile areas.</p> <p>Suggestions for a smaller number of tangible, achievable and affordable actions.</p>	<p>We reviewed our timing and resourcing of actions and brought forward some actions where funding/resourcing allowed e.g., actions 1.4, 1.14 and 6.2.</p> <p>Our work programme balances impact, resourcing, and funding priorities identified by the Climate Reference Group, and the work of delivery partners.</p>
<p>Specific feedback on individual actions.</p> <p>Requests for more detail on actions, removal of 'management speak' and commitment to 'tangible actions'.</p>	<p>We made a lot of changes to actions in response to feedback, making them more specific and measurable.</p> <p>We reviewed our actions to make them easier to understand and more tangible.</p>
Requests for more robust measurement and target setting.	<p>We improved the Indicators Framework to provide more clarity.</p> <p>We reviewed our actions to make them 'SMART' goals where possible.</p> <p>We will be setting action-specific targets as we kick-off actions/projects.</p>
Numerous suggestions for new actions.	We reviewed new suggestions against the long list of actions we've already considered, what the Climate Reference Group has prioritised, what was already covered by in the plan, as well as impact and our ability to deliver.
Feedback on containing growth or 'degrowth'.	<p>We provided more detail on action 1.8 regarding the critical role that integrated spatial planning plays in responding to growth.</p> <p>Council is committed to working with our community to 'Grow Well' (as outlined in the Spatial Plan).</p> <p>A new Strategic Growth Team has been proposed for Council.</p>
Many requests from local organisations to be included in the 'partnership' column for each action.	<p>We're very keen to work with local organisations who are already doing the mahi, however it wasn't practical to list every stakeholder for each action. For this reason, we've only included major partners (e.g., Waka Kotahi).</p> <p>As we kick-off each action we'll contact relevant stakeholder groups to see how they would like to be involved.</p>
Comments on our emission measurement and Emissions Reduction Roadmap that indicated we didn't provide enough clarity.	<p>We provided more clarity on the complexity of the district's Emissions Reduction Roadmap and pledge to align with a 1.5 degree pathway.</p> <p>We included more data about Council's emissions profile.</p>
Requests for an assessment of how much carbon we expect each mitigation action to save.	<p>We'd love to be able to do this and hope it's something we can do for future plans, however we don't currently have the resources to do this for each action.</p> <p>We will look at this in more detail when we update our district's Emissions Reduction Roadmap.</p>
Request to include international aviation in our measurement.	International aviation is accounted for in our district's emissions inventory. We have made this clearer now.
Many requests to improve public transport.	Otago Regional Council manage public transport and we work closely with them and Waka Kotahi to improve the network. We've made this clearer in our plan.

National Climate Action

As we developed the plan, we closely tracked **central government's climate action work programme**. Three major plans and policies were recently released:

- > **Draft National Adaptation Plan**
- > **National Emissions Reduction Plan**
- > **Exposure Draft on the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity**

We reviewed these documents and updated our own plan, for example adding some actions from the National Emissions Reduction Plan. There is a lot of strategic alignment between central government direction and our plan, and we're happy that we're moving in the right direction.

Snapshot of Comments

"We fully support the inclusion of biodiversity alongside climate action as both challenges are interlinked."

"We need to act with urgency, this plan needs to be implemented as fast as possible to avoid the catastrophic breakdown of the climate and biodiversity."

"[Biodiversity] needs to be addressed but not the highest priority focus considering we are in a cost-of-living crisis."

"Need to specify a smaller number of tangible, achievable and affordable actions with outcomes that can be quantified."

"We fully support QLDC's commitment to the international effort to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

"The actions described in the plan looks to be clashing with the reality of expanding towns across the district, and I find it hard to believe that a shift to public transport will work in towns like Queenstown or Wānaka."

"More resources need to be put into implementation of the plan."

"The plan needs to be more balanced with a much stronger biodiversity emphasis than presented in the draft plan."

"Large, costly, long-running legacy projects, [should] be reconsidered to ensure climate change and biodiversity considerations form part of all ongoing decision-making."

"After 2 years of COVID we have a unique opportunity to cap the numbers of flights into the district."

"Solar panels should be compulsory on ALL new buildings in the district."

"Every skip load of waste from building sites needs to be hammered with a surcharge."

"Increasing spatial growth (in line with the current Spatial Plan) may expose the district to a broader range of physical climate impacts."

"It has come a long way from the first climate plan."