



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.652

20 August 2001

File: R/1/1/12

ke\bruce\reports\01.652.doc

Report to the Landcare Committee
from Bruce Andrell, Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

Ranger Services Performance Indicator

1. Purpose

To report to the Landcare Committee on the Ranger Services delivered in the 2000/01 financial year.

2. Annual Plan Performance Indicator

The 2000/01 annual plan contains the following performance indicator:

Within a budget of \$663,000, Ranger Services will be provided that:

- (1) Facilitate approved public access to the Regional Parks, Forests and Water Collection Areas;*
- (2) Educate and inform visitors and users;*
- (3) Liaise with community and stakeholder groups;*
- (4) Ensure compliance with Council policies.*

A summary of key activities to be reported to the Landcare Committee following the end of the financial year.

The performance indicator was achieved at a cost of \$622,224. The Water Group requested a \$30,000 reduction in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Ranger Security Service during the year. As a result we cut \$32,713 from the service. The savings were passed on to the Water Group.

3. **Summary of Services Provided in the 2000/01 Annual Plan**

The service we provide is:

- A seven day per week residential Ranger service at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park; Queen Elizabeth Park; Kaitoke Regional Park and adjacent Hutt Water Collection Area; and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area.
- A five day per week Ranger service at Belmont Regional Park; Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests.
- A part-time patrolling service on the Hutt River Trail and at East Harbour Regional Park.

4. **Facilitation of Public Access to the Regional Parks, Forests and Water Collection Areas**

Overall, visitation decreased by 6.8 percent from 859,513 visits in 1999/2000 to 801,370 visits in 2000/01, in the four regional parks and one forest where visitation is measured. We do not measure visitation at East Harbour Regional Park, Akatarawa Forest, Hutt Water and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Areas.

Queen Elizabeth Park had 34,200 less visits on last year's figures, probably as a result of the windy weather over the summer period. In 2000/2001 visitor numbers declined by 21,600 at Kaitoke Regional Park. In 1999/2000 visitor numbers were higher than normal as people were interested in the filming of Lord of the Rings.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park received 8,000 fewer visits due the fewer events and pony club practice days. Both Belmont Regional Park and the Pakuratahi Forest had approximately 2,000 extra visits over the last year.

The Akatarawa Forest hosted 118 motorised events during the year and that number is expected to increase in the coming year.

5. **Educating and Informing Visitors**

Rangers have educated public on the recreational, environmental and heritage values of the regional parks and forests by answering public enquiries; providing interpretative talks; facilitating the spring visits education programme (attracting 1,500 children); developing interpretative trails; facilitating a number of open days and events (30 as part of the *Regional Outdoors Programme*); and Arbor Day and by community plantings.

6. **Liaison with Community and Stakeholder Groups**

Rangers managed all concession, lease and licence holders within the terms of their agreements. They also liaised and met with user and stakeholder groups to present Council's policies and explain park and forest values. Examples of those groups include, Friends of Belmont, the Mainland Island Restoration Organisation, and local schools.

7. **Ensure Compliance with Council Policies**

Rangers have enforced Regional Council's *Parks and Forests and Recreation Areas Bylaws*; *Water Collection Area Bylaws*. This was achieved by regular patrols, and by providing after hours callout and security services. Our focus is on compliance by co-operation, and we try to educate offenders to influence their long-term behaviour. We issue trespass notices and prosecute only when necessary.

The total number of incidents reported and followed up on during the year:

Park/Forest	Number of Incidents
Battle Hill Farm Forest Park	123
Belmont Regional Park	4
Queen Elizabeth Park	99
Kaitoke Regional Park	44
Akatarawa Forest	6
Pakuratahi Forest	9
Wainuiomata/Orongorongo	90
Total	375

The lower number of reported incidents at Belmont Regional Park, Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests are partially due to only having a five-day ranger service (providing less patrol time) and the nature of these areas.

8. **Communications**

There are no communication opportunities arising from this report. Rangers have released press releases prior to significant events during the year.

9. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

ROB FORLONG
Divisional Manager, Landcare