



Report 10.453
Date 24 August 2010
File PK/O3/12/01

Committee Regional Sustainability
Author Sharon Thurlow, Parks Planner, Corporate Planning

Submissions Report – Proposed Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with an overview of the submissions received on the draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan (the Plan), and officers' recommendations on the issues raised by submitters.

2. Significance of the decision

The decision making process is explicitly prescribed for by Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 and is similar to the special consultative process of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Consultation

In October 2009 the Regional Sustainability Committee agreed to develop a comprehensive Parks Network Management Plan (refer **Report 09.626**). On 7 May 2010 Council approved the draft Plan for consultation.

Consultation on the draft plan broadly follows the statutory process set out in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Letters were sent to key stakeholders and those who had submitted during pre-draft consultation inviting them to make a submission. Public notices calling for submissions were placed in the Dominion Post and all local community newspapers. Notices were also placed on regional park community noticeboards.

A copy of the draft plan was placed on the Greater Wellington website, along with an online submission form. Copies of the draft plan were made available for inspection at the offices of Greater Wellington and public libraries throughout the region.

A number of publicly advertised meetings were held throughout the region during the consultation period. Public meetings were held between 10th and

15th June in Hutt, Kapiti, Wellington and Porirua. These were well-attended with over 100 participants.

4. Overview of submissions

In total 98 submissions were received on the draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan – 45 from individuals and 53 from organisations or groups. Submissions were received from three territorial authorities – Wellington City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council.

Of the 98 submitters, 47 indicated that they wished to be heard in support of their submission.

5. Analysis of submissions

A detailed summary of the submissions along with officer comments and recommended amendments to the draft Plan is attached as **Attachment 1**. Copies of the original submissions have also been circulated separately to all Committee members.

Overall there was support for an integrated network management plan. However a number of submissions referred specifically to one of the regional parks or to one specific issue, including:

- 25% relating specifically to Queen Elizabeth Park
- 25% opposing wind farm development in the parks network (Battle Hill and Akatarawa Forest)
- 10% relating to Belmont Regional Park
- 5% on the plan's utility provisions (eg roads, powerlines)

The key themes also included:

- consistent track classifications across the regional parks network
- ecological connectivity policies (with many requests for specific connections to be identified in the plan)
- concession processes for commercial filming activities
- inclusion of other parks in the Plan, including Baring Head and Whitireia
- provisions for hang-gliding and paragliding
- motorised recreation tracks / zones in Akatarawa Forest
- the activity status of motorized recreation in other parks
- the activity status of firearms, fires and fireworks
- events for charity (inclusion of fee waiver provisions)
- issues relating to the structure and content of the plan:
 - relationship between the plan and operational activities
 - adequacy of monitoring provisions
 - priority of policies
 - comprehensiveness of methods
 - inconsistencies between text and maps
- a wide range of operational matters relating to the provision of assets (e.g. request for specific track upgrades) or levels of service.

6. Minor Editorial Amendments

In addition to the recommended changes to respond to submissions (outlined in Attachment 1), officers have identified a number of minor inconsistencies between the text and the plans, and minor editorial and formatting changes that should be made to improve the Plan. These changes will be outlined in the final version of the Plan that is reported to Council for adoption following the hearing.

7. Next steps

Following deliberations, officers will report back to the Council with a final Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan for confirmation at its meeting on 28 September 2010.

Timeframe	Action
18 May 2010	Draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan approved by Council for public consultation
May – 23 July 2010	Submissions period
24 - 26 August 2010	Public hearings and Committee deliberations
28 September 2010	Plan adopted by Council
Early 2011	Minister of Conservation approval

8. Communication

The Committee Chair may wish to issue a statement on the submissions at the completion of deliberations.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Hears** oral submissions and considers all submissions.
4. **Agrees** to make the changes to the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan as set out in Attachment 1 of this report, and additional changes identified by the Committee at this meeting, as a result of consideration of submissions.
5. **Agrees** to delegate to the Committee Chair approval of minor editorial changes to the draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan to be reported to Council.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Sharon Thurlow
Parks Planner, Corporate
Planning

Luke Troy
Manager, Corporate Planning

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement

Attachment 1 Summary of submissions and officers recommendations