



Report 07.159
Date 19 March 2007
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
Author Murray Kennedy Divisional Manager, Water Supply,
Parks and Forests

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To:

- Comment on items of interest/note.
- Receive the attached activity reports for the period ending 16 March 2007 (Attachment 1).

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers' reports

The department managers' reports are attached.

4. Comment

4.1 Parks

The last six weeks brought a considerable amount of fine weather in the Wellington area, this has been reflected in the usage of the parks following a poor start to summer. It has also allowed the staff to proceed with a number of works that are more suited to the dry summer conditions.

The appointment of two new principal rangers will assist in achieving the parks objectives for the remainder of the year. It is pleasing that the appointees were already GW staff.

The possum control work in the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests will get underway before winter and the public communications about this will be stepped up during the next period.

During the period, the draft plan for the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park was released for comment and a public meeting is planned for 28 March.

4.2 Marketing and Design

This is the period when the various volunteer groups for the parks are in full swing, because of the summer conditions. As always, the contribution they make is appreciated.

The Regional Outdoors Programme is drawing to a close and an evaluation report will be presented to the committee at its May meeting.

Work affecting Queen Elizabeth Park, associated with the MacKays Crossing/Stage Highway 1 deviation, is nearly completed, this will allow development of the section of the park that borders onto the State Highway to continue. One of the side benefits from the new road over-bridge is the vista it affords of the park entrance and surrounding area.

5. Communications

A media release is proposed before the committee meeting to coincide with the official opening of the SH1 road over-bridge at Mackays Crossing.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Manager, Parks report for period ending 16 March 2007

Attachment 2: Manager, Marketing and Design report for period ending 16 March 2007