



Report 10.14
Date 26 January 2010
File PK/03/10/04

Committee Regional Sustainability Committee
Author Sharon Thurlow Policy Advisor

Regional Parks plan review: update on progress

1. Purpose

To update the committee on the plan review for the Regional Parks and Forests.

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. Background

In October last year the Regional Sustainability Committee agreed to develop a comprehensive Parks Network Management Plan (refer to the Report 09.626). The report stated that prior to Christmas there would be a public notice advertising the Council's intention to review and seeking submissions. This opportunity to comment closed on the 18 December 2009.

3.1 Submissions

There were 57 submissions received on the intention to review the plan. Submitters have received acknowledgement of their submissions.

The comments from the submissions are being analysed and will be used to assist the production of the draft Parks Network Management Plan. There will be no hearings of these submissions. A copy of the submissions is available in the Councillors' lounge for viewing.

Please note that a further opportunity for submissions and a full hearings process will follow the release of the draft Parks Network Management Plan in May 2010.

3.2 Community Engagement

Leading up to the release of the draft plan, officers will meet with community groups that are interested in the park. To date, these groups include: Friends of

Queen Elizabeth Park, Friends of Belmont and Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee.

Consultation with iwi is currently underway. Officers will meet with the Tenths Trust and Taranaki Whanui regarding the inclusion of lands surrounding the Parangarahu Lakes (the Pencarrow section of East Harbour Regional Park) in the new management plan. If no agreement is reached, officers propose that the current management plan (East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan 2007) would continue to apply over the Parangarahu Lakes area until a plan variation is completed.

We have met with relevant councils and the Department of Conservation (DoC). This is important not only because of their planning functions, but that councils and DoC own land parcels within the regional parks. The communications and community engagement plan is in **Attachment 1**.

3.3 Councillors' Workshop

Officers are currently developing the draft plan and work is running to schedule. Councillors will be invited to attend a workshop on Tuesday, 30 March on the draft plan. This will be an opportunity to review the new structure of the plan and to resolve any issues regarding policy and proposed future development in the parks and forests.

4. Communication

There are no communication implications within this paper.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Sharon Thurlow
Policy Advisor

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy &
Community Engagement

Attachment 1: Communications and community engagement plan