

## Summary of Feedback on East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan

Key feedback given in the 54 submissions received during the first consultation phase on the management plan review is summarised below.

### Land Status

- Six submissions raised issue of land status
- Three submissions, including from Department of Conservation, suggested that recreation reserve status may not be appropriate for the Lakes block
- One submission said scenic reserve status was appropriate for the Northern Block.

### Mountain bikes

- Nine submissions wanted access for mountain bikes in the Northern Block, specifically they called for access along the main ridge track and the tracks down to Wainuiomata and possibly one of tracks on the Eastbourne side such as the Howard Road track. One submitter said this access is important for young people in Wainuiomata and provides access from Wainuiomata for swimming in Eastbourne.
- Six submitters made general statements in support of providing more biking opportunities in the Park.
- Five submitters opposed any bike access to the Northern Block, suggesting they cause damage to steep tracks and conflict with walkers.
- One submission expressed opposition to bikes in the Lakes block. Five supported continued bike access to the Lakes with careful planning in sensitive areas such as around the lakes.
- One submitter proposed the development of a 'Hill-Top' scenic walkway and cycle track from Burdans Gate, along the coastal hilltop to the Pencarrow lighthouse and Lakes.

### Camping

- Three submission supported small scale camping
- Two submitters, including DoC, did not support overnight camping in the lakes block.
- One submission, from the NZ Motor Caravan Association, requested overnight camping for not-for profit groups, overnight parking for 10 motor-homes and fee reductions for their members.

### Other Facilities

- Six submissions recommended providing shelter in various parts of the Park – four, including DoC, specifically wanted shelter in the Lakes block, and one wanted hill-top shelters in conjunction with a proposal for a hilltop cycle and walking track
- Six submissions requested toilet facilities in the Park. Five identified a need for toilets in the Lakes Block and one at Butterfly Creek.
- Three submissions called for viewing hides to be established at the Lakes and one for the establishment of birdwatching hides

- Two submissions, including the Department of Conservation, requested that no rubbish bins be provided and people are encouraged to take out their own rubbish.

### **Tracks**

- Ten submissions wanted no tracks or development in the Gollans stream area.
- Nine submitters wanted tracks and/or development of facilities keep to a minimum to protect the feeling of remoteness and ecological values in the park.
- Four submitters expressed their support for recent track upgrades that have taken place, while two submitters were opposed to the upgrades.
- A number of specific new track developments were proposed.

### **Dogs**

- Two submissions, including DoC, supported a 'no dogs' policy in the Lakes Block.
- One submission wanted no dogs in the Northern block, one wanted a continuation of the existing conditions there. One asked for dog access on leads and under control
- Two submitters listed dog walking as activities they undertook in the park.

### **Hunting**

- One submission wanted no hunting in the Park; one wanted no recreational hunting but regular culls of deer and pigs, and one wanted no firearms in the Park.
- One submission asked for hunting to be allowed from 1 April to 1 August, excluding popular picnic areas.

### **Use of motorised vehicles**

- Six submissions opposed the use of motorised vehicles. Five of these specifically referred to the Lakes Block and two to the raised beaches.

### **Planting and landscape management**

- Nine submissions advocated replanting in the Lakes Block and another four supported planting in the Park in general
- Five submissions supported encouraging regeneration, three specifically referring to the Lakes block.
- Four submissions called for the protection of coastal dunes and gravel ridges and the need to restrict recreational activity and vehicles that might damage these areas.
- Four submissions called for the long-term protection and management of archaeological and cultural sites in the Park.
- Two submission wanted the protection of landscape values of the park with one seeking to have the skyline remain intact and one asking that the 'Green Belt' backdrop to Wellington Harbour be protected.
- One submission called for grassland to be maintained around archaeological and historic sites and another for maintaining viewing spots on tracks.

## Pest Control

- There were very high levels of support for protection of ecological values in the park. Twenty three submissions supported the continuation, or an increase, in animal and/or plant pest control work currently being undertaken.
- Most supported control of the full range of animal and plant pest species. Three submissions specifically requested control of goats and two of gorse. One submission stressed the importance of keeping oxygen weed out of both lakes.

## Community involvement

- Support for the encouragement of community involvement was high - four submissions called for continued or more opportunities for involvement. Two called for more consultation before major work is undertaken.

## Other issues

- **Educational and/or research** - three submissions supported the use of the park for educational and research purposes
- **Commercial activity** – three submissions called for control on commercial activity in the Park, one called for no commercial activity, and one for it to be easier for approved operators to use the Pencarrow Coast Road.
- **Fire** - two submissions requested that no fires be allowed in the Park and two stressed the importance of ongoing fire control measures.
- **Horses** – two submissions raised the possibility of providing access for horses on the hill above Burdans Gate and the lighthouse. Two submissions wanted no horses, particularly in the Northern Block.
- **Park Name** - two submitters suggested the Park's name should be changed - one suggested renaming it the Pencarrow Regional Park and the other suggested that a Maori name could be chosen
- **Forestry** - two submissions stated that forestry was inappropriate in the Park
- **Reintroduction of fauna** - one submission supported the reintroduction of native fauna
- **Rock-climbing at Baring Head** – one submission highlighted the importance of Baring Head as a rock-climbing destination

## Feedback on areas outside the Park's boundaries

### Additions to the park

- Eleven submissions recommended the purchase and/or covenanting of additional land adjacent to the park, mainly for the protection of ecological values.
- Four requested the general extension of the park,
- Four specifically requested the protection of land in the catchment area of the Lakes,
- Two wanted a corridor linking the isolated ends of the park,
- Two requested extensions to the Northern Block

- One wanted purchase of land on the Coast Road between the Baring Head lighthouse access bridge and the coast.
- A number of these submissions requested that GW oppose any changes to land use in areas adjacent to the park if these changes would have a detrimental impact on the Park.

#### Vehicle access to Lakes block

- Twelve submitters wanted vehicle access on the road between Burdans Gate and the Lakes to continue to be restricted. Many saw the distance to walk or bike to get to the Lakes as an added protection to the important values in this area.
- Four submitters supported provision of a bus service or organised trips to enable a wider group of people to be able to visit the lakes.
- Two submitters wanted to see continued or improved parking at Burdans Gate

#### Gravel Mining

- Seven submissions wanted gravel mining at Fitzroy Bay to be stopped.

#### Lake outlet

- Seven submissions, including from the Department of Conservation submission, called for the replacement of the culvert at the Lake Kohangatera outlet with a bridge to allow a more natural link between the lake and the sea during high water flows.

#### Fishing

- Three submissions called for no fishing (eeling and white baiting) in the lakes. One of these called for GW to work with other agencies to stop fishing.

#### Duck shooting

- Four submitters called for duck shooting to be stopped. The Department of Conservation submission stated that they are currently reviewing the suitability of shooting at the lakes and will consult with the Council on this issue.

#### Boats

- Three submissions, including the department of Conservation's called for no powerboats on the lakes and two called for prohibiting all boating.