



Report 07.341
Date 12 June 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 8 June 2007. (*Attachments 1 and 2*).

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

As the financial year draws to a close, the Parks' report indicates the change from the summer and early autumn period when recreational activities were more prominent to the winter maintenance period.

A considerable effort is required to plant some 40,000 plants in the parks over a year and also carry out the other activities.

There has been some movement with regard to the possibility of the Council taking over management and control of the Whitireia Park and it is likely a report will be brought to the Landcare Committee in the next few months. With regard to the Whareroa Farm, the Department of Conservation is still

assessing the best long-term outcome for the land and it could be some time before it is in a position to offer management and control to the Council. A verbal update will be given at the committee meeting.

A separate report outlines the process for hearing submissions for the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan. The report is largely procedural.

The Council has no option but to work through a process for the Waitangirua Farm to become a reserve. This is a requirement of the Government when it agreed to part-fund the cost of purchasing the farm. In a separate report, it is recommended that the Council consults with the public about classifying the land as a recreation reserve.

Over the years, the Hutt City Council has agreed to grant this Council management and control over a number of parcels of land it owns so that they could become part of the regional parks. It is therefore very appropriate that the Council can reciprocate to Hutt City's request for an area of land in Wainuiomata which will form part of their Garden of Remembrance. A separate report outlines the proposal.

It is some years since the Council's bylaws for the Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests were last reviewed and report 07.338 sets out the process for carrying out a review.

4.2 Marketing and Design

The Marketing and Design Manager, in her report, has answered comments raised at the last committee meeting regarding the Pathway Trust proposal for cycleways, walkways and bridle ways on the Kapiti Coast. It is unfortunate that the Trust chose to launch this initiative, which has merit, without discussing the issue with the senior managers within this Division. While there is a proposal for these types of paths through Queen Elizabeth Park, they will have to fit within the context of the Parks Management Plan.

Last Wednesday and Friday, Arbor Day plantings were held at Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. The weather was kind for both days which no doubt added to the enjoyment for those who attended these celebrations.

At the last committee meeting, the issue of constructing a train platform at Mackays Crossing was raised. The Public Transport Division has suggested a platform would cost \$700,000 and a subway approximately \$600,000. In addition, there would be track work alterations to be carried out by ONTRACK and some miscellaneous costs. It is suggested that if the committee wishes to proceed further with this idea, the issue is referred to the Passenger Transport Committee with a request it is investigated as part of the Western Corridor Rail Strategy.

5. Communication

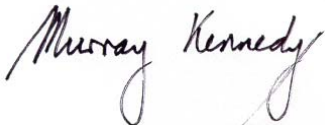
No communications are needed apart from contacting the Pathway Trust.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:



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Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1: Manager, Parks report for period ended 8 June 2007

Attachment 2: Manager, Marketing and Design report for period ended 8 June 2007