

Report 11.242  
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Committee Council  
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## Report of the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan Subcommittee

### 1. Purpose

To provide Council with the recommendations of the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee).

### 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

The Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan (Parks Network Plan) is a management plan for parks and forests owned or managed by Greater Wellington, some of which is held under the Reserves Act 1977.

In December 2010 Council considered the Regional Sustainability Committee's recommendation to adopt the Parks Network Plan (Report 10.658). The Council determined to adopt the Parks Network Plan but retain in draft the provisions of the Plan that provide for a potential wind farm access road in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (Battle Hill). Further, the Council agreed to undertake a further public consultation process on the proposed provisions for a potential wind farm access road and ancillary underground services in Battle Hill.

A Subcommittee, comprised of independent people, was established with the terms of reference to consider both written and oral submissions on the proposed provisions of the Parks Network Plan that provide for a potential wind farm access road, including servicing cables buried beneath the access road, in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (proposed provisions). They were then to prepare a report to Council with recommendations regarding whether the proposed provisions, or any variation to them, should be included in the Parks Network Plan.

The use of independent people for the Subcommittee was to ensure that the process was independent and unfettered by any previous decisions made by Council, including any contractual arrangements entered into by Council. This was an important consideration for the submitters and the Ombudsman.

#### **4. Submissions**

Twenty two submissions were received on the issue of provisions for wind farm access and ancillary underground services through Battle Hill. All but one of the submissions opposed the potential access road and its inclusion in the plan. The remaining submitter was from the potential developer of the Puketiro wind farm.

The Subcommittee received copies of the full submissions, including past submissions made on this issue to the Regional Sustainability Committee in 2010.

Oral submissions were heard on 7 April 2011, with nine submitters attending.

#### **5. Decision by Council**

The report of the Subcommittee is attached as **Attachment 1**. The Subcommittee is recommending that the draft provisions of the Parks Network Plan be confirmed. It is also recommended that some additional wording be added to policies in section 6.2.4 of the Plan to give clear direction to any future access track construction.

The Council is now required to consider whether to accept the recommendations of the Subcommittee. At this juncture the Council has the choice of accepting the recommendations in full or re-hearing the submissions before making a final decision.

#### **6. Communications**

Submitters will be contacted individually by letter to advise them of the outcome of their submission and the decision of Council.

The Ombudsman will be supplied with a copy of the Subcommittee's report.

#### **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council*

1. ***Receives*** the report from the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan Subcommittee.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Agrees*** to amend the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan in accordance with the recommendations of the Subcommittee.
4. ***Approves*** the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan, as amended.

5. *Agrees that the amended sections of the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan shall take effect immediately.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1:** Report of the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan Subcommittee.