



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

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## Environment Committee

Thursday 21 October 2021, 9.30am

Remotely, via Microsoft Teams

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### Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Hughes

Cr Laban

Cr Lee

Cr Ponter

Cr van Lier

Barbie Barton

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Brash

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Lamason

Cr Nash

Cr Staples

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council**

# Environment Committee

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Thursday 21 October 2021, 9.30am

Remotely, via Microsoft Teams

## Public Business

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2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
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4.	<a href="#">Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 16 September 2021</a>	21.431	3
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6.	Farming Reference Group Update	Oral report	
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10.	<a href="#">Plan Changes 2022 – Update on Work Programme and Natural Resources Plan Change 2</a>	21.474	62
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12.	Whaitua Process Update	Oral report	
13.	Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary Update	Oral report	
14.	<a href="#">Crown Funded Projects and Programmes Update – October 2021</a>	21.485	101



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 21 October 2021.

Report 21.431

## Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 16 September 2021

All members participating remotely via Microsoft Teams at 9.30am.

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### Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)  
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Blakeley  
Councillor Brash  
Councillor Hughes  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand (until 12.26pm)  
Councillor Laban  
Councillor Lamason  
Councillor Lee (until 12.18pm)  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ponter  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor van Lier

All members participated at this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams and counted for the purpose of quorum as per clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

### Public Business

#### 1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

#### 2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

### **3 Public participation**

A group of residents from Mangaroa spoke to the Committee.

John Hill spoke on the historical background of the Mangaroa Valley.

Bob Anker spoke on people and communication.

Stacey Jack-Kino spoke to the residents' perspective.

**Noted:** With regards to the concerns raised by the Mangaroa residents, the Committee requested officers:

- engage with Mr Hill and visit his property to understand and provide advice on the consenting requirements for clearing drains
- provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting addressing the Mangaroa residents' concerns.

### **4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 August 2021 - Report 21.371**

Moved: Cr Lamason / Cr Brash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 August 2021 as corrected - Report 21.371.

The motion was **carried**.

### **5 Update on progress of action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – September 2021 - Report 21.421 [For Information]**

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, spoke to the report. The attachment to the report was tabled.

### **6 Environment/Catchment update – Report 21.412 [For Information]**

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, and Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that a summary of Department of Conservation pest control activities in the Wellington Region be provided, and that the Department of Conservation be invited to present to the Committee on their activities in the Region.

The Committee Chair advised, in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.6, that there will be an update on the Farming Sector, which was not on the agenda.

### **7 Farming Sector Update – Oral Report**

Barbie Barton provided an update on the farming and rural sector.

Ms Barton advised that it is proving to be a difficult season with little grass growth. Demand for feed is high.

Ms Barton discussed the setting up of a steering group, which received funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries to support the set up and structures for catchment groups. The funding provided will be used for research into what is needed out of the catchment groups and to appoint a coordinator.

Ms Barton acknowledged David Boone and the team for the riparian planting.

Ms Barton also raised concern about the Wairarapa Water resilience and how this can be future proofed.

Ms Barton also requested that Greater Wellington restart testing on the carcasses of possums for TB.

The meeting adjourned at 10.54am and resumed at 11.06am.

## **8 Whaitua process update – Oral Report**

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager – Whaitua, updated the Committee on the progress of the whaitua implementation programmes (WIPs).

Mr Sharp advised the Committee the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahi o te Wai will be presented to Council on 23 September 2021. The content is final but the final published version is not yet ready. Hutt City, Upper Hut City and Wellington City Councils are scheduled to receive the two documents as well. There will be a soft release until the design version is ready for publishing. The Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee will have a final meeting to close the process off, and this will be on Matiu/Somes Island.

Planning is underway for the Kāpiti Coast and Wairarapa Eastern Hills WIPs. It is expected that these WIP journeys will be shorter because of where the maturity of the process of thinking about water is at.

## **9 Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.409**

Al Cross, General Manager Environment Management, introduced the report. Gareth Edwards, Project Manager – Whaitua Implementation, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Kirk-Burnnand / Cr Brash

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that a review has been undertaken on the business process for the implementation of WIPs.
- 2 Notes that the primary recommendation from the review is to articulate non-regulatory recommendations as tangible deliverables that can be commissioned through a project framework.
- 3 Notes that this will be the basis of better progress reporting in future.
- 4 Notes that a number of other improvements have been identified, including to governance and reporting.

- 5 Requests that officers report back to the Committee with an update on WIP implementation improvements including governance arrangements.
- 6 Requests officers to prepare a report for the Wairarapa Committee setting out a potential whitua implementation governance role.
- 7 Requests officers to work with Porirua City Council to report back on the status of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan and local governance arrangements for its implementation.

The motion was **carried**.

#### **10 Regional Annual Asset Management Report 20/21 – Report 21.397**

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, introduced the report.  
Jacky Cox, Section Leader, Operations Planning, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Lamason

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that at the 3 August 2021 Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee and the Wairarapa River scheme committee meetings held between 25 May 2021 and 13 August 2021, that the committees were satisfied that flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets for these catchments have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.
- 2 Agrees that the flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets on the 15 schemes across the Wellington Region have been satisfactorily assessed and that identified issues are being addressed through work programmes.

The motion was **carried**.

#### **11 Floodplain Management Planning Implementation Annual Report – Report 21.316 [For information]**

Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, spoke to the report.

Councillor Lee left the meeting at 12.18pm at the conclusion of the above item and did not return.

#### **12 Wainuiomata Mainland Island Sanctuary update – Oral Report**

Councillor Nash spoke to the report.

Councillor Kirk-Burnnand left the meeting at 12.26pm at the conclusion of the above item and did not return.

#### **13 Transmission Gully update – Oral Report**

Shaun Andrewartha and Richard Percy spoke to the report.

Mr Andrewartha advised that they are continuing the close out tasks for the project. There is a need to determine whether these tasks are regulatory or project contract requirements. The tasks can be categorised into four categories: storm water, planting mitigation, legal protections, retrospective consenting.

The more progress is made, the clearer the situation becomes that the tasks will not be completed prior to opening. Officers are looking at what tasks needs to be completed prior to road opening and what can wait.

Mr Andrewartha advised the Committee that officers will continue to engage with the project team, but the ability to meet timelines relies on the continued good and timely information.

**14 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – Report 21.423 [For Information]**

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, advised the Committee that Tim Porteous, Manager Biodiversity, is retiring on 6 October 2021. The Committee acknowledged Mr Porteous' work and support to the Environment Committee over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

## **Karakia whakamutunga**

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 12.47pm

Councillor P Gaylor

**Chair**

Date:

**Environment Committee**  
**21 October 2021**  
**Report 21.456**



**For Information**

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS – OCTOBER 2021**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

**Purpose**

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the progress of action items arising from previous Committee meetings.

**Te horopaki**

**Context**

2. Items raised at Committee meetings, that require actions by officers, are listed in the table of action items from previous Committee meetings ([Attachment 1](#) - Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – October 2021). All action items include an outline of the current status and a brief comment.

**Ngā hua ahumoni**

**Financial implications**

3. There are no financial implications from this report, but there may be implications arising from the actions listed.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

4. Completed items will be removed from the action items table for the next report. Items not completed will continue to be progressed and reported. Any new items will be added to the table following this Committee meeting and circulated to the relevant business group/s for action.



**Ngā āpitihanga  
Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – October 2021

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatory**

Writers	Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao/General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua/General Manager, Catchment Management
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<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Known implications for Māori are identified to the extent advised in Attachment 1.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Action items contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies and plans to the extent identified in Attachment 1.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>There was no additional internal consultation in preparing this report and updating the action items.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no known risks or impacts.</p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and comment</b>
18 February 2021	<p><b>Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects – progress update – Report 21.51</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That the Committee requests officers to explore and report back to Council of a targeted rate to support predator free efforts in the Wellington City and the viability of inclusion in the draft Long Term Plan consultation document.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>Discussed at Council Workshop on 27 May.</p> <p>Regional Pest Management funding review workshop for 28 October 2021.</p>
1 April 2021	<p><b>Transmission Gully Project</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>The General Manager, Environment Management, will provide Councillors with the Transmission Gully Project mitigation planting plans within Belmont Regional Park.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Completed</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>The information requested may encompass a significant amount of work to collate.</p> <p>Councillors were consulted suggesting a meeting with officers to work through information required.</p> <p>A report was prepared for 16 September 2021 committee meeting.</p>
12 May 2021	<p><b>Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.167</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That the Committee requests officers to prepare two reports, with input from mana whenua, assessing Greater Wellington’s progress against Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Ruamāhanga WIPs, including current gaps.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>This action is superseded by the new approach which will assess each recommendation in detail, including identifying non-regulatory deliverables, and providing cost/resource estimates and prioritisation for those deliverables. These assessments will be subject to approval by local whaitua based governance groups.</p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and comment</b>
		<p>Mana whenua representation will be included in local whitua based governance groups.</p> <p>Detailed reporting will become available as these assessments are completed.</p>
12 May 2021	<p><b>Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.167</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That the Committee requests officers to assess the resourcing implications of fully implementing the Whaitua Implementation Programme recommendations for which Greater Wellington is responsible.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>This action is superseded by the new approach which will assess each recommendation in detail, including identifying non-regulatory deliverables, and providing cost/resource estimates and prioritisation for those deliverables. These assessments will be subject to approval by local whitua based governance groups.</p> <p>These assessments will identify lead organisations and will allow the cost of Greater Wellington led deliverables to be identified for each WIP.</p>
12 May 2021	<p><b>Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.167</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That the Committee requests officers to advise on the ongoing implications for Whaitua implementation of the Resource Management and Three Waters reform programmes, and the Local Government Review.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>Item to be prepared for the December Environment Committee meeting.</p>
17 June 2021	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>The Committee requested that Councillors Ponter and Gaylor speak</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Completed</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and comment</b>
	during the public forum on Canada Geese and pest management at a Kāpiti Coast District Council meeting.	Meeting between between Crs Ponter and Gaylor and Mayor Gurunathan occurred on 20 September 2021.
17 June 2021	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>The Committee requested that officers investigate what modifications have been done in the Queen Elizabeth Park area, and where they sit in the Parks Network Plan for wetland restoration.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>No physical modification works are currently underway.</p> <p>All wetland restoration work at present is focussed on research into the peat areas and hydrology.</p> <p>This will all inform a wetland restoration plan for the wetland/peatland restoration This is consistent with actions A327 (part) A328, A329, A330, A331 contained within the PNP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A concept plan for the wetland/peatland area has been provided to the Parks Planner and GW Environmental Science, for review</li> <li>• Discussions have been had on how to manage the gorse.</li> </ul>
17 June 2021	<p><b>Whaitua Implementation Programme – action planning – Report 21.242</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That the Committee requested that officers report to the Committee, identifying specific gaps in the current responses to whaitua implementation programme recommendations, including in relation to recommendations that sit with organisations other than Greater Wellington.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>This action is superseded by the new approach which will assess each recommendation in detail, including identifying non-regulatory deliverables, and providing cost/resource estimates and prioritisation for those deliverables. These assessments will be subject to</p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and comment</b>
		<p>approval by local whitua based governance groups.</p> <p>These assessments will identify and agree the lead agency for each deliverable yet to be implemented.</p>
<p>12 August 2021</p>	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>The Committee requested that officers: engage with residents on their concerns and regularly provide updates to residents on progress made on addressing these</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Meeting arranged with small group of residents for 8 October to progress issues.</p>
	<p>Address the questions raised in the handout tabled by Ms Hill on half of the Mangaroa residents.</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>The General Manager has been liaising with Mr Hill around his concerns. These conversations are currently ongoing.</p>
<p>16 September 2021</p>	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>With regards to the concerns raised by the Mangaroa residents, the Committee requested officers: engage with Mr Hill and visit his property to understand and provide advice on the consenting requirements for clearing drains</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Email correspondence between Greater Wellington and Mr Hill looking to provide a pathway to addressing issues on the Hill's property.</p>
	<p>Provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting addressing the Mangaroa residents' concerns.</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Update to be provided</p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

Meeting date	Action	Status and comment
16 September 2021	<p><b>Environment/Catchment update – Report 21.412</b></p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>The Committee requested that a summary of Department of Conservation pest control activities in the Wellington Region be provided, and that the Department of Conservation be invited to present to the Committee on their activities in the Region.</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>DoC officers will attend 21 October meeting.</p>
16 September 2021	<p><b>Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.409</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>Requests that officers report back to the Committee with an update on WIP implementation improvements including governance arrangements.</p>	<p><b>Status:</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>A report is being prepared for the Wairarapa Committee meeting 7 December regarding providing a local whaitua governance function.</p> <p>Meetings have taken place and are continuing with Nigel Clarke at Porirua City Council re potential options.</p> <p>A Greater Wellington officials WIP implementation programme steering group is planned, which would provide General Manager level oversight of Greater Wellington led deliverables and of the programme generally.</p> <p>A programme plan has been drafted which will formalise the programme approach. This includes differentiating governance responsibilities between local whaitua governance and the Greater Wellington steering group</p>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.456**

**Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status and comment</b>
	Requests officers to prepare a report for the Wairarapa Committee setting out a potential whitua implementation governance role.	<b>Status:</b> Ongoing <b>Comment:</b> Reports being prepared.
	Requests officers to work with Porirua City Council to report back on the status of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan and local governance arrangements for its implementation.	<b>Status:</b> Ongoing <b>Comment:</b> The Programme Manager, Gareth Edwards, met with Nigel Clarke on 8 October at Porirua City Council. A further meeting, including Al Cross and Matt Hickman, is scheduled for 19 October to discuss this action.



**Environment Committee**  
**21 October 2021**  
**Report 21.471**



**For information**

**ENVIRONMENT/CATCHMENT UPDATE**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

**Purpose**

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

**Te horopaki**

**Context**

***Regional issues***

2. Recloaking Papatūānuku Restoration Plan – Parks have contracted Ground Truth and PLACE Consulting to undertake this work across the parks network that will provide a roadmap for restoration. The first workshop with Greater Wellington staff was held in September 2021 and Parks are working closely with Te Hunga Whiriwhiri on partnering with mana whenua through this process.
3. Environment Court Hearings for the proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) appeals are currently scheduled for the weeks of 29 November and 6 December 2021. There is still the potential for some matters to be resolved ahead of the Hearing with a fifth conferencing session of planning experts scheduled for later in October 2021.
4. A letter from Council was sent to the Minister of Conservation on 4 October 2021 expressing concern over the lack of central government alignment of national policy; specifically related to the PNRP appeals and National Policy Statement-Freshwater Management (NPS-FW) 2020 implementation.
5. Wetlands continue to feature prominently in the Consenting, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement space. Environmental Regulation staff are involved in a number of investigations, prosecutions and other regulatory actions relating to wetlands across the Region. We have a variety of hearings over the next six weeks including appeals to abatements, enforcement order hearings, and prosecution sentencing.
6. The Government has been consulting on a number of freshwater implementation regulations. We have prepared Council submissions in response, with input from the Farming Reference Group. The consultation documents are:
  - a Freshwater farm plan regulations: submitted 7 October 2021
  - b Changes to the low slope map for stock exclusion regulations: submitted 7 October 2021

- c Changes to intensive winter grazing regulations: submitted 7 October 2021
  - d Changes to the wetlands regulations: due 27 October 2021.
7. A Council workshop on 5 October 2021 provided initial feedback on the wetlands regulations. We have now prepared a draft submission which will be discussed at an Environment Committee workshop on 21 October 2021.
  8. The Environment Select Committee (the Select Committee) has finished hearing submitters on the Natural and Built Environment Bill exposure draft. The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament by 22 October 2021.
  9. The issues with resource consent non-compliance at Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) also continues. Work with the territorial authorities (TAs) and Wellington Water Limited (WWL) is ongoing to assist them putting in place frameworks for achieving compliance. Further enforcement action is being considered in instances of significant non-compliance, depending on the situation and severity of potential impacts.
  10. A regional threat listing process for fish in the Wellington Region was recently completed. Eight of the 22 species present in the Region were determined to have a greater threat status than the national status. These species are; short-jaw kokopu, brown mudfish, giant kokopu, giant bully, redfin bully, common smelt, black flounder and grey mullet. In most cases, the difference in threat status was due to concerns about the rate of decline of these fish populations in the Region.
  11. Greater Wellington officers are continuing to work through the consenting and compliance tasks linked to Transmission Gully road opening, including retrospective consenting and approvals. We are trying to get a clear understanding from the Project parties of the approvals programme leading up to road opening (new date still to be confirmed) and to the completion of construction. Onsite compliance monitoring continues and a number of incidents are under investigation.
  12. Flood Protection's flood response and warning programme is continuing to train duty officers, with a modified approach due to COVID-19. The intention is to train and exercise all duty officers by Christmas 2021. The work streams for phase 2 of the flood forecasting project have been agreed and supporting resources are being procured.
  13. Flood Protection are working with the Strategy Group to develop a regional flood vulnerability assessment that will inform the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment.
  14. Flood Protection have teamed up with Environmental Science to deliver a five year improvements programme for the flood monitoring network. This will directly support the achievement of stated whaitua objectives.
  15. Land Management winter planting programmes including hill country erosion treatment and riparian enhancement, were completed by late September 2021 across the Region despite COVID-19 alert level delays.

*Iwi Partnership with catchment operation*

16. In 2020 Land Management begin directing a portion of its Hill Country Erosion funding to provide the two Wairarapa iwi, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa to enable their organisations to provide staff resource to build partnership with Greater

Wellington in delivering the current hill country erosion programme and to enable strategic planning for future design of remedial programmes to address catchment environmental priorities. Work is continuing across the three focus areas of this project including:

- a Engage in a mutual knowledge exchange training programme between Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Greater Wellington Land Management Team.
  - b Developing and implementing a succession plan for Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa that builds on key marae-based work programmes.
  - c Supporting better working relationship between Land Management and Iwi/Maori
17. Recent highlights of this work include the development of training media for the Greater Wellington staff in modular (starting at the atua and working down from there) form covering Mātauranga Māori insight, scientific, and Māori Q & A documents. Mentorship to help implement the succession plan, supported by resources provided to Marae and Hapu outlining “Why are we (Iwi and Land Management) doing the project” and “What does the Land Management Team do, who are they, and how can mana whenua be involved.” Along with a strengthening of relationships between Greater Wellington staff and the Iwi liaison to facilitate two way knowledge sharing and learning.

#### ***Whaitua-specific issues***

##### *Te Whanganui-a-Tara*

18. A second planting day held at Parangarahu Lakes in association with Rōpū Tiaki/Taranaki Whānui, was a success. This helped Greater Wellington get plants in the ground that were delayed from planting due to COVID-19 alert level restrictions.
19. The Hem of Remutaka (Jobs for Nature) now has a Kaitiaki Ranger on board through Conservation Volunteers NZ. Kirihi Nohotima-Hunia from Taranaki Whānui has spent several days with Greater Wellington Park Ranger Jo Greenman and also with Department of Conservation (DoC) rangers on Kapiti Island, as he learns about his new role.
20. Meetings are scheduled for October, November and December 2021 of the Plan Change Working Group of the Environment Committee and will cover development of issues, options and proposed approach across a number of the work-streams.
21. Following preparation of material for a factsheet about wetlands distributed to Mangaroa residents, the Greater Wellington website has been updated with a new wetlands landing page: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/wetlands>. This page contains key messages about what to do if you have a wetland on your property and how Greater Wellington can assist.
22. Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai were received by Council on 23 September 2021. Response is being drafted by officers for the 9 December 2021 Council meeting. Project debrief is underway to develop lessons for future whaitua with advice from mana whenua. City Councils are due to receive the two documents in October/ November 2021. The launch event has been confirmed for 9 November 2021.

23. The submission period for the RiverLink resource consent has closed with 123 submissions received. The applicants have now requested that the application be directly referred to the Environment Court to determine.
24. The resource consent for earthworks at Shelly Bay has been received. This has generated significant public interest and enquiries. A website has been set up to assist with communications to the public <http://www.gw.govt.nz/shellybay>.
25. Dotterel protection season is in full swing at Baring Head and on the Pencarrow coast, with the intensification of predator control at this time of year
26. A Wallaby found on State Highway 2 in Kaitoke has sparked an incursion response, with day inspections, eDNA water test, night searches and trail camera installation, with no further signs of wallaby “incursion” found. The dama wallaby was found to be shot, and it is most likely a dumped animal that someone has shot and brought back from the Bay of Plenty region
27. The Biosecurity team continue to respond to possible toxic possum carcasses on beaches and Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River following flood events that moved them down the river from Akatarawa forest following the aerial 1080 operation.
28. The new biocontrol agent for old man’s beard (OMB), OMB mite (imported from Serbia) has been released in Wellington City sites and in several sites in the Wairarapa.
29. Staff are still battling with the persistent pockets of ship rat activity in Miramar while preparations are in full swing for the second phase of the Predator Free Wellington project in the CBD to Island Bay with more than 3000 residents signed up for access to install gear. A number of large business sites are involved to develop rat eradication plans (e.g, Zoo, Wellington Hospital, Premier House).
30. Flood Protection in partnership with Hutt City Council (HCC) and WWL completed a series of community engagement sessions across Lower Hutt to support the district plan review and updated hazard mapping projects, Further work is required with Upper Hutt to schedule similar public engagement events.

#### *Ruamāhanga*

31. For the progress on the Plan Change Working Group of the Environment Committee refer to paragraph 14 above.
32. The Wairarapa Committee and Farming Reference Group covered some items of common interest to Environment Committee including the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy, Wairarapa water storage, wetlands, testing freshwater implementation submissions to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and an appeals update on the PNRP.
33. A major climate report on Wairarapa climate change was released, along with an accompanying video that highlights the projected rising temperatures and intensification of extreme weather events. There was good media coverage of the information provided and the high resolution maps are a useful resource.
34. With regards to Wairarapa Territorial Authority Stage 1 stormwater consenting, some good progress has been made on a draft consent application with Masterton District Council (MDC), and pre-application meetings have been held with consultants working

for South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC). Both of MDC and SWDC should have their resource consent applications in before the PNRP deadline of the end of the year.

35. Land based gravel extraction still remains a critical issue. Since the previous report, the Wairarapa TAs have had a legal opinion, which we understand indicates that land use consent should be required from them for quarry activities under the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. This is a positive step for residents as it will mean that issues of concern for them will now hopefully be controlled through consent conditions (if granted). It will also mean that a joint resource consent process can be run between Greater Wellington and TAs if consents are needed under both plans. This joint process is something that officers will be advocating for.
36. An emerging issue for water take consent renewals is that we now need to assess if there is a wetland within 100 metres of the take and of the irrigation area. For farms that have water takes that are impacting on wetland hydrology (draining them or putting more water on them) it could result in a situation where areas are now unable to be irrigated, take points needing to be moved or complicated (notified) consenting processes. Environmental Regulation officers are working closely with Environmental Science and Biodiversity on this issue and at the moment it is an unknown how many, if any, consents could end up either notified or requiring land to cease being irrigated.
37. Predator control in Pukaha buffer and Wairarapa Key Native Ecosystems is now underway.
38. Completion of rook nest surveys indicate similar rookery numbers to last year. Staff are planning for control work in second part of October 2021.
39. Hearings for the Waiohine River Plan have been on hold with the higher COVID-19 alert levels but with the lifting of gathering restrictions we are seeking to progress with hearings ahead of plan adoption in quarter 2.

#### *Supporting Catchment Communities*

40. Work continues across a range of Greater Wellington activities that is aimed at supporting community groups to establish, develop systems and perform as a group towards better coordination of multi-stakeholder support for delivering environmental outcomes in their catchments. Below is a brief summary of recent activities support by Land Management staff.
41. Good progress has been made with the Beef + Lamb NZ kickstart pilot. Three groups are engaged in the development of their catchment actions plans within this pilot and will complete the process in October.
42. A Catchment Coordinator has been engaged to support the Wakamoekau catchment community (west of Masterton) to develop a catchment plan and build capability within the group to take over leadership in the longer term.
43. A case study on the Wainuioru River Care Community Group and a catchment group resource pack has been developed with work now underway with external stakeholders to explore expanding the resource to other catchment groups and/or other regions.
44. Officers helped facilitate or attended meetings for Ruakokoputuna, Upper Waipoua, Parkvale, Wainuioru, Whangaehu, Wakamoekau and Ahiaruhe catchments over recent

weeks. It is encouraging to see the momentum build within the communities for this approach to environmental management.

#### *Te Awarua-o-Porirua*

45. Restoration Plan for Waitangirua and Kilmister areas (West/East Belmont Regional Park) has been awarded to Cardno. This work is funded through Greater Wellington's Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF).
46. For the progress on the Plan Change Working Group of the Environment Committee refer to paragraph 14 above.
47. Hearings on Porirua City Council's Proposed District Plan are underway. There are eight topic-based Hearing Streams established, which will run sequentially out to June 2022. Greater Wellington will likely be presenting at most if not all Hearing Streams. Hearing Stream 1, completed 29 September 2021, focussed on strategic objectives (especially how a District Plan should give effect to the NPS-FM). Hearing Stream 2 will start on 29 October, covering the natural environment and tangata whenua topics.
48. The installation of replacement signage on Titahi Bay Beach, outlining the PNRP provisions to protect the Fossil Forest, has caused some controversy and media attention. Work continues with community groups and Porirua City Council, who are just beginning consultation on their Transport Bylaws which will complement the PNRP provisions.
49. Pre-application advice has begun with Porirua City Council (PCC) regarding the Spicer Landfill Project (landfill expansion within PCC property). PCC are planning to lodge a consent application and notice of requirement in June 2022.
50. 1380 submissions were received on the Porirua wastewater treatment plant discharge consent application. A summary of submissions is being prepared. Technical experts are reviewing the consent application documents and matters raised by submitters.
51. Regular predator control work in selected key native ecosystem (KNE) sites continues as scheduled, with some delays due to COVID-19 alert level restrictions.
52. Ngāti Toa Rangatira are involved in all aspects of the Te Awarua o Porirua whitua Community Environment Fund this year. Ngāti Toa Rangatira were involved in all site visits and will have equal representation on the decision making group to allocate the fund with 11 applications having been received.
53. Following the July 2021 Flood Event Flood Protection are working with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and PCC to update the flood trigger levels and flood procedures for the Porirua catchment.

#### *Kāpiti Coast*

54. Parks staff put in a huge effort to get 5,000 natives planted at Queen Elizabeth Park in September 2021, after the SpadeAid event scheduled for the public was cancelled due to COVID-19 alert level restrictions.
55. Planning for the Kāpiti whitua is underway. New Terms of Reference need to be developed in consultation with mana whenua and Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and brought to Council for adoption. Initial meetings have been held with KCDC to discuss scope, timeframes, resourcing and Tiriti House approach.

- 56. KCDC are submitting technical assessments that will support the consent application for the Paraparaumu wastewater treatment plant discharge consent application (renewal) to Greater Wellington in October 2021 for comment. The consent application is due to be lodged late December 2021.
- 57. Rabbit enquiries and pre-planting protection works continue, with some big numbers being shot now there are young rabbits around (e.g. 325 were shot in one night from two sites in Waikanae and 245 shot in one night from two properties in Reikōrangī).
- 58. Pest plants staff are working with the Ministry for Primary Industries and DoC to control sea spurge incursion at two sites on the Kapiti Coast and have completed control operations of Senegal tea.
- 59. Flood Protection officers are working with Ngāti Kapu on a flood risk management strategy for the Waitohu. We have secured a consultant to provide support to the project and will be modelling options developed by Ngāti Kapu and the community.

*Wairarapa Coast and Eastern Hills*

- 60. Completion of rook nest surveys indicate similar rookery numbers to last year. Staff are planning for control work in the second part of October 2021.
- 61. Doterel protection season is in full swing at Riversdale, with the intensification of predator control at this time of year
- 62. Boneseed surveys and control have been completed around Riversdale

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Approvers	Shaun Andrewartha, Acting General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management
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<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation work programmes of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Greater Wellington, is required to manage land and water within the statutory requirements of a range of legislation, which requires giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai, and consideration of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the development and implementation of the Council's strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives.</p> <p>Implementation with mana whenua partners is guided by Te Whāriki – the new Māori Outcomes Framework as part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Development and implementation of related work programmes falls under the core activities of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>This report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial, and HSW risks and implications are associated.</p>



Environment Committee  
21 October 2021  
Report 21.427



For Decision

## MANAGING REGIONAL PARK LAND IN SUPPORT OF THE TOITŪ TE WHENUA VISION - BARING HEAD/ŌRUA-POUANUI

Te take mō te pūrongo

### Purpose

1. To advise of the preparation of a new short-term, reduced impact stock grazing licence at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, East Harbour Regional Park, prior to Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF) restoration of native vegetation.

He tūtohu

### Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Notes** the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Restricted Activity assessment and recommendations, inclusive of high level option and benefit analysis as outlined in Attachment 1.
2. **Approves** the preparation of a new 13-month, commercial stock grazing licence at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, East Harbour Regional Park, and a period of one month public consultation on it. This will continue current land management practices, but with reduced impacts, prior to native vegetation restoration processes commencing in 2023. It is proposed that this licence conclude on 31 January 2023 to coincide with the agricultural cycle and winter planting season. It will not have renewal provisions.
3. **Notes** that in accordance with Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan 2020-30 policy and rules, an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) will be prepared to guide preparation of the licence and its operating conditions in support of overall impact reduction.
4. **Notes** that consultation will be undertaken with mana whenua and key park stakeholders on the proposal prior to the future presentation of a proposed short term stock grazing licence agreement for Council approval.
5. **Notes** that this is the first part of the process. Section 74 of the Reserves Act provides for temporary grazing licences (up to 10 years), to be granted over a wide range of reserves including Scenic Reserves. Public notice is required in accordance with section 119; and full consideration given to all objections and submissions in relation to the proposal in accordance with section 120. Council approval for the licence will then be sought.

## Te tāhū kōrero

### Background

2. Toitū Te Whenua, the management plan for regional parks was adopted by Council on 10 December 2020. The Plan's vision is '**Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of nature and people**'. Five 'key shifts' are identified to support realisation of the vision:
  - a 'Focusing on restoring natural values across the network including wetlands'. Phasing out most livestock grazing to enable this.
  - b 'Improving access to, within and across parks'. Making it easier for more people to access and enjoy parks.
  - c 'Developing key destinations in parks to focus work efforts to support high quality recreation experiences'. This includes storytelling, nature play, adaptive reuses of facilities for recreation & conservation.
  - d 'Building on collaborative work with mana whenua partners and community conservation & recreation groups' to achieve greater benefits from parks together.
  - e 'Building our response to climate change into more of the things we do in parks' by minimising emissions, utilising highly sustainable solutions and education activities.
3. Toitū Te Whenua, in its vision, goals, actions and rules has a 'benefits based approach' at its core. The health of the environment and people of Wellington are the beneficiaries. The Plan Policies and Rules set a number of new requirements to help ensure the environment and people benefit. **Attachment 1** explores benefits in relation to the grazing proposal.
4. Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) process applies to grazing activities, and new stock grazing licences must be in accordance with Policies 17P, 18P, 19P and 20P. Of these policies, 17P identifies 'To phase out livestock grazing (except Battle Hill) unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant nett recreation, conservation or community benefits, with full public access maintained'. The Plan allows for small-scale grazing for open space management where nett benefits are identified, supported by an AEE process.
5. The Plan identifies stock grazing as a 'Restricted' high impact activity and creates a 'level playing field' for Greater Wellington's own land management practices. AEE and benefit consideration is now required for all high (and medium) impact activities; the same as requirements for external party proposals. The Restricted Activity assessment for this proposal is outlined in **Attachment 1**. Whilst nett benefits, as per Policy 17P, have not been demonstrated, the proposal is the interim step towards ceasing grazing in full in 2023.

### *Long Term Plan (LTP)*

6. Council adopted the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP) in June 2021. Many public submissions on the LTP supported affirmative climate action, restoration of wetlands and cessation of stock grazing in parks. The LTP set minimum corporate carbon

emissions targets for reducing stock grazing in parks in order to meet the Greater Wellington's Corporate Carbon Neutral by 2030 goal.

7. The minimum targets are 100 hectares of park land per year for three years, then 150 per year for the next six years. This target will see grazing related emissions avoided for 1500 hectares of park land and leave approximately 500 hectares grazed after ten year's; equivalent in size to all of Battle Hill or most of Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP). The LTP minimum targets are based on assumptions about success of restoration plantings and carbon sequestration.
8. The Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan vision focuses on restoration for the health of the people and land. Its directions are more specific than the LTP in order to deliver key benefits for the environment, people and climate as sought through mana whenua and public feedback and Council. The statutory management plan requirements are not discretionary, and will likely see grazing related emissions (and other impacts) reduced at a faster rate than the minimum targets identified in the LTP.

## **Te tātaritanga**

### **Analysis**

9. The primary practice for restoration throughout the Wellington Region and New Zealand is passive restoration; allowing native bush to come back naturally through regeneration processes. This is a low-cost, slow process. The grazed escarpment of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is highly exposed and passive restoration processes could be expected to be even slower. Low Carbon Acceleration Fund (LCAF) funded restoration plantings from 2023 will support Plan goals for improving ecosystem health across this park.
10. In parks such as Whitireia and QEP, grass cutting for hay or baleage has occurred to maintain areas of open space. This method of open space management produces considerably fewer emissions or environment impacts than stock grazing, but is not considered feasible at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui because of the terrain.
11. Fire threat considerations such as the New Zealand Fire and Emergency Plan for the Wellington District are detailed in **Attachment 1**. The regional fire plan identifies that the threat of fire is routinely managed each summer via pre-season preparation, fire season rules, such as prohibition of lighting fires, education activities and emergency response plans. To date grazing has played a significant role in managing the vegetation in the park. In the longer term the right mix of native species will, along with other measures, provide the best fire threat protection.
12. Information and education activities will be important across parks for public awareness and understanding about the landscapes in transition; the habitat and other values they offer and monitoring activities such as moisture content and fine fuel loads (to identify risk levels). A fire threat management plan specific to this park is currently being prepared.
13. The landscape, natural and cultural values of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui have been detailed in a range of heritage reports and plans. The landscape significance of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is identified as of 'outstanding aesthetic value for unhindered views from the lighthouse station of Cook Straight through to the South Island and

across the harbour mouth to south of Wellington'. 'Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington'. New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga (2011).

14. Toitū Te Whenua identifies that the park is important for indigenous birds with nine threatened or at-risk species resident or visiting, and significant habitat for many species of lizard in rock scree and escarpments. Whilst much of the western escarpment has been impacted by stock grazing activities over a long period, the valley escarpment is identified as having very high ecological values containing threatened plant and animal species. Protection of natural values is a core consideration in the AEE.

#### *Proposed new licence agreement*

15. The detail of the proposed new licence is yet to be determined. However, the many existing natural and cultural value reports and AEE will guide the proposal for reduced area grazed and stock types. The west facing escarpment is expected to be the primary area grazed. Additional temporary fencing may be required to ensure protection of the wetland, coastal and river areas from stock impacts. Cattle grazing currently occurs in one paddock on the Wainuiomata river flats. This may continue with reduced stock numbers, be seasonal, change to sheep only, or no longer be grazed. The current licence agreement allows a maximum of 700 stock and doesn't define stock types. Current stock numbers are below this at 460 sheep and 20 cattle.
16. To support the shift towards restoration and minimising impacts, the new licence proposal will have reduced overall maximum stock numbers, define stock types, restrict or no longer allow cattle (subject to AEE), no longer allow cropping on the river flats, maintain full public access, and include additional conditions for the grazing operational plan such as weed and pest animal management and protection of particular values.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni**

#### **Financial implications**

17. Commercial stock grazing licences were introduced for the management of regional park land in 2015. Economic analysis undertaken in 2019 about cash flows from commercial stock grazing licences indicates little net revenue, or no net revenue when the opportunity costs relating to conservation and recreation activities in parks are taken into account, refer **Attachment 1**. The present commercial stock grazing licence at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui returns approximately \$12,000 per annum. Revenue from a new licence agreement will be determined after the nature of the proposal is determined.
18. LCAF funding will enable additional pest plant and animal management prior to restoration plantings of native vegetation at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui in 2023. KNE Programme pest plant and animal threat management work is ongoing in the park.

### **Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**

#### **Consideration of climate change**

19. Stock grazing in regional parks accounts for 20 percent of Greater Wellington's corporate carbon emissions. Consideration of climate change and reduction of

corporate carbon emissions are a core consideration in the Restricted Activity Assessment outlined in **Attachment 1**. At Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui current grazing related emissions are calculated to be 579 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. Once restored to native vegetation, sequestration is estimated at 19,300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, refer **Attachment 1** for details.

20. The Recloning Papatūānuku Restoration Plan, currently being prepared, will guide overall restoration at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui; funded via the LCAF. A reduced grazing area and number of stock is proposed in the new grazing agreement. This will result in a minor emission reduction in the short term.
21. The Actions of Council's Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and corporate carbon emission reduction pathways are key drivers in Restricted Activity Assessment considerations outlined in **Attachment 1**. In particular; Action 1. *Introduce a carbon reduction policy for the organisation. Decisions must consider what impact they will have on the carbon target(s), with a strong bias towards those options that will avoid, reduce or absorb emissions. The carbon reduction policy will be reflected in procurement policy;*  
and Action 8. *Review the future of grazing licences in regional parks as part of the review of the Parks Network Plan and options to use this land for native reforestation where appropriate to earn carbon credits.*

#### **Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process**

22. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.
23. The decision making process followed is prescribed by Sections 74 and 119 and 120 of the Reserves Act 1977, and Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 requirements for Restricted Activities in parks.
24. Under Section 74, Greater Wellington needs to be able to show the granting of a particular licence will:
  - i. support the use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, protection and/or preservation of the reserve
  - ii. support the Section 19(2) principles including:
    - a) the preservation of the natural environment and beauty as far as possible
    - b) freedom of entry and access to the reserve by the public
    - c) where there are geological, biological, historical or other scientific features present (which we understand may be the case here) be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve; and
    - d) to the extent that it is compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water and conservation area is maintained.

The development of the AEE will identify the most appropriate grazing licence area, and its application via licence conditions will support the protection of important values and the transition towards restoration.

25. Under section 74 it is necessary for Greater Wellington to show that the granting of that licence over the particular portion of reserve is necessary or desirable for the protection and well-being of the reserve and the protection and control of the public using it. **Attachment 1** provides an assessment of stock grazing in the park. The recommendations in this assessment are made based on the proposal being part of grazing exit.

### **Te hiranga Significance**

26. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of the matters for decision, taking into account Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines. Officers consider that the matters are of medium significance.
27. The reason for this assessment is that there is significant general public interest and community involvement in supporting restoration work in parks and the reduction of the impacts of stock grazing on the environment. For example, the recent proposal for a new stock grazing licence in QEP received 150 submissions, with 72 percent opposed to the proposal.

### **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

28. Toitū Te Whenua identifies that whilst not all Restricted Activity proposals require general public notification, they all require notification to mana whenua and key stakeholders.
29. The Friends of Baring Head have been consulted about the proposed new short term grazing licence and are supportive. They have worked well with the existing licence holder over the past 10 years, their feedback is summarised in **Attachment 1**. Discussions have not yet been held with mana whenua, Taranaki Whānui, but are planned before the detail of the proposal is finalised and consulted on.

### **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps**

30. Officers will prepare an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) to guide development of the proposal for a new short term stock grazing licence as an interim step towards exiting from grazing as a land management method.
31. Public consultation will take place on the proposal for one month and be reported to Council. Submitters who wish to be heard will be provided with the opportunity to do so. A new grazing licence agreement will then be presented to Council for approval.

**Ngā āpitihanga  
Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Restricted Activity Assessment - Managing land in Regional Parks in support of Toitū Te Whenua vision at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writers	Jimmy Young –Manager, Parks Fiona Colquhoun – Parks Planner, Strategy
Approvers	Jake Gilmer – Manager Corporate and Strategic Planning Shaun Andrewartha – Acting General Manager, Environment Management Luke Troy – General Manager, Strategy

<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>Under the Reserves Act 1977 and Delegations 2013 Council may approve grazing licences on park land managed under this Act.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Engagement with mana whenua is proposed for the new stock grazing licence. Strategic alignment with Te Whāriki, the Maori Outcomes Framework is required.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Alignment with the strategic directions of the LTP, Te Whāriki, the Maori Outcomes Framework and Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan are core considerations in this report and the Restricted Activity Assessment, Attachment 1.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The Restricted Activity Assessment, Attachment 1 was developed with extensive input and peer review by officers in the legal team (and external lawyers), Parks, Environmental Science, Biodiversity and Strategy (climate emergency programme and parks strategy).</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>Failure to act on the strategic directions, policies and rules of Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan, Greater Wellingtons Climate Emergency Action Plan and Te Whariki, the Maori Outcomes Framework could result in reputational risk and undermining of goodwill with mana whenua and park stakeholders dedicated to supporting conservation outcomes.</p> <p>Grazing currently plays a role in managing the seasonal fire threat at Baring Head/Ōruapouanui. Additional management interventions will be needed post grazing to reduce risks and protect visitors, the lighthouse complex buildings and the native restoration plantings completed to date by the Friends of Baring Head.</p>



## Attachment 1 to Report 21.427

### Restricted Activity Assessment

## Managing Regional Park land in support of Toitū Te Whenua vision at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 (Toitū Te Whenua) and Greater Wellington's Climate Emergency Response Plan signals a key shift from high impact activities such as stock grazing to manage regional park land to restoration of native vegetation and low impact activities to manage areas required for open space.

Change of practices in land management is required to achieve the vision of Toitū Te Whenua; ***'Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature'***.

Toitū Te Whenua identifies grazing activities as being in the 'Restricted' category and requires the same process of assessment as other types of restricted activities.

This assessment details guidance from Toitū Te Whenua, the Long Term Plan 2021/31 (LTP), Te Whāriki, Maori Outcomes Framework and other relevant plans and reports to inform the options analysis and recommendations.

There are many ways of managing park land. Other land management tools and options which support the key shift to restoration and low impact land management practice are also explored and considered in the options analysis.

Toitū Te Whenua policies and rules prioritise low impact, high benefit activities over high impact, low benefit activities. Stock grazing is identified as high impact, low benefit activity.

Ideally grazing proposal assessments provide a high-level analysis of options *before* decisions are made on future grazing activities and embarking on Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) processes. However where a current grazing licence exists, and a new licence has been proposed as part of an exit strategy, as is the case at Baring Head/ Ōrua-pouanui, the Restricted Activity Assessment considers this.

Toitū Te Whenua policy 17P is to ***'phase out livestock grazing (except Battle Hill) unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant net recreation, conservation or community benefits'***.

This can occur as grazing licences expire, proactively in full or part, or it may be appropriate for some lower- impact grazing to continue in selected areas as part of an exit strategy or for particular purposes (such as farming education at Battle Hill). New stock grazing proposals must meet Plan policies and demonstrate net benefits.

The current commercial stock grazing licence at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, East Harbour Regional Park (Baring Head) expires on 31 December 2021. It has no right of renewal.

#### 1.1 Summary

Section 11 below provides a land management options and benefit/ impact analysis. The overall assessment has found that net benefits of stock grazing at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui have not been demonstrated. Ideally stock grazing should end at the expiry of the current grazing licence with weed management, pocket plantings and fire threat management activities undertaken until full LCAF restoration planting commences.

## Attachment 1 to Report 21.427

### Restricted Activity Assessment

Information and education activities about land use change will become increasingly important as the grazed areas transition back to native vegetation.

Routine pest plant and animal and very limited fire threat management work already takes place. This includes education activities, fire bans, mowing for asset protection, weed and pest animal management and native vegetation restoration plantings. A new fire threat management plan for the park will identify other management measures.

#### *1.2 Recommendations*

A period of park management land use change transition has been sought as part of a grazing exit strategy, so the following recommendations are made:

1. Develop an AEE (as required by Toitū Te Whenua) to guide preparation of a short term, reduced impact stock grazing licence to allow park management transition as part of a grazing exit strategy
2. Licence conditions and the annual grazing operational plan need to detail a range of protection measures including protection for the park wetlands, significant native species and historic and cultural heritage values, as identified through the AEE (drawing on other plans and policies).
3. Consult with mana whenua and publicly as is required by the Reserves Act
4. End the grazing licence no later than 31 January 2023 to coincide with the planting season and allow the current licence holder to conclude operations for the agricultural season.
5. A fire threat management plan should be developed to support new and routine fire threat management work such as education activities, fire bans, mowing for asset protection and the establishment of native vegetation 'green firebreaks' in key locations in preparation for broader scale restoration work.
6. Information should be developed and published to raise awareness of the nature of landscapes in transition, outline threat and risk reduction practices to inform and reduce fear of fire, and outline the importance of appropriate behaviour, such as not lighting beach fires.

## Attachment 1 to Report 21.427

### Restricted Activity Assessment

## 2. CLIMATE ACTION

### 2.1 Climate emergency declared

In 2019 Council declared a regional climate emergency and formally established a target for Greater Wellington to become carbon neutral by 2030. Two action plans direct climate action across Greater Wellington and the region including regional parks:

The [Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan](#) is a ten-point action plan, with three directly related to reduction of emissions in regional parks:

*Action 1. Introduce a carbon reduction policy for the organisation. Decisions must consider what impact they will have on the carbon target(s), with a strong bias towards those options that will avoid, reduce or absorb emissions. The carbon reduction policy will be reflected in procurement policy.*

*Action 7. Allocate resources to accelerate reforestation planting in regional parks, plan future phases, secure external funding where possible and develop agreements with DOC regarding acquiring carbon credits associated with planting in Queen Elizabeth Park.*

*Action 8. Review the future of grazing leases in regional parks as part of the review of the Parks Network Plan and options to use this land for native reforestation where appropriate to earn carbon credits.*

The [Regional Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) also includes actions relevant to management of regional parks:

*Action 2. Support decision making and policy development by including robust analysis of climate change impacts*

*Action 9. Actively build a regional afforestation brokering role to build partnerships which capitalise on the Billion Trees programme and expand permanent native forests on public and private land*

*Action 10. Embed emissions reductions targets in key programmes and projects to ensure the region contributes to the target of Net Zero New Zealand 2050....*

Emissions in regional parks primarily result from agricultural activities; stock grazing. In 2019-2020 these emissions were 20% of Greater Wellington's corporate emissions.

Toitū Te Whenua identifies 'Climate change impacts for parks include stronger and more frequent storms, higher rainfall levels and intensity, longer periods of drought and potentially more frequent and severe impacts on the natural environment and park infrastructure. Natural environments and plantation forests contribute to capturing and storing carbon. Parks with healthy ecosystems act as natural buffers and carbon stores and have an important role in helping to minimise the effects of climate change' (20210:34).

### 2.2 Carbon emission impacts of stock grazing

Stock grazing is an emitting activity (of the greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide) that can be avoided in full if the activity ceases. Passive and actively restored vegetation will then sequester carbon, another greenhouse gas. Estimates of these emissions from park stock grazed areas are shown in the table below.

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Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced as the areas grazed and stock numbers are reduced, then reversed as reforestation occurs. The sooner this occurs, the greater the contribution it will make to avoiding global warming exceeding 1.5°C, which is the objective of the Paris Agreement and New Zealand’s Zero Carbon Act.

In the broader context, the most emissions from grazing come from Belmont Park and the western park stock grazing licence agreement which ends in 2026. The agreement allows for progressive reduction in grazed areas for recreation and conservation purposes which will reduce emissions. As with any contract, it can be terminated before its end date, for example as a ‘carbon retirement investment’ (refer: [A faster and fairer way to retire carbon-emitting assets | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org)).

Table 1. Emissions and emissions savings for affected areas of parks

Park	2020	Annual grazing emissions	2035 (LTP scenario)	Reduction	Grazing emissions saving/year	Lifetime carbon sequestered if native forest restored
	Ha	tCO2e	Ha	Ha	tCO2e	tCO2e
Baring Head/ Ōruapouanui	129.0	579.6	79.0	50.0	225	19300
Belmont – East	1,065.0	4785.0	65.0	1,000.0	4493	386,000
Belmont - West	116.27	522.4	16.3	100.0	449	38,600
QEP	354.5	1592.8	51.0	303.5	1364	117,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,664.8</b>	<b>7,479.8</b>	<b>211.3</b>	<b>1,453.5</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>561,051</b>

### 2.3 Grazing animals and emissions

The numbers of livestock animals in the table below are based on maximum allowable numbers in existing grazing licenses. Actual livestock stock numbers in parks grazed change constantly as animals are sent to market. Horse grazing numbers remain relatively constant.

Whilst cattle grazing produces significantly more emissions than sheep per head of stock, the density of sheep grazing in regional parks, means that overall emissions from sheep are higher.

Grazing animal type	metric	Total number	tonnes/CO2e/yr/ head	Emissions tCO2e/year
Beef Cattle	head	2097	1.5	3145.5
Horses	head	68	0.45	30.6
Sheep	head	17520	0.30	5320.26
				8496.4

### 2.4 Options to reduce livestock emissions in regional parks

Summarised as:

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- Avoiding emissions in full by ending the use of this legacy land management method (except for specific purposes such as education at Battle Hill)
- Reducing emissions by removing cattle (which also have a higher impact on the environment) from stock grazing agreements, reducing the number of cattle or reducing the periods cattle are grazed on parks (currently all year)
- Reducing emissions from sheep by reducing the numbers of sheep grazed, the periods sheep are grazed on parks (currently it is all year), reducing the areas grazed with stock, or combinations of these options. Toitū Te Whenua allows for small scale grazing where a number of conditions are met (refer Plan rules page 199).

Horse grazing for recreation purposes is identified as a Managed activity in Toitū Te Whenua because it provides people with recreation benefits. Reducing and/or offsetting horse grazing emissions will be explored when new recreation-related horse grazing licence agreements are sought.

### 2.5 Emissions from other land management methods

Stock grazing impacts can be fully avoided if other land management methods for open space maintenance are used.

#### *Grass cutting to hay or silage bales*

In all parks grass mowing takes place to maintain open space entry and amenity areas for recreation purposes. Emissions from amenity area grass mowing are accounted for in Greater Wellington's corporate carbon emissions reporting.

In parks with areas previously grazed, such as Whitireia Park and QEP grass cutting for hay baling or silage/baleage takes place to maintain open space areas for recreation or future restoration. Greater Wellington's climate specialists have advised that evidence has not been found to support there being any methane emissions from the silage/baleage produced as a result of grass cutting into bales. 'MfE does not account for any direct GHG emissions from the fermentation process of making silage in the national GHG inventory. Their agricultural lead there says from his scan of the literature that it does not produce methane. They are not 100% sure about this, but near enough for us to discount it'.

There may however be emissions from the emissions associated with use of fertiliser for growing silage and fuel use for harvesting and turning. Assuming that no fertiliser is used in regional parks to support grass growing for hay or baleage production, this discounts possible fertiliser emissions.

Emissions from fuel use for harvesting was estimated for the 2021 hay cutting and baling at QEP in comparison to sheep/ beef grazing. Emissions from stock grazing is significantly higher than maintaining open space by growing and baling hay:

- 50Ha of sheep and beef grazing is an estimated 225 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e/year from enteric fermentation.
- 50Ha of hay/grass. The carbon in the hay itself is briefly sequestered and a possible minor increase in soil carbon as well as above ground-carbon on the land, but this would be temporary and not counted. Possible emissions from the cutting and baling operation estimating use of 1,000 litres of diesel will result in 2.72 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e of emissions.

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It is possible that some flatter areas at Baring Head could support open space management by tractor mowing or for hay production, but the areas are small (such as river flats and flatter areas of the escarpment).

#### *Restoration of native vegetation by passive and active means*

There are minor, temporary emissions from use of non-electric vehicles and equipment to enable restoration plantings, and pest plant and animal management work. Carbon sequestration from restoration plantings will however far exceed these emissions, which will decrease as more electric vehicles and equipment is used.

The restoration method likely to contribute the highest individual carbon emissions is the use of aeroplanes for aerial seed bombing. This method has not yet been employed by Greater Wellington but may be appropriate in the steep terrain of Belmont Regional Park. Native vegetation on the steep eastern cliffs at Baring Head is passively regenerating with the aid of pest plant and animal management via the KNE programme and Friends group work.

### 3. TOITŪ TE WHENUA PARKS NETWORK PLAN 2020-30

Toitū Te Whenua, the regional parks management plan, was adopted by Council in December 2020. Consultation to develop the Plan included two periods of public consultation with over 700 submissions received. Overall feedback indicated a desire for Greater Wellington to proactively respond to climate change, change high impact land management practices such as stock grazing and focus on restoration work to improve ecosystem health, freshwater quality and recreation experiences, and focus investment on this, supported by threat management for weeds, fire and pest animals.

The Plan's vision '**restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature**' reflects this focus.

Five key shifts in managing regional parks are identified in the Plan:

- **'Focusing on restoring natural values across the network including wetlands'. Phasing out most livestock grazing to enable this**
- 'Improving access to, within and across parks'. Making it easier for more people to access and enjoy parks
- 'Developing key destinations in parks to focus work efforts to support high quality recreation experiences' Storytelling, nature play, adaptive reuses of facilities for recreation & conservation
- 'Building on collaborative work with mana whenua partners and community conservation & recreation groups' - so that we can achieve greater benefits from parks together
- 'Building our response to climate change into more of the things we do in parks'. This means minimising emissions, finding highly sustainable solutions and undertaking education activities about climate action.

Section 2.3 discussed 'Conservation and restoration opportunities and challenges':

*'Phasing out stock grazing and non-recreation related horse grazing in parks (except Battle Hill) is proposed unless conservation and recreation benefits can be demonstrated through environmental impact assessment processes. There may be small areas where it is beneficial for the activity to continue, provided impacts can be avoided, minimised or mitigated.'*

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*Stock grazing has been used historically as a land management tool (via commercial licences) in Belmont, QEP, East Harbour Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui and Kaitoke parks. Restoration work in these parks will be a long-term project, delivering huge benefits for nature and people’.*

In this assessment the regional park collective history of stock grazing is referred to ‘legacy’ management practice, noting that this legacy includes local cultural heritage and people histories. It is by definition ‘a situation that has developed as a result of past actions and decisions’.

**3.1 Following a benefits-based approach to park management**

Toitū Te Whenua outlines a benefits based approach from its vision through Plan policies, goals, actions and rules to outline a work programme to realise benefits for the environment and people of the region who own parks; mana whenua and community.

Identification of benefits sought can be a useful when making decision making about alternatives. Prioritising work which has the most important or significant benefits ensures the greatest impact or beneficial change. Benefits are defined as ‘the advantages accruing from delivery of outcomes’. They are different from outcomes

Health and wellbeing benefits for the *environment* include high quality freshwater, biodiversity, soil conservation, climate resilience and natural capital (e.g. resulting from the outcome of planting trees in parks).

Health and wellbeing benefits for *people* include mental and physical health via recreation, cultural and economic activities and community connections (e.g. resulting from the outcome of investing in support of volunteers in parks)

High level benefits:	Interventions to achieve benefits may include:
<p><b>Healthy environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater quality supports aquatic life and abundance</li> <li>• Biodiversity, species recovery</li> <li>• A resilient environment, carbon sinks sequestration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration – passive and active</li> <li>• Threat reduction work to support restoration, resilience,</li> <li>• Reducing medium-high impact, carbon emitting activities – stock grazing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy people:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity of access for all communities enables recreation use and enjoyment</li> <li>• More people visiting, more repeat visits</li> <li>• More enjoyable experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing gaps in equity of provision</li> <li>• Creating highly accessible places</li> <li>• Open closed areas of parks to enable benefits from use</li> <li>• Developing/ enhancing destinations/ facilities to attract visits</li> <li>• Addressing ‘dissatisfiers’</li> </ul>
<p><b>Heritage preserved/ enhanced:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage features preserved / enhanced</li> <li>• Heritage stories revealed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage story telling</li> <li>• Heritage conservation plans</li> <li>• Built assets/ features made more resilient/ preserved</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy relationships, co-creation of benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mana whenua relationships enhanced</li> <li>• New &amp; strengthened collaborations, partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Others supported &amp; enabled</li> <li>• Programmes/ support to grow / support &amp; recognise volunteers grown</li> <li>• High impact/ opportunity cost activities minimised</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources grown &amp; pooled</li> <li>Knowledge, innovation shared &amp; grown</li> </ul>	
<p><b>GW benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GW reputation as public land custodian enhanced</li> <li>Transparency in investment of public resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key deliverables in Plan</li> <li>Defining/ monitoring benefits</li> <li>Reporting</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Benefits derived from regional parks

Greater Wellington's Revenue and Financing Policy outlines the benefits parks and the environment provide:

*'Council provide parks for community recreation and enjoyment, and to protect regionally significant landscapes, bush, and heritage features. The region and the whole country benefit from being able to enjoy regionally significant landscapes, bush, and heritage features'*

*'The community as a whole share the benefits of a healthy environment. Biodiversity contributes to the region's natural character and supports the healthy functioning of ecosystems which in turn provide essential, life supporting services, including purifying air and water.'*

*'Pest management supports economic activity and improves environmental outcomes. The regional community benefits from reduced spread of unwanted pest damage to high value ecosystems, and reduced pest impact on safety, amenity, and social values. Council provides two pest management programmes; the Regional Pest Management Plan and Regional Predator Control Programme. These are implemented in parks via the Key Native Ecosystem programme and also support volunteer work.'*

*'Council seeks to mitigate the environmental impacts of farming, because land management practices can affect soil erosion, soil health water quality, and the health of streams, rivers, and the coast. The community as a whole benefits from stabilised soils in its reserves'. 'The community as a whole benefits when farmers reduce their nutrient and sediment discharges.'*

### 3.3 Benefits from reducing impacts in parks

In Toitū Te Whenua the **benefits of ending stock grazing activities** are identified as:

- 'Expanding habitat for native species. To enable native birds and other species to survive and thrive they need somewhere to live and breed. Park land mostly devoid of vegetation offers little habitat value and tends to favour introduced species which are more adapted to these altered environments.
- Bringing back the bush for native birds, insects and other species supports biodiversity and over time, strengthens the resilience of natural ecosystems. Connecting areas of remnant habitat both within parks and beyond park boundaries provides essential corridors, allowing birds and other species to move between areas for feeding and breeding.
- Reduction in carbon emissions (grazing activities are estimated at 20 percent of total Greater Wellington emissions)
- The opportunity for passive restoration to get underway immediately, supported by park fire threat management plans and hazard reduction work
- Use of publicly owned buildings for conservation, recreation and community benefit purposes
- Financial savings from costs associated with grazing licence activities such as fences, stock water provision, ranger time and maintenance of infrastructure (which offers little public benefit)
- The ability to realise recreation use benefits from full recreation access to park land



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- Freshwater quality. Restoring park land grazed by stock offers the benefit of increasing the health and quality of freshwater streams, wetlands, rivers and inlets.
- Restoring headwaters of streams, such as much of Belmont Regional Park has downstream benefits across large catchments, local streams through residential areas and ultimately our harbours.
- A lack of vegetation, particularly streamside (riparian) can reduce fish spawning habitat, and cause streambank erosion resulting in increased sedimentation of waterways and affect the functioning of aquatic species. Riparian planting is an effective method to mitigate sediment, pathogens and excess nutrients. Actions in the draft parks management plan support Greater Wellington's Whaitua programme, see [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)
- Social benefits associated with involvement in conservation and recreation in parks for health and wellbeing and community led pest control initiatives. Land and water quality impacts can also be reduced particularly in priority Whaitua catchments. In the short term, significant public access benefits can be realised from opening areas of park closed to the public. For example, QEP at the Raumati South and the direct park entry point into western Belmont Park in Cannons Creek/Waitangirua'.

High-level grazing impacts are explored below, but not explored in detail because they are well known, and Council's policy commitment has been made for land use change.

#### 3.4 Planning restoration of the grazed areas of parks – 'Reclothing Papatūānuku Restoration Plan'

A park-wide restoration plan is in progress to guide restoration work, focusing on restoring ecosystem health in the approximate 2000 hectares of current and previously grazed park land. The brief for the project identifies that *'This is a long-term programme of work that will deliver many benefits not only by reducing carbon emissions (through reducing stock numbers and restoring degraded peatlands for example), but will also improve water quality outcomes, biodiversity and habitat connections, as well as providing more natural experiences of these places for people. The phase out of grazing and reestablishment of indigenous forests and other natural ecosystems on that land is the only way Greater Wellington can attain its climate positive goal'*.

The Plan will outline an approach to restoration, drawing on priorities identified in Toitū Te Whenua and *'informed by Greater Wellington's Environmental Science, Land Management, Parks and Biodiversity departments' expertise'*. In areas where grazing will continue, such as Battle Hill and horse grazed areas, the Plan will consider and provide directions for *'sustainable grazing practices and appropriate changes for areas'* to reduce impacts.

Within the project brief, consultants are asked to consider plan directions and actions including:

- 'Green fire breaks' and other fire threat management practice opportunities identified in Toitū Te Whenua
- The identification of opportunities for mana whenua and community led or supported restoration work. Baring Head has an active Friends group and other groups support the restoration effort such as MIRO.
- Community 'green hub'/ conservation base opportunities. Baring Head has an established volunteer base utilising the garage hut within the lighthouse complex.

The Reclothing Papatūānuku Plan, developed in liaison with mana whenua, will help guide restoration work with mana whenua and community groups. Progressive grazing phase out will reduce emissions and environmental impacts and allow passive and active restoration processes to accelerate beyond LTP minimum requirements.

It will inform the types of native vegetation to be planted to ensure that *'When establishing forests this will be conducted in a way that ensures the forest land definition will be met as prescribed under the NZ ETS. This means that as these new forests become eligible, they can be registered in the NZ ETS to earn carbon units (NZU's) as they grow and store carbon'*.

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#### 3.5 Toitū Te Whenua Policies

Toitū Te Whenua policies relevant to grazing activities are:

##### THREAT AND IMPACT MANAGEMENT

11P To support a precautionary approach to minimising impacts on natural, cultural, landscape and recreation values, also considering possible benefits, by incorporating the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) into decision making processes (Refer AEE Guide, Appendix 2.)

12P To apply the management effects hierarchy prioritising the avoidance of impacts, then minimising, then remedying informed by an AEE

13P To apply AEE process to all annual grazing licence plans

17P To phase out livestock grazing (except Battle Hill) unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant nett recreation, conservation or community benefits, with full public access maintained. Manage grazing licence activity practices to:

- a. Protect soil, water and remnant native vegetation through AEE process. Also refer 13P, 20P
- b. Ensure full public access in grazing licence areas. Refer Rules.

18P To minimise the impacts of grazing at Battle Hill and where the activity is small scale and has demonstrable conservation, recreation, community or education benefits through AEE processes and sustainability management plans which include:

- Protection of significant ecosystems or historical and cultural heritage features
- Best practice in minimal impact land and water management practices and animal husbandry
- Sediment and nutrient discharge and downstream effect minimisation
- Stock exclusion from all wetlands and streams including ephemeral areas; minimum 15 metre setback
- Application of a 'right stock for the right place' approach (appropriate stock for land)

19P To prohibit agricultural grazing related operational activities deemed (through annual grazing licence plan AEE assessment) to be high impact or in sensitive sites

20P To avoid and reduce farming infrastructure investment (except Battle Hill) unless there are direct benefits for conservation, recreation or community activities:

- Avoid any additional investment in stock fences, shelter, or stock water facilities and services
- Progressively remove fences not required for recreation or conservation purposes
- Minimise impacts during phasing out of grazing licences (Also refer 17P)
- Adaptively reuse and recycle farming related infrastructure for conservation, recreation and community purposes

#### 3.6 Toitū Te Whenua – 'All Park' Actions

The most relevant 'All Park' actions related to stock grazing are:

A5 Develop and implement a planned approach to removing livestock and non-recreation related horse grazing from parks (except Battle Hill) to support conservation and recreation objectives (Short – Medium term)

A93 Adaptively and creatively re-use park buildings including former grazing related infrastructure and other assets considering:

- Cultural heritage values
- Local community needs for facilities and recreation activities
- Master planning processes and opportunities to support restoration work
- Education opportunities
- Innovative approaches to remove and recycle redundant grazing licence area fences and other infrastructure
- Art and culture opportunities

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- Key destination development opportunities
- Park values and community health and wellbeing, in particular access and equity

Park specific Plan Actions are detailed with the options analysis section for each park below.

### 3.7 Toitū Te Whenua section 8.6 Rules for use and development

ACTIVITY	PERMISSION / PARK
<p>Stock grazing (including horses, non-recreation value) is a high impact activity. Applications for new stock grazing licences will not be accepted unless in accordance with Polices 17P, 18P, 19P, 20P. The following rules apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full public access must be maintained other than in equipment/ agrichemical storage areas or short, temporary closures for public safety. Grazing licences must accommodate recreation activities (including dog walking). Also refer Dog Walking</li> <li>Small scale grazing for open space management, ridge top views or geological feature viewing is limited to low impact stock types and numbers, e.g. Boulder Hill, Belmont</li> <li>Rights of licence renewal will not apply. Leases will not be issued.</li> <li>AEE processes and sustainability practices apply to all licences. Park fire management plans apply.</li> </ol>	<p><b>RESTRICTED</b> – Akatarawa, Belmont, East Harbour Baring Head/ Ōrua pouanui, Kaitoke, Pakuratahi and QEP</p>

### 3.8 Appendix Two: Manaaki paka/caring for parks AEE guide

Appendix two provides guidance for the development of Assessments of Environmental effects (AEE). Grazing activities are identified as high-impact, low benefit with cumulative effects, impacts including but not limited to maintenance of degraded states of soil health, freshwater, wetlands, habitat, native species and park visitation and enjoyment. *The more significant the proposal and the more significant the place or site values, the more thorough the AEE needs to be.*

Guidance includes:

- Avoiding impacts should be considered first
- Identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects
- Identify threat avoidance, minimisation and mitigations proposed
- Quantification and identification of how any greenhouse gas emissions and impacts will be avoided, minimised and mitigated in order to comply with Greater Wellington’s Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability policies

### 3.9 Appendix Three: Ngā āpiti hanga / Appendix Three: Restricted activity application guide

Stock grazing is identified as a Restricted Activity at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui. The Plan identifies that the Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEE) process is used to ‘help ensure better outcomes for parks and people and ensures a consistent and transparent approach in minimising unwanted effects and maximising possible benefits’. The Plan broadens the traditional AEE approach to ‘encompass consideration of possible recreation, social, economic and community impacts and benefits’. AEE assessments will now be undertaken for all grazing proposals.

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**Table 4.**

		<b>Potential IMPACTS on core park values</b>				
		<b>Low -</b>			<b>- High</b>	
<b>BENEFITS for core park values</b>	<b>- Low</b>	<b>LOW-IMPACT, LOW-BENEFIT</b> Less relevant to park locations	Military training on-off event	Large-scale film shoot using many vehicles	Car racing event on park road	<b>HIGH-IMPACT, LOW-BENEFIT</b> Stock grazing licence
		Conference events	Sports fishing competition	Pop-up vehicle motor show	Night time lantern festival	Off-road motorcycle event
		Scout jamboree	Wedding	Commercial dog walking	One-off rodeo event	Plantation forestry
		Short, small scale film shoot about birds	Recreation hunting	Kiwi spotting event	Beehives	Large-scale transport museum
		School cross country run	Naturalists walk in the park	Food truck	Drone racing event	Horse grazing licence (recreation)
		<b>HIGH-BENEFIT, LOW-IMPACT</b> Native plant nursery, exercise classes, plein air (outdoor) painting art classes	Orienteering event	Search and rescue training with helicopter	Large-scale music event	<b>HIGH-IMPACT, HIGH-BENEFIT</b> Large scale, long running film shoot
	<b>High -</b>					

Greater Wellington’s Regional Policy Statement (2013) identifies as a ‘significant effect’ as impact that is outside the limit of acceptance which then must be avoided, remedied or mitigated back below this ‘acceptable limit’. If this cannot be undertaken the project or activity may not be approved’.

In Toitū Te Whenua, ‘high impact’ activities in parks are identified as human actions that result in, but are not limited to:

- *Modification or destruction of ecosystems by pest plants and animals, grazing animals and clearance of indigenous vegetation, including maintenance of degraded states*
- *Contamination of aquatic ecosystems by sediment, pollutants and nutrients*
- *Modification of ecosystems or sensitive sites as a result of development*
- *Draining wetlands, channelling or piping of natural waterways, including maintenance of drained states*
- *Contamination of ecosystems by unfiltered discharges.*

Adapted from the Regional Policy Statement

**4. MANA WHENUA VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS - AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR WRITTEN FEEDBACK**

As expressed in mana whenua Environmental Management Plans and submissions on draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Plan in 2020.

**Tupoki Takarangi Trust** submission on draft Plan:

*‘The TTT fully support the action to develop new partnerships in recreation, tourism and conservation, supporting the core park values and regional economic benefits.*

*The TTT does support the action that will place opportunities for an eco-tourism operator, lead initiatives in tour guiding, story-telling and other enterprise. The TTT is also a supporter of environmental and conservation*

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.427****Restricted Activity Assessment****4.1 Park stakeholder aspirations and feedback- as expressed through feedback**

The Friends of Baring Head (FOBH) are actively involved in conservation work in the park and have been instrumental in work to save and restore the former light keeper cottages within the lighthouse complex, and ongoing weed management and restoration plantings in the park. They submitted on the draft management plan and are supportive of grazing as a land management practice. They have also identified that they support restoration of native vegetation, heritage buildings and storytelling and ongoing threat management to reduce the impact of pest animals and plants on restoration plantings. Feral rabbits and goats have been a problem in the park, impacting the success of plantings. They are particularly interested in management measures to protect the lighthouse complex from possible fire.

They are interested in improving habitat for native species and 'bird grazing'; 'We want to see a significant increase in grazing by birds around the river edge. This is essential to maintain the coastal/riverine turf communities that are one of the rare ecosystem types at Baring Head. These include species that are now rarely seen around Wellington such as *Leptinella squallida*, and species that are only found in this part of the country such as *Crassula kirkii*. Stock grazing and rabbits have helped maintain these species by reducing competition with introduced grasses, but bird grazing is what would have maintained them pre-human, has fewer negative effects on other parts of the ecosystem (e.g. birds don't pug waterbody edges or browse shrubs) and bird grazing adds guano'.

The Friends advise that in their work in the park they have seen little natural regeneration occurring apart from the beach, wetlands 'and areas that were predominantly grey scrub, toetoe or jointed rush'. They would like to see the river and wetland areas fenced to exclude sheep and cattle stock, and mowing in between plantings. They would also like the south coast to be protected from the impacts of sheep from both the park licence holder and private land owner neighbour within the park (see map Appendix 1). They support the development of a threat management plan for weeds, fire and pest animals such as rabbits.

The Friends support maintenance of the cultural landscape of the lighthouse complex (this area is not grazed) and maintaining visibility of the marine terraces.

'We are comfortable with having stockyards and some paddocks retained in the valley in order to support that objective. We believe that with planting of stream/river edges, those paddocks are not a high priority for biodiversity maintenance, and they are well-used habitats for paradise shelducks and pukeko. The grazed pasture areas are an important fire break around the lighthouse complex. A key risk to the project is an uncontrolled fire, which could move very rapidly through the grey scrub communities and rank grass. Closely grazed grass would prevent fire spread to the complex'.

**5. WHAITUA TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA**

The Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programme 2021 report titled 'Recommendations for improving the health of fresh and coastal waterbodies towards Te Mana o te Wai in Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt and Wellington' outlines priorities for this broader catchment.

Relevant to Baring Head/Orua-paouni:

- Baring Head is identified as a site of significance to mana whenua; 'The Wainuiomata River is also valued for its Māori customary and recreational uses. It supports a variety of activities, such as te hī ika (line fishing), te hao ika (netting) te hopu tuna (taking eels) and kaukau (swimming). The river finishes its journey in the East Harbour Regional Park where it

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discharges into the Cook Strait via the Wainuiomata Estuary. The Wainuiomata River mouth and foreshore are sites of significance to Taranaki Whānui, as well as key mahinga kai sites. The Wainuiomata Estuary contains habitat for, and is home to, many native fish migratory species and native birds that are taonga to mana whenua. The estuary is one of less than half a dozen sites along the South Wellington coastline that supports a breeding population of Tūturūwhatu (banded dotterels). Inanga spawning habitats are found in vegetation near river mouth’.

- ‘The biggest impacts from activities on rural land are high levels of sediment and Escherichia coli (E. coli). Clearances of vulnerable land in the past have increased the amount of sediment entering waterways from hillsides and stream-bank erosion, and E. coli is entering streams via a range of human, livestock and avian sources’.
- ‘The low-to-moderate intensity commercial farming and lifestyle properties are valued by our community, but can release pathogens, nutrients and sediment into local waterways if not managed well’.
- Riparian protection and exclusion of stock from waterways is recommended (and required by some rules).
- The report notes ‘The historical clearance of steep land for farming has left the more vulnerable land unstable and prone to erosion. Alongside this, a **lack of stream-bank vegetation and livestock exclusion** from waterways means stream margins are more prone to erosion during periods of high rainfall and **habitat for aquatic life and ecosystem health is reduced’.**

Reducing the impacts of stock grazing is likely to directly support Whaitua objectives for freshwater and ecosystem health.

**6. CURRENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REGIONAL PARK LAND**

Greater Wellington manages park land in different ways. Most of the park network is comprised of naturally regenerating native forest. With the exception of the pockets of old growth in the Northern Forest, East Harbour, Kaitoke and parts of Akatarawa, all forest in regional parks has passively regenerated through natural processes to its current state of maturity. Natural regeneration has been supported by Greater Wellington and volunteer science, biodiversity and biosecurity work.

Current land management practices are identified below:

Akatarawa	Battle Hill	Belmont	Kaitoke	East Harbour	Pakuratahi	QEP	Wainuiomata
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old growth forest pockets</li> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest</li> <li>• Plantation forest</li> <li>• <b>Very small commercial stock grazing area (sheep and a horse)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest</li> <li>• <b>Farm park education purposes stock grazing ongoing</b></li> <li>• Horse grazing</li> <li>• Plantation forest</li> <li>• Mown open space for campground and parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest</li> <li>• Horse grazing</li> <li>• Mown open space for campground and amenity areas</li> <li>• <b>Extensive commercial stock grazing area (cattle and sheep)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passively regenerated native forest</li> <li>• Mown open space for camping</li> <li>• Horse grazing</li> <li>• Active restoration of grazed areas</li> <li>• <b>Small commercial stock grazing areas</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old growth native forest</li> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest and lowland scrub</li> <li>• Mown grass trails at Parangarahu Lakes, lighthouse areas</li> <li>• <b>Commercial stock grazing most of Baring</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest</li> <li>• Plantation forest</li> <li>• Mown open space amenity areas at Tunnel Gully and Remutaka Rail Trail summit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bush and wetland fragments</li> <li>• Active restoration areas including peatlands</li> <li>• Horse grazing</li> <li>• Areas of maintained open space for picnic areas</li> <li>• Mown equestrian activity open space areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passively regenerating native forest</li> <li>• Mown open space amenity areas for recreation</li> </ul>

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				Head/Ōrua-pouanui		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock grazing ended Dec 2020.</li> <li>• New stock grazing licence for 208ha publicly notified September 2021</li> </ul>	
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**6.1 Stock grazing legacy**

In parks ‘inherited’ with stock grazing when they joined the park network, for the most part this land management practice has been continued. The notable exception was Parangarahu Lakes, East Harbour which was heavily grazed when it joined the park network. Grazing was discontinued in approximately 2005 and large planting plots established year on year since then to aide passive restoration allowed to occur, with active pest plant and animal management supporting the return of native vegetation.

At Baring Head, Belmont, QEP and Kaitoke, park stock grazing was intensified in 2015 when full market rate commercial licences were sought for greater revenue returns. This change saw significant publicly funded upgrades to farming related infrastructure to support grazing operations such as fencing, stock water and buildings. The commercial grazing legacy prioritised stock grazing activities over public recreation access and the environment in large parts of Belmont and QEP, however full public access has been maintained at Baring Head. In consultation to develop Toitū Te Whenua public feedback indicated that restoration work was the priority and that the previous ‘social licence’ for stock grazing and its impacts has ended. The adoption of Toitū Te Whenua in December 2020 signals an ‘environment and people first’ approach to decision making with climate action and mana whenua partnerships key priorities.

**7. STOCK GRAZING IMPACTS AND BENEFITS**

**7.1 High level assessment of impacts and benefits of using grazing to manage regional park land:**

BENEFITS		IMPACTS	
Environment	People	Environment	People
Reduced fuel load for periodic fire threat reduction where weeds and ‘rank grass’ are maintained	Revenue* (above direct and indirect costs)	Carbon emissions from stock, fertiliser, farming equipment. No current offsetting requirements for grazing licence holders. Delayed climate emergency action	Visitor experience impacts; visual amenity, animal poo on tracks, lack of vegetation shelter.
Some pest plants may be suppressed by stock	Some park visitors enjoy farm animals and farm-look park areas (if public access is maintained)	Native vegetation lack of opportunity for expansion, regeneration and remaining native vegetation is vulnerable to stock intrusion	Public access impediments; gates, fences, facilities for farm use only
Habitat for some native species such as paradise shelducks and pied oystercatchers	Geomorphology and archaeology visible e.g. rocks on Boulder Hill, shell middens in QEP.	Passive regeneration impeded by grazing and soil impacts	Closed park areas means no public benefits from park use can be derived
	Open space for horse riding, cross-country	Loss of benefits for conservation. Opportunity costs	Grazed areas are less attractive for most visitors.

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	walking/ running (where access permitted and compatible with farming)	of delayed passive and active restoration opportunities	Loss of park benefits from reduced recreation use.
	Grazing licence holder presence security	Native fauna impacts e.g. absent habitat, introduced species dominance compounding impacts	Amenity impacts from multiple fences, farm look and feel, farm works, unattractive infrastructure, smells, dust, animal poo on tracks
	Utility company access and service maintenance easier without vegetation e.g. power and gas lines in Belmont (can also be mown)	Soil compaction, soil erosion, soil health impacts, sediment run off, agrichemical leaching	Cost of management, fringe benefits tax etc. Ranger time diversion from conservation/recreation work and to maintain park closures
	Roads and tracks maintained to a high level for farming purposes	Reduced ecosystem resilience from lack of vegetation cover	Opportunity costs of farming use instead of park cottages instead of recreation /community use e.g. park cottages.
	Vegetation free areas provide open 'defendable space' for park neighbours/ suburbs on high fire danger days in summer (can also be mown)	Geomorphology, archaeological sites exposed and vulnerable. 'archaeologically appropriate' species can be planted	Farming assets not multi-purpose – difficult and costly to repurpose/ recycle e.g. shearing sheds, stock yards
		Requires assets (buildings, fences, gates etc) which have no benefits for the environment or conservation purposes	Requires assets (buildings, fences, gates etc) which have no recreation benefit and can't be re-purposed while being used for farming (opportunity costs). Internal park fences and gates are recreation access obstacles.
		Freshwater impacts: -Agrichemical use contributes to nutrient load in waterways. - Ongoing contributions to the sediment load in water catchments, especially on steeper slopes.	Track and roads shared with grazing licence vehicles and stock movements. Additional 'lane fencing' required to maintain public access.
		Stock access waterways and overland flow paths through paddocks is a main routes for E. coli to enter waterways. Macroalgae blooms occur when there is excess phosphorus and nitrogen in waterways with a range of adverse effects.	Opportunity costs of public investment in fencing and road assets instead of conservation and recreation purposes.
		Pest plant proliferation in farmed land requires additional resources	Tracks /roads created and maintained in places or alignments not suited to walking, cycling access
		Pest animals. Farmland environment supports proliferation of non-native	Relationship health/ mahi costs from not focusing on park conservation/ recreation



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		species e.g. pest birds such as magpies, animals such as rabbits	work which has a high level of public support
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\*A commercial grazing approach has been taken by Greater Wellington since 2016 to support park revenue and reduce management costs. However a 2019 investigation and analysis of costs and revenue from grazing licences in Belmont and Queen Elizabeth Parks undertaken by Greater Wellington’s economist titled [‘Financial flows associated with grazing on regional parks’](#) concluded that ‘the high costs of supporting grazing activities and impacts, resulted in a subsidy or very little actual revenue from commercial grazing in Belmont and Queen Elizabeth Parks’. The analysis was limited to cash flow. Economic or social benefits that accrue from recreation or conservation protection and restoration, and the opportunity cost grazing land use presents Greater Wellington were explored in a separate fact sheet.

**6.2 What current and future grazing impacts are acceptable?**

Toitū Te Whenua policies and rules provide guidance:

The Plan identifies the need to adopt a *‘precautionary approach; minimising impacts on natural, cultural, landscape and recreation values’* (Policy 11P) and *‘To phase out livestock grazing (except Battle Hill) unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant nett recreation, conservation or community benefits, with full public access maintained’* (17P).

Plan Rules for grazing allow for *‘Small scale grazing for open space management, ridge top views or geological feature viewing is limited to low impact stock types and numbers, e.g. Boulder Hill, Belmont’* and *‘AEE processes and sustainability practices apply to all licences’*.

All new grazing licence proposals require the activity to demonstrate net benefits for the environment through AEE process. The AEE process will identify the range of impacts and how they will be avoided, minimised or mitigated before new agreements are made. The exception is Battle Hill, where the park purpose is farming education. Policy 18P provides guidance *‘To minimise the impacts through AEE processes and sustainability management plans’*.

The application of Policy 13P *‘To apply AEE process to all annual grazing licence plans’*, should also see changes occurring in day to day operational practices to reduce impacts from existing grazing licence operations.

**8. THREAT MANAGEMENT – FIRE, PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS**

**8.1 Reducing seasonal fire threat in parks**

Toitū Te Whenua section 2.3.3 discusses *‘Fire threat management activities’*. It identifies that historic landscapes, like those in our regional parks, that are still in native bush do not readily burn. Other areas transformed through logging and clearance for agriculture tend to be more open and drier have fine fuels such as grasses and shrubs that can provide to support fire, unless grazed with high stock numbers (with resulting higher impacts). Human activities are a common source of ignition of fire.

Whilst rainfall for Wellington is predicted to increase, there may also be longer periods of drought. The Plan identifies that fire threat can and is actively managed to protect lives, property and maturing native vegetation in a range of ways:

- The most effective way to reduce fire threat is to restore native vegetation. This takes generations so other measures are required to mitigate the fire threat in the interim.
- Speeding up the natural recovery of forests through restoration plantings, or most commonly, a combination of natural regeneration and restoration plantings reduces fire threat.
- The other main measure is fuel reduction, particularly through the control of highly inflammable vegetation. This can be achieved by speeding up the natural recovery of forests by re-planting taller canopy tree species that will shade the highly flammable vegetation out.

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- Where there is a desire to maintain open landscapes, highly flammable vegetation can be kept under control through other means such as mowing or weed spraying. Exotic vegetation such as gorse and native vegetation such as manuka and kanuka are highly flammable species and can be limited where they pose a threat to assets or native species recovery.
- Regulation in the form of Fire and Emergency NZ and Park rules to limit or prohibit open fires in summer
- Education activities within Greater Wellington and with park neighbours to prepare well each season for possible unplanned fires such as fuel reduction activities when moisture levels are high (e.g. mowing and fine fuel clean up) and information to reduce fear of fire and focus on key risk behaviours and activities.
- Development and maintenance of firebreaks to protect neighbouring properties and 'defensible spaces' such as amenity areas and around important assets from which fire can be stopped.
- Development of fire threat management plans for parks is in progress. These plans will guide season fire threat preparation and day to day operations to support risk reduction. They will identify appropriate park activities on high fire risk days, local fire history and ignition sources, local climatic conditions, topography and fire breaks, vegetation cover and restoration species planned, assets for protection, fire response such as water sources, refuge areas, signs, proximity for aerial and ground emergency response and equipment needs.

### 8.2 Restoration to reduce fire threat

The best long term solution to reducing seasonal fire threat is restoration of native vegetation. Fire and Emergency NZ data indicates that fires in protected areas such as parks are relatively uncommon and readily extinguished when they occur. Restoration should not be avoided because of the short term, highly seasonal possibility of fire. The Restoration factsheet titled '[Reclothing Papatūānuku](#)' supported consultation on the draft parks management plan. It explored and outlined restoration challenges and opportunities including a range of ways to reduce the threat of fire and provided a number of case studies such as Parangarahu Lakes, also part of East Harbour Park, close to Baring Head. In 15 years of passive restoration (assisted by 15 plot plantings), there have been no recorded fires.



*Lake Kōhangapiripiri (2004) is fed by Camerons Creek from the north and enclosed by the shingle beach to the south.*



*Lake Kōhangapiripiri 2019 where passive restoration supported by planting plots since 2007 by MIRO (with Greater Wellington and Taranki Whānau support). The process of allowing the bush to restore naturally has been supported by pest plant and animal work and a fire management plan is in place.*

Fire history in regional parks is limited:

- Small shrub fire in QEP, 2020. Ignition source – tractor mowing dry grass
- Whitireia Park fire, 2010. Ignition source – deliberately lit (arson).
- Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui, six notified fires in or on the park boundary on the Wainuiomata Coast Road edge. Ignition sources – people.

In relation to Baring Head, expert advice received to date for preparation of the fire threat management plan advises:

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'The Wainuiomata River forms a very good barrier essentially containing fire between it and the road and should limit damage. Get the low flammability species into this area and it's even more enhanced, and this is where there are ignitions. There is already a mosaic of fuel types and maybe this can be enhanced during planning to act as barriers that slow fire spread coming from a particular direction (determined for the climate analysis and fire occurrence). The structural assets at Baring Head should have defensible space adequate for what the vegetation will be'.

If the privately owned land to the north of the lighthouse complex and northern park neighbour land continues to be grazed, this will assist in provision of defensible space. In addition, Baring Head is one of the closest parks to Wellington airport for rapid aerial emergency response by helicopter with monsoon buckets (the Whitireia fire was fought with four helicopters with monsoon buckets assisted by ground crew).

**8.3 Fire Emergency New Zealand**

The [Fire plan for Wellington, Te Ūpoko 2021-2024](#) provides key information about fire threat for the Wellington region, summarised as:

- 'Predictions of impacts by season identify Wellington province will have an increase in rainfall'
- 'Frequency of elevated fire danger; on average, Wellington experiences 3.5 days of extreme fire danger and 5 days of very high fire danger' per year
- 'Fire danger in many parts of New Zealand is expected to increase due to higher temperatures, stronger winds, and lower rainfall and humidity associated with climate change. This fire plan considers this trend in very high and extreme fire danger by site. Wellington is very likely to experience decreasing fire danger, while Wairarapa is very likely increasing'.
- Statutory 'fire control measures that can be applied to help reduce risk as; Setting fire seasons, Prohibiting fire in open air or revoking the prohibition, Prohibiting or restricting other activities or revoking the prohibition or restriction, Fire permitting, Control of fire breaks, Fire hazard management'.

The Plan identifies a range of topographical considerations, management zones, known hazards, risk reduction measures such as:

- Fire history in the Wellington region is mostly limited to the Wairarapa. In the Wellington Beaches Zone (which includes Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui), it identifies that 'There are no long-term fire hazards in the Fire Hazard Removal Case Management System for this zone'. Fire history is listed as 'Numerous small driftwood fires that spread to hillside scrub' caused by campfires. This is managed by year round restrictions; 'Due to the values at risk, the Wellington Beaches zone is kept in a restricted fire season when it is not in a prohibited fire season. Even when the surrounding zone goes to an open fire season, the Beach zone will remain in a restricted fire season'.
- In the 'Public Conservation Land' zone which includes regional parks. The Plan identifies that 'There are no long-term fire hazards listed in the Fire Hazard Removal Case Management System on public conservation land'. Fire history is listed as 'Data received after consultation'. Threat management is identified as 'Due to the values at risk, public conservation lands are kept in a restricted fire season when they are not in a prohibited fire season. Even when the surrounding zone goes to an open fire season, public conservation land will remain in a restricted fire season'.

**8.4 Pest plant and animal threat management**

Greater Wellington's Key Native Ecosystem programme supports extensive work in parks to reduce the impacts of pest plants and animals on native species and ecosystems. In most parks mana whenua undertake kaitiaki activities, community groups and individual volunteers work to reduce pest animals and plants through trap line setting and maintenance, weed removal work, species recovery work and

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many other related activities. The region as a whole has many committed private enterprise and community grant groups to support the restoration effort. LCAF funds are expected to further support this work.

The Low Carbon Acceleration Fund is currently enabling restoration plantings in QEP and Kaitoke regional parks. Restoration plantings funded via LCAF are scheduled to commence in Baring Head in early 2023 with predatory additional pest plant and animal management work.

**9. PARK LAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Alignment of different land management practices with the Toitū Te Whenua vision, LTP Strategic Priorities, Climate Emergency Response and Te Whariki, the Maori Outcomes Framework is explored below. Variations of these are explored in the Baring Head specific section below.

<b>1. Passive and active restoration</b> , no stock grazing, mown open space areas	<b>2. Small scale grazing for open space management</b> where benefits have been demonstrated	<b>3. Short term, reduced impact stock grazing</b> with AEE process and monitoring	<b>4. Commercial stock grazing</b> as per legacy practices
Impacts <b>avoided</b>	Impacts identified and managed	Impacts to be reduced	Impacts high
<b>Threat management</b> - pest plants, animals, fire etc			
Increase threat management to support restoration effort		Business as usual threat management practices	
<b>Support for ecosystem health restoration</b>			
Fully supports passive and active restoration	Partially supports passive and active restoration	Restoration opportunities deferred and limited	Restoration limited to areas excluded from grazing
<b>Strategic alignment</b> with Toitū Te Whenua, Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, LTP, Te Whāriki			
Strategic aligned		Not strategically aligned unless part of short term exit	Not strategically aligned

**10.0 ASSUMPTIONS FOR PARK LAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

**10.1 Overall assumptions**

Based on Toitū Te Whenua, Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and Maori Outcomes Framework:

- A ‘precautionary approach to minimising impacts on natural, cultural, landscape and recreation values, also considering possible benefits’ will be part of decision making processes (Policy 11P)
- Benefits of continuing grazing must outweigh impacts; ‘Phase out livestock grazing (except Battle Hill) unless it can be demonstrated that there are significant nett recreation, conservation or community benefits’ (Policy 17P)

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- The hierarchy of effects applies; 'prioritising the avoidance of impacts, then minimising, then remedying informed by an AEE' (Policy 12P)
- Land management options that 'avoid, reduce or absorb carbon emissions' will be prioritised (Action A78)
- The primary tool for improving ecosystem health of degraded land is restoration, supported by threat and impact minimisation work. A range of restoration methods may be employed from passive to active
- Active threat management (e.g. pest plants and animals, fire, natural hazards) is ongoing and BAU
- The high level restoration priorities areas identified by Environmental Science and mapped in Toitū Te Whenua are valid. A park-wide restoration plan, commencing in September 2021 will provide detail.
- Plan Action A14 *Develop a fire management plan for all parks in line with their restoration plans, cultural heritage and visitor use* has not yet commenced but is connected to the Park-wide Restoration Plan.
- Plan Action A48 *Undertake a park-wide landscape study to inform conservation and management of significant park landscapes* has not yet commenced, but will inform master planning processes.
- Stock grazing as a high impact activity and AEE process is required. Grazing impacts must be reduced through changed land management practice.
- Public access and recreation experiences are primary in Recreation Reserves
- 'Mana whenua as partners and kaitiaki are actively involved in decision making' (Maori Outcomes Framework)
- Restoration work is supported by mana whenua partners and park stakeholders, as identified in their Draft Toitū Te Whenua submissions.
- LCAF (Low Carbon Acceleration Fund) funds may be available to support land transition and restoration work
- Environmental health is a more a more important consideration than potential revenue (income and expenses) from the stock grazing licences.
- Grazing for land management purposes will focus on benefits for conservation and recreation
- High level opportunity costs will be considered in decision making
- Greater Wellington's existing threat management practices apply across parks and may require additional focus and/or resources through land management change processes. This includes:
  - Pest plant and animal management to support passive and active restoration processes
  - Ongoing and seasonal fire threat reduction work such as fire break management, planting green fire breaks, education activities
- No environmentally sensitive, steep or erosion prone areas will be considered for stock grazing, including all ephemeral seepage wetlands and drained wetlands
- At the conclusion of licences, asset recycling and repurposing or removal process will consider sustainability and climate change and costs
- Where grazing continues or new arrangements are made:

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- Park assets will be prioritised for public benefit uses over private benefit via mana whenua partner and broader consultation process, e.g. park cottages, major buildings
- Additional investment in farming infrastructure including fences will be avoided 'unless there are direct benefits for conservation, recreation or community activities' (Policy 20P). The intention of this policy was a 'paddock by paddock' pragmatic approach which could be broadened to sub-catchments.
- Activities must comply with, and where possible, exceed National Environmental Standards (Policy 74P)
- Best practice regenerative land management farming methodologies will be incorporated into agreements where appropriate (NZ farming industry standards)
- AEE process will be used to inform stock levels, sites.
- Operating activities deemed high impact or in sensitive sites are prohibited (Policy 19P). Agrichemicals use will be limited and organic practices favoured, particularly at Battle Hill
- Agreements will be short term agreements with monitoring and exit clauses

### 10.2 Priorities

1. *Decisions must consider what impact they will have on the carbon target(s), with a strong bias towards those options that will avoid, reduce or absorb emissions* (Corporate Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, Action 1).
2. LTP Strategic Priorities; Protect and restoration indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem health, implement nature based solutions to climate change.
3. Demonstrable benefits of grazing outweigh the impacts where the activity continues
4. All land management options must meet requirements of Toitū Te Whenua Policies and Rules

## 11. LAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS ANALYSIS

### 11.1 Toitū Te Whenua Actions:

A211 Restore the original lowland titoki/Ngaio forest of the central and northern plateau and escarpment areas through passive and active methods to improve ecosystem health, biodiversity values, visual amenity and demonstrate mahi tahi kaitiakitanga responsibilities:

- a. Develop a long-term restoration plan to guide and support restoration efforts encompassing pest plant and animal management. Encourage the movement of birds in the open areas with pocket plantings, shelter and perches to help birds them disperse seed and support passive restoration efforts
- b. Develop a fire management 'tactical response plan' to guide ongoing fire threat management work e.g. firebreaks, 'green vegetation' firebreaks, native vegetation restoration, defensible space
- c. Restore all wetland areas throughout the park including ephemeral seepage wetlands along the plateau and escarpment areas

A213 Improve the health of the Wainuiomata River and its margins

A219 Support the volunteer groups with a variety of opportunities for involvement in restoration and recreation activities throughout the park

A260 Maintain scenic view points from key locations for visitor enjoyment and include seats or story telling where appropriate

A272 Work collaboratively with the Friends of Baring Head in conservation and restoration efforts throughout the park.

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#### 11.2 Core park values

- Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui coastline, including the Wainuiomata River Estuary and mouth are listed as significant habitats for indigenous birds in the PNRP, with nine threatened or at-risk species resident or visiting.
- The park is important habitat for many species of lizard in rock screes and escarpments.
- The valley escarpment is identified as having very high ecological values containing threatened plant and animal species.
- The park has areas of 'grey scrub', a rare plant community in decline, adapted to the frequent storm and salt-laden Cook Strait environment. 'Baring Head ecological values', Philippa Crisp (2011).
- Nationally endangered and/or rare native flora and fauna species are present
- The lighthouse complex is historically significant for being one of the few intact complexes remaining in NZ and is a Heritage New Zealand-registered archaeological site.
- The landscape significance of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is identified as of 'outstanding aesthetic value for unhindered views from the lighthouse station of Cook Strait through to the South Island and across the harbour mouth to south of Wellington'. 'Research Report on Heritage Features Baring Head, Wellington'. New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga (2011).
- Geologically the land form is significant for its uplifted marine terraces and fault line.
- Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is identified as a site of significance to Taranaki Whānui in the Proposed Natural 120 Resources Plan

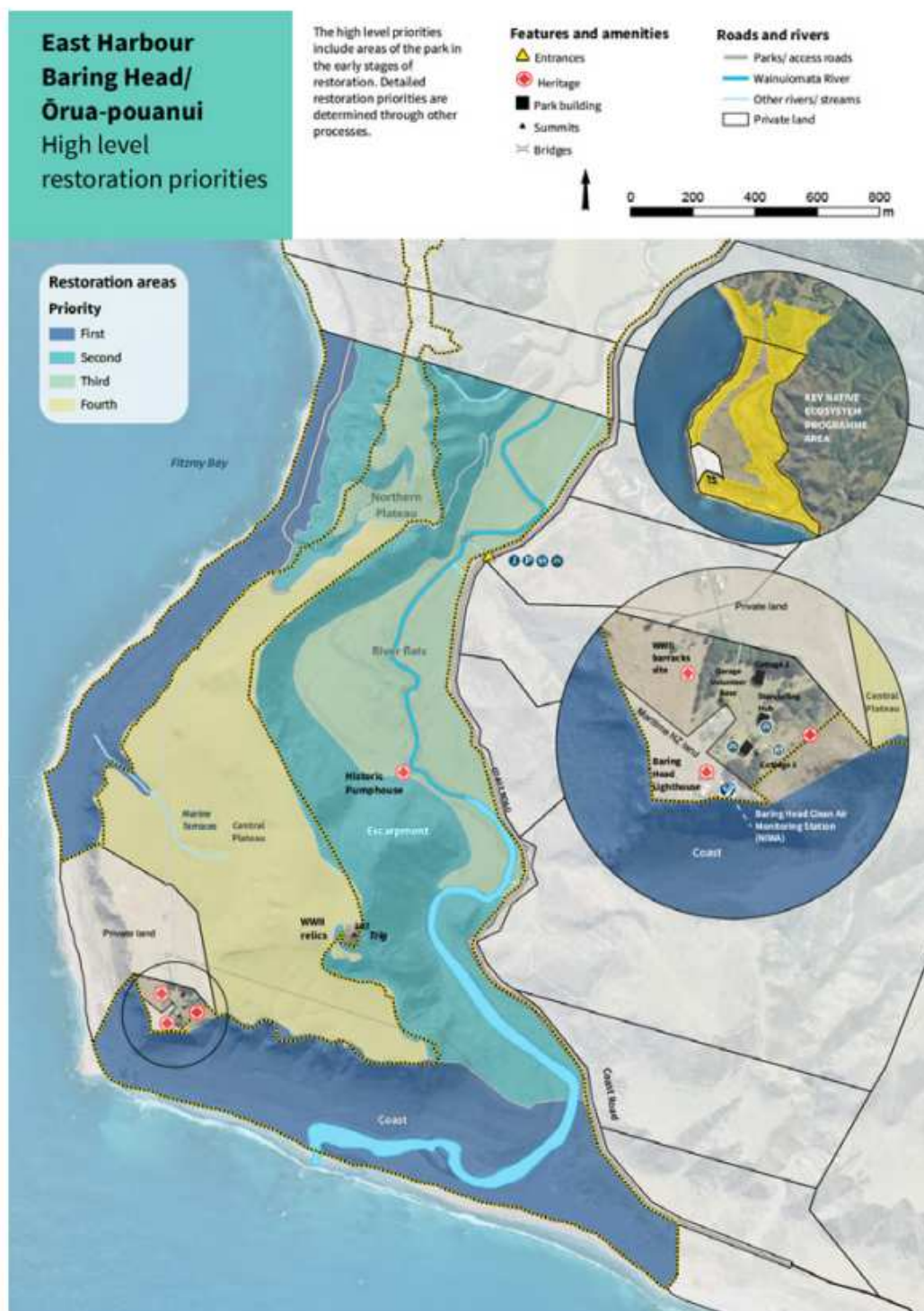
#### 11.3 Restoration work and high level restoration priorities

##### Current restoration work

- Small scale restoration work coordinated and fund raised through the Friends group and external sources including Million Metres. Friends restoration work is currently focused on the coast and Wainuiomata River
- Significant natural and cultural values at Baring Head have been identified in existing GW and externally researched studies, including but not limited to reports here: [Redevelopment reference material | Greater Wellington Regional Council \(gw.govt.nz\)](#)
- Restoration to date, led by the Friends of Baring Head and supported by Million Metres and CVNZ, has focused on the river flats areas, with over 25,000 plants since 2011. With over 60% of those plantings occurring in the last 3 years.
- 80 hectares of park is excluded from stock grazing. This included important skink and lizard habitat.

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#### 11.4 Current status of stock grazing

The current commercial grazing licence commenced on 14 February 2017 and expires on 31 December 2021. It was granted under Section 74 of the Reserves Act. It includes cattle grazing on the Wainuiomata River flats, pasture improvement with seasonal cropping and park-wide sheep grazing. Environmental Science monitoring takes place in the park, with impacts (pugging) from cattle identified in the road-side water channel (river tributary). The annual grazing licence fee is \$12,100.00 for grazing a maximum of '700 stock units' on 186.18 hectares of the park. The licence allows for application of fertiliser, requires removal of 'noxious weeds and agricultural pests'.

The current licence was approved under the previous operate management plan which did not require assessment of environmental effects or benefits for conservation or recreation experience. The key environmental and cultural value protection mechanisms are identified in the following licence conditions:

4.12 'The Licensee will not do or permit to be done anything that will cause damage to or destruction of any natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological or other scientific features, or indigenous flora and fauna in the land'.

Condition 4.13 'The Licensee shall implement all necessary measures to minimise non-point source runoff'.

Condition 4.14 'The Licensee shall not impoverish or waste the soil of the Land and shall take such steps as are necessary to minimise erosion'

4.15 'The Licensee shall take steps to prevent stock from accessing waterways on the Land and shall erect all necessary fencing to do so as directed by the Council'.

#### 11.5 Legal status

The parks where grazing activities currently take place are classified under the Reserves Act as either Recreation or Scenic Reserves. The grazed areas of Baring Head/ Ōrua-pouanui are Scenic Reserve

The Reserves Act identifies the purpose of Scenic Reserves as:

(a) for the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest:

(b) for the purpose of providing, in appropriate circumstances, suitable areas which by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection, and preservation are desirable in the public interest.

Legal advice received in relation to grazing at Baring Head is that 'Under section 74, GWRC would need to be able to show the granting of a particular licence will:

- Support the use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, protection and/or preservation of the reserve;
- Support the section 19(2) principles including:
  - the preservation of the natural environment and beauty as far as possible;
  - freedom of entry and access to the reserve by the public;
  - where there are geological, biological, historical or other scientific features present (which we understand may be the case here) be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve; and
  - to the extent that it is compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water and conservation area is maintained; and
- Meet the relevant section 74 criteria. In this instance the GWRC needs to:

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- form the opinion that it is necessary or desirable for the management of Baring Head as a scenic reserve to grant a grazing licence;
- give public notice in accordance with section 119 (as is anticipated); and
- give full consideration to all objections and submissions in relation to the proposal in accordance with section 120’.

**11.6 BARING HEAD/ŌRUA-POUANUI GRAZED LAND MANAGEMENT OPTION ANALYSIS**

**Exploring question 1.** *How can we best manage currently or previously grazed park land in Regional Parks in support of Toitū Te Whenua policies and key shifts to realise ecosystem health, recreation experience and cultural heritage preservation benefits?*

Options to achieve GW objectives	Benefit / Advantage	Problem / Disadvantage	Comments
<p>1. No new stock grazing.</p> <p>Manage pest plant and animal threats with LCAF funds prior to restoration plantings.</p> <p>Grass/hay cutting on flatter open areas (river flat and escarpment).</p> <p>Passive restoration processes commence</p> <p>Pocket plantings prior to broad scale plantings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Zero carbon emissions</li> <li>✓ Stock environmental impacts stop</li> <li>✓ Passive restoration allowed to start</li> <li>✓ Naturally regenerating plants provide shelter for later broader scale active restoration</li> <li>✓ Supports Toitū Te Whenua key shift &amp; vision</li> <li>✓ Supports climate action</li> <li>✓ Green fire breaks will support later restoration work e.g. acting also as wind breaks</li> <li>✓ Seepage wetlands protected from further impacts without additional fencing/ protection measures</li> <li>✓ GW reputation as proactive leader enhanced</li> <li>✓ LCAF weed management funds available prior to plantings</li> <li>✓ Provides kaitiaki and collaboration opportunities with mana whenua and community</li> <li>✓ Possible revenue from cut hay/ grass (as per Whitireia and QEP)</li> <li>✓ Significant scientific data about natural and cultural values available</li> <li>✓ Native vegetation restoration is the best long term solution to fire threat. The Wainuiomata River to the east, stock grazed private land to the north and coast to south and west offer significant fire-breaks for the park. There is close proximity to Wellington airport for Fire Service response.</li> <li>✓ Farming assets can potentially be recycled/ sold e.g. stock yard</li> <li>✓ Restoration Project Leader already employed to support</li> <li>✓ Park wide fire threat management plan in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Revenue stream ends \$12k per year</li> <li>✗ Weed and pest management costs/ logistics without benefit of LCAF professional restoration until 2023</li> <li>✗ Open space landscape changes</li> <li>✗ Geomorphology may become less visible</li> <li>✗ Only park open to the public during lambing (Parks Plan policy now requires access to be prioritised across parks e.g. opening Battle Hill, Belmont during lambing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale active restoration work may be several years away (initial priorities are Kaitoke, QEP, West Belmont 2021-2023).</li> <li>• Passive restoration at Parangarahu Lakes since 2005 illustrates nearby passive restoration success. No fire history since passive restoration commenced.</li> <li>• Fear of fire greater than actual fire incidence (data). Education activities can help overcome fear of fire. Refer ‘Reclothing Papatūānuku’ Restoration fact sheet and Fire Emergency NZ data.</li> <li>• Whitireia Park has a similar exposed landscape (but urban environment). Passive restoration is in progress with grass cut and sold for hay.</li> </ul>

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.427**

**Restricted Activity Assessment**

<p>2. Limited lower impact grazing licence as part of exit strategy</p> <p>Reduced sheep numbers, reduced or no cattle stock</p> <p>Grazing areas as advised by AEE, protecting wetlands, river and coast</p> <p>Limited or no additional investment in temporary fencing to protect wetlands and the beach is required</p>	<p>✓ As above + some weed suppression &amp; seasonal fire fuel load management by sheep mowing</p> <p>✓ Some stock maintained for park visitors who enjoy their presence, such as lambing viewing</p> <p>✓ Open areas maintained for horse riding where it's not trail focused</p> <p>✓ Geomorphological features remain exposed and visible</p> <p>✓ Some revenue from licence agreement or stock sale (if GW shepherd option)</p> <p>✓ Surveillance/ security for park by periodic grazing licence holder presence</p> <p>✓ Supports operational land management transition and adjustment towards restoration focus</p>	<p>✗ Transition option continues degradation of soil, water</p> <p>✗ Carbon emissions continue</p> <p>✗ Limits and postpones passive restoration opportunities</p> <p>✗ Protecting ephemeral wetlands and seepages on the escarpment will require additional fencing investment and new fences in open landscape</p> <p>✗ Limited options for 'paddock by paddock' restoration approach</p>	
<p>3. New 3 year commercial style stock grazing licence as per current stock numbers and practices</p>		<p>✗ Incompatible with Toitū Te Whenua vision, key shift and policy</p>	

**11.7 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Summary*

The overall assessment has found that net benefits of stock grazing at Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui have not been demonstrated. Ideally stock grazing should end at the expiry of the current grazing licence with weed management, pocket plantings and fire threat management activities undertaken until full LCAF restoration planting commences.

Information and education activities about land use change will become increasingly important as the grazed areas transition back to native vegetation.

Routine pest plant and animal and fire threat management work already takes place. This includes education activities, fire bans, mowing for asset protection, weed and pest animal management and native vegetation restoration plantings. A new fire threat management plan for the park will identify other management measures.

*Recommendations*

A period of park management land use change transition has been sought as part of a grazing exit strategy, so the following recommendations are made:

1. Develop an AEE (as required by Toitū Te Whenua) to guide preparation of a short term, reduced impact stock grazing licence to allow park management transition as part of a grazing exit strategy
2. Licence conditions and the annual grazing operational plan need to detail a range of protection measures including protection for the park wetlands, significant native species and historic and cultural heritage values, as identified through the AEE (drawing on other plans and policies).

## **Attachment 1 to Report 21.427**

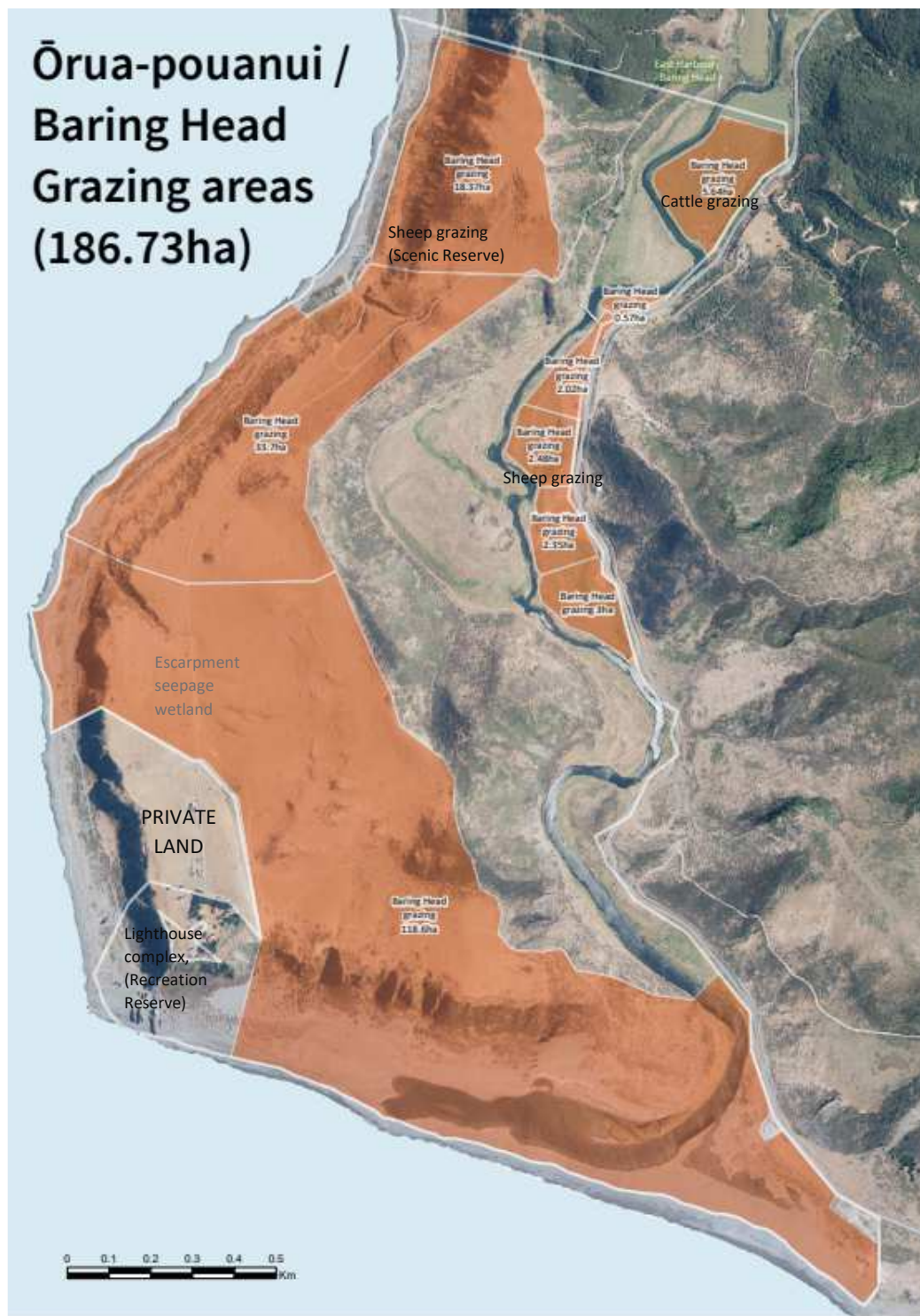
### **Restricted Activity Assessment**

3. Consult with mana whenua and publicly as is required by the Reserves Act
4. End the grazing licence no later than 31 January 2023 to coincide with the planting season and allow the current licence holder to conclude operations for the agricultural season.
5. A fire threat management plan should be developed to support new and routine fire threat management work such as education activities, fire bans, mowing for asset protection and the establishment of native vegetation 'green firebreaks' in key locations in preparation for broader scale restoration work.
6. Information should be developed and published to raise awareness of the nature of landscapes in transition, outline threat and risk reduction practices to inform and reduce fear of fire, and outline the importance of appropriate behaviour, such as not lighting beach fires.

Attachment 1 to Report 21.427

Restricted Activity Assessment

Appendix 1. Grazing licence area – current licence ending on 31 December 2020



**Environment Committee**  
**21 October 2021**  
**Report 21.474**



**For Information**

## **PLAN CHANGES 2022 – UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN CHANGE 2**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

### **Purpose**

1. To update and advise the Environment Committee (the Committee) of development of the August 2022 changes to:
  - a The Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (RPS)
  - b The Natural Resources Plan (NRP).

**Te horopaki**

### **Context**

2. The Committee was briefed at the June 2021 meeting on the context of the RPS and Natural Resources Plan (NRP) including the NRP/RPS change work programme to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD) (Plan Change Work Programme To Implement National Direction – Report 21.148).
3. The Committee was briefed at the August 2021 meeting on the scopes and forward work programme for each of the work-streams within RPS Change 1 and NRP Changes 1, 2 and 3 (Plan Changes 2022 Scopes And Forward Work Programme - Report 21.340). This report set out the timing for each of the four plan changes to be reported to the Committee across five stages of development. These four RPS/NRP changes together form the plan changes 2022 programme.
4. The work programme addressing some of the NPS-FM required changes includes Plan Change 2, which is focused on water allocation provisions of the NRP. This briefing provides an update on the development of issues, analysis and engagement for Plan Change 2.

**Te tātaritanga**

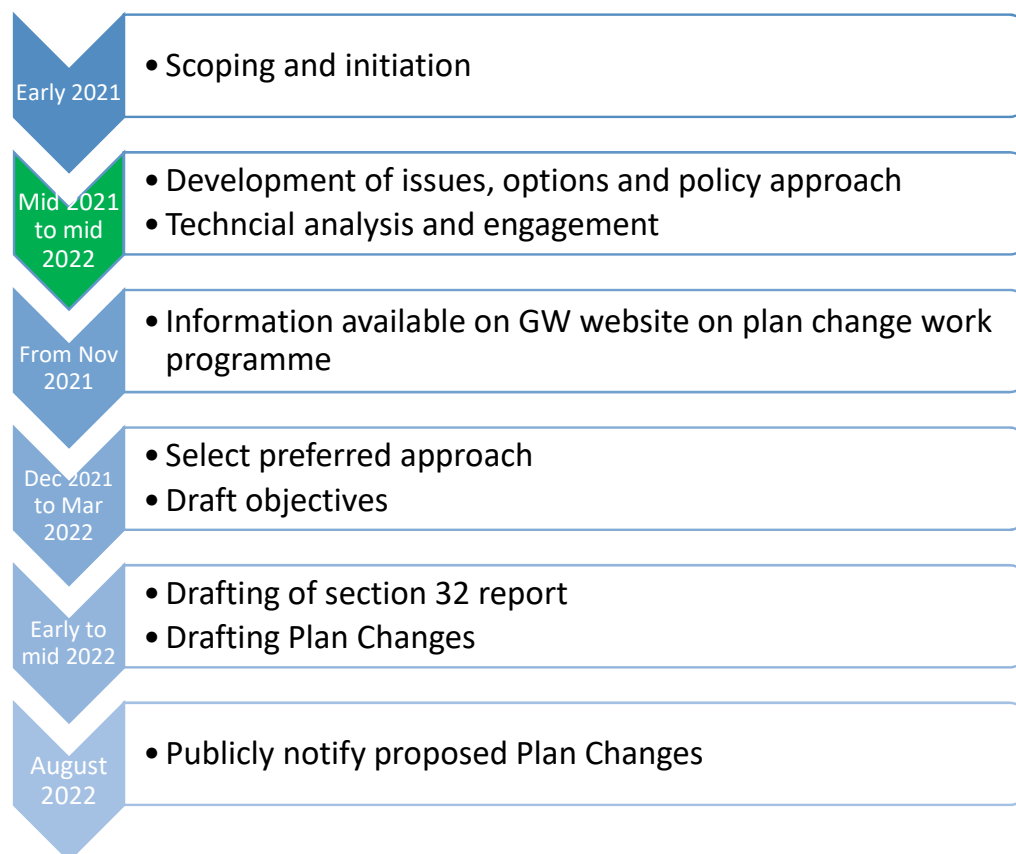
### **Analysis**

#### ***Overall work programme***

5. Officers are progressing development of each of the four plan changes and the individual work-streams within those. Significant technical work to inform the plan changes is underway. A snapshot of work underway is outlined in the table below.

<b>Plan Change</b>	<b>Engagement commenced</b>	<b>Research and analysis underway</b>	<b>Current status in defining issues and options</b>
Regional Policy Statement Change 1 – Te Mana o te Wai, Climate Change, Indigenous Biodiversity, National Policy Statement – Urban Development	Territorial Authorities, internal Greater Wellington technical groups for climate change, biodiversity and Wellington Regional Growth Framework	Research on housing intensification policy options, climate change policy, biodiversity targets	Working paper prepared identifying issues and options for intensification (National Policy Statement – Urban Development), working paper prepared on background and considerations for climate change
Natural Resources Plan Change 1 – freshwater management	Wellington Water Limited, Greater Wellington internal groups including Parks and Flood Protection	National Objectives Framework development, science and research to inform attributes and limits, analysis of Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP)	Options for framework to implement NPS-FM into NRP well progressed. Working paper in preparation to collate summary of issues and options
Natural Resources Plan Change 2 – water allocation	Wellington Water Limited	Science and research to inform approach, consent analysis, planning framework, analysis of WIP	Issues are identified, and assessment is being carried out. Economic analysis has been contracted, and technical work is underway where required. All of these tasks will be needed to fully assess options
Natural Resources Plan Change 3 – other topics and specific updates	Natural character focus group	Report on areas of outstanding natural character, review and mapping for updated sites in schedules, consent analysis for Community Drinking Water Protection Areas	Issues and options paper to be prepared for marine fishing workstream. Other workstreams are largely updates where issues and options are already defined.

6. A visual representation of the work programme through to August 2022 is provided below, with our current position highlighted.



**Partnership and engagement**

7. We are partnering with mana whenua to develop and design our work approach through our existing relationships. Discussions have commenced to confirm and align priorities across the specific work programmes and to understand resource requirements, and how information we currently have (for example in the PNRP and WIPs) may be utilised for the plan changes.
8. Engagement has commenced with key stakeholders on individual workstreams. The focus to date is to introduce the work programme, the scope of changes being developed, the drivers behind the plan changes, and commence discussion on research, analysis, issues and options.
9. Engagement with stakeholders is being coordinated across the plan changes where there are common stakeholders such as territorial authorities or key infrastructure providers.
10. Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), previous consultation and engagement on matters related to a proposed policy statement or plan change can meet requirements in Schedule 1 for consultation, or as a minimum, would inform the development of the proposed change. The completed Waitua processes have provided an important community and mana whenua consultation and engagement process directly contributing to the proposed 2022 changes.



11. In November 2021, information about the four proposed RPS/NRP changes will be made available on the Greater Wellington website and updates available to share with external parties from there. This will provide a place for ongoing updates on the RPS and NRP plan changes. Initially, the webpage will provide a general overview of the topics of the plan changes and the process for the plan changes - including opportunities for involvement.

***Progressing assessment of options and development of plan changes***

12. Once any prerequisite technical work has been completed, engagement progressed, and options have been identified, the analysis of options is collated in a section 32 report. This process (set out in the RMA) assesses the benefits and costs of various policy options, from environmental, economic, social, and cultural angles. These assessments will help determine the preferred policy approach to addressing each issue. The section 32 assessment will be ongoing as the plan changes are developed.
13. Once the preferred approach has been identified, officers will be able to draft provisions (objectives, policies, rules, methods) for the RPS and NRP that will help implement the preferred approach.

***Background – Plan Change 2***

14. The NPS-FM 2020 requires that:
  - a Freshwater is allocated and used efficiently;
  - b All existing over-allocation should be phased out; and
  - c Future over-allocation is avoided.
15. The PNRP already incorporates these requirements as objectives. NRP Change 2 will focus on adding policy mechanisms to ensure these can be achieved.
16. NRP Change 2 will implement WIP recommendations on water allocation and flows management for the Ruamāhanga, Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara whaitua. The latter includes implementing some of the recommendations from Te Mahere Wai, the mana whenua WIP that accompanies the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP.

***Plan Change 2 – the Ruamāhanga WIP***

17. The Ruamāhanga WIP was received by Council on 16 August 2018 (Completion of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) - Report 18.289) and focuses heavily on water flows and allocation, with a large number of recommendations on the topic. Direction from the Ruamāhanga WIP includes:
  - a Increasing some minimum flows (Recommendations 77 to 88). Higher minimum flows are beneficial to the health of a water body, as they provide more habitat space and make it more difficult for the water to become over-heated. Higher minimum flows may also provide for cultural/Māori customary uses that do not currently exist, depending on the individual water body. These benefits all help give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.
  - b Further investigations for small streams to determine whether the minimum flows need to be amended (Recommendation 91). Small streams are generally more vulnerable to variations in flows, so consistent over-taking of water can

severely impact the health of these water bodies. The committee recommended investigations to determine which small streams (if any) needed additional protection from over-exploitation.

- c Reviewing existing consents (not expiring within five years) to implement new minimum flows (Recommendation 88). As some water take consents can have long terms the whitua committee was clear that Greater Wellington should not wait for renewal to implement new minimum flow conditions. This process of earlier review will help ensure that the benefits of higher minimum flows are achieved sooner.
  - d Reduction in permitted activity water take to 5m<sup>3</sup>/day from 20m<sup>3</sup>/day (Recommendation 95). Allowing large volumes of water to be taken as a permitted activity means that Greater Wellington has very little ability to control the environmental effects of such takes, as they do not require resource consent. Reducing the permitted take threshold will mean that more takes require resource consent, resulting in less water being taken without oversight.
18. Analysis underway is intended to result in updated technical information to help implement some previous WIP recommendations. Examples include:
- a Managing connectivity between groundwater and surface water (recommendation 86)
  - b Updated science informing update to groundwater limits and small streams (recommendations 23 and 87 in the Ruamāhanga WIP)
  - c The NPS-FM requiring review of some limits.

***Plan Change 2 – the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP***

19. The Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP and the Ngāti Toa Statement were received by Council on 10 April 2019 (Completion of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Implementation Programme (WIP) - Report 19.121). Water flows and allocation are not a major theme of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP, and many of the recommendations on the topic are non-regulatory. The regulatory recommendations focus on more effectively controlling water takes.
20. Direction from Te-Awarua-o-Porirua WIP includes:
- a Retaining default limits of 90 percent mean annual low flow for minimum flow and 30 percent for allocation (Recommendation 68). This means that an amount of water equivalent to 30 percent of the average annual low flow can be allocated to be taken by water users, and that the amount of water being taken can never reduce the amount of water in a river below 90 percent of the average low flow. Technical evidence showed that these numbers provide well for the ecological health, habitat space and mahinga kai species such as longfin eels.
  - b Limits set as numbers (litres per second) in the three main streams (Recommendation 68). This does not alter the way the NRP operates, but makes the explanation of how much water can be taken less technical.
  - c Reduction in the permitted activity water take rule to only allow small one-off uses (Recommendations 69 & 70). As with the Ruamāhanga whitua, generous

permitted activity rules mean that large amounts of water can be taken without a resource consent. In order to effectively transition away from having permitted activities for water takes, the whitua committee recognised that providing for one-off uses (such as farm spraying) would be reasonable.

***Plan Change 2 – the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai***

21. The Whitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programme (WIP) and Te Mahere Wai (TMW) were received by Council on 23 September 2021 (Te Whanganui-A-Tara Whitua Implementation Programme And Te Mahere Wai O Te Kāhui Taiao - Report 21.422). Officers are in the process of analysing the final water allocation recommendations from both documents where implementation will involve changing provisions in the NRP as part of Plan Change 2. Several are similar to, or align with, recommendations in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP.
22. Direction from the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai includes:
  - a Increasing the minimum flow in the three major water supply rivers (TMW Recommendations 42 and 43, WIP Recommendation 83). Higher minimum flows are beneficial to the health of a water body, as they provide more habitat space and make it more difficult for the water to become over-heated. Higher minimum flows may also provide for cultural/Māori customary uses that do not currently exist, depending on the individual water body. These benefits all help give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.
  - b Reducing the limit on the amount of water that can be taken to the existing consented amount (TMW Recommendation 53, WIP Recommendation 83).
  - c Investigating options for iwi allocation (TMW Recommendation 52, WIP Recommendation 79). Allocating water to iwi would allow mana whenua to act as kaitiaki for water in their rohe, and would also help build up a resource management partnership under Te Tiriti.
  - d Requiring electronic metering as a condition for resource consent (TMW Recommendation 46 and 47, WIP Recommendation 87). Metering is useful in tracking water use and looking for inefficiency or water leaks.
  - e Removing the permitted activity rule for water takes (TMW Recommendation 48, WIP Recommendation 86). As above, allowing large volumes of water to be taken as a permitted activity means that Greater Wellington has very little ability to control the environmental effects of such takes, as they do not require resource consent. Removing the permitted activity rule will mean that takes require resource consent, resulting in less water being taken without oversight.

***Plan Change 2 – Overview of key issues***

23. Change 2 includes a number of complementary work-streams to consider:
  - Supplementary takes – ‘harvesting’ water during high river flows
  - Claw-back mechanisms – returning allocation that is unused or is being used inefficiently in over-allocated catchments
  - Non-consumptive takes – using water and immediately returning it to the river

- Groundwater cease takes – stopping groundwater takes when it affects surface water
- Water races – the role of water races in water management in the Ruamāhanga catchment, potentially including the provisions in the PNRP
- Municipal supply takes – water taken by Wellington Water/territorial authorities for public use
- Permitted takes - whether any water takes should be allowed without resource consent.

***Plan Change 2 – Technical work underway***

24. Technical work is focussing on bringing together the relevant assessments of surface and groundwater quantity information for each groundwater management zone and freshwater management unit.
25. For groundwater, the focus is on reviewing whether the groundwater allocation limits are appropriately aligned with both WIP objectives and surface water allocation limits. It also involves finalising the review of the Category A groundwater takes to firm up proposals for the most appropriate form of regulatory framework at times of low flow.
26. For surface water, the focus is on reviewing the WIP recommendations for FMU limits to ensure alignment with the key principles in NPS-FM and Te Mana o te Wai (including connectivity between water quantity and quality proposals) and also making sure that the most up to date information on water resources and water take consents is being considered.
27. An investigation programme in several smaller river/stream will be carried out this summer. It is intended that these investigations will provide catchment specific allocation information for the plan change to support the implementation of recommendations 23 and 88 of the Ruamāhanga WIP. The results will be available in autumn 2022. Incorporating summer low flow data into this assessment is critical to setting appropriate limits which achieve the NRP's objectives and give effect to the NPS-FM.
28. Our aim is to complete technical review work by the end of November to the extent that economic analysis, policy drafting and development of potential engagement strategies on the most important issues can proceed.

***Plan Change 2 – Engagement***

29. An engagement strategy has been developed to provide ongoing engagement with key stakeholders and to identify and engage with consent holders by the end of the year whose consents could be impacted in the future by changes to the NRP.
30. Planning to ensure partnership with mana whenua to implement recommendations through upcoming plan change work is ongoing. This will feed into planning and actions for all workstreams, including Plan Change 2. Some WIP and Te Mahere Wai water allocation recommendations require further work to be undertaken or have a longer time horizon, the result of which will likely lead to regulation change as part of the 2024 plan change or beyond.
31. Officers have had an initial meeting with Wellington Water Limited to discuss the scope for Plan Change 2, and regular engagement will continue.

**Plan Change 2 – Options analysis and developing the plan change**

- 32. A planning framework is under development to determine the approach to integrating these changes into the NRP. Plan Change 2 has a strong link to Plan Change 1 which implements the NPS-FM including addressing Te Mana o te Wai . Together, Plan Change 1 and 2 will align in responding to the NPS-FM and have a consistent approach to integrating these changes into the NRP.
- 33. For some Plan Change 2 issues, there is clear direction on options in the NPS-FM or WIP recommendations, for example, where a WIP recommendation calls for a rule to address an identified issue. Other issues will have distinct options analysed as part of the section 32 process, for example, the method to be used for any claw backs. This options assessment will progress when the technical, scientific and engagement input is further advanced.
- 34. All proposals based on either the direction of the WIPs or updated analysis are to be tested against the overriding Te Mana o Te Wai objective of the NPS-FM. Options will need to comply with the hierarchy in the NPS-FM (health of the waterbodies, then health needs of people, then economic/social uses) to be feasible.
- 35. Following identification of preferred options, the proposed provisions for the NRP (objectives, policies, rules, methods) will be developed.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

- 36. In order to meet an August 2022 notification date, there is regular reporting to the Committee. This includes updates on RPS Change 1, NRP Plan Change 1 and 3 at the 2 December 2021 Committee meeting.
- 37. Technical work and engagement will progress Plan Change 2 through to development of preferred approach and draft objectives in early 2022.
- 38. An overview of the proposed plan changes and work programme will be developed and made available on the Greater Wellington website in November 2021. This will then be available to share with stakeholders or community as appropriate through the engagement process.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writers	Richard Sheild, Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy Irene Clarke Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy Kat Banyard, Policy Advisor – Whaitua, Environmental Policy
Approvers	Matt Hickman, Manager, Environmental Policy Shaun Andrewartha, Acting General Manager, Environment Management

<p><b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b>  <b>Summary of considerations</b></p>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider changes in the legislative frameworks and the implications these changes have on Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>The NPS-FM requires that freshwater is managed in a way that 'gives effect' to Te Mana o te Wai, fundamentally through involving Mana Whenua in all elements of that management. In addition, the RMA Schedule 1 process requires that tangata whenua, through iwi authorities, are formally consulted on proposed plan changes.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Implementation of the national direction including the NPS-FM is a core resource management activity of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Additional resources were allocated in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan to meet Council's statutory obligations under the RMA.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>Input to the plan change workstreams is provided from across the organisation through officer representation on workstream project teams, and use of existing cross-organisation forums.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are legal risks if Council does not meet its statutory obligations by August 2022 (for NPS-UD). There is reputational risk associated with the timing and phasing of the remaining whitua processes, and associated plan changes.</p>

**Environment Committee**  
**21 October 2021**  
**Report 21.462**



**For Information**

## **REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2021/22**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Environment Committee about the alignment of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-39 and the Regional Pest Management Operational Plan for 2021/22.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

2. Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) states the requirements for an operational plan that implements a Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington), as the management agency under the 1993 Act, must:
  - a Prepare an operational plan annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend it; and then provide a copy to the council;
  - b Prepare an annual report on the operational plan, including on the effectiveness of implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year; and provide a copy of this annual report to the council;
  - c Make copies of the annual operational plan and annual report available to the public.
3. In addition, sections 100B(4) and (5) of the 1993 Act provide, in effect, that:
  - a The council may give Greater Wellington written notice that the council intends to disallow all or part of the operational plan on the ground that the council believes that the whole, or part of the, operational plan, is inconsistent with the RPMP;
  - b The written notice must be given before, or within 20 working days after, the council receives the operational plan or an amended version.

**Te tātaritanga  
Analysis**

4. The application of the requirements of sections 100B(4) and (5) of the 1993 Act to Greater Wellington’s context means that:
  - a Officers provide the annual operational plan to the Environment Committee to consider as its specific responsibilities include “oversee[ing] the development and review of Council’s environmental ... plans, programmes, and initiatives...”;
  - b The Environment Committee advises Council whether a written disallowance notice under section 100B(4) is needed, as Council has retained this disallowance power;
  - c The 20 working day period under section 100B(5) starts when the Environment Committee receives the report on the annual operational plan, as the committee acts on behalf of Council.
  
5. If the Environment Committee considers that all or part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 (**Attachment 1**) is inconsistent with the RPMP, then it may move and recommend that Council issues a related written disallowance notice. A late report will then be prepared for Council’s meeting on 28 October 2021 (to meet the statutory timeframe as there is no Council meeting scheduled for November 2021).

***Alignment of the RPMP and the annual operational plan***

6. To assist the Environment Committee to consider the alignment between the RPMP and the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22, the following table indicates the relationship between the RPMP’s objectives and the related activities in the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22:

<b>RPMP objective</b>	<b>Related RPMP Operational Plan activities for 2021/22</b>
Minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with these organisms	<p>By minimising the actual and potential adverse or unintended effects associated with the specified organisms</p> <p>By eradicating certain organisms (Exclusion and Eradication species, all of which are capable of becoming significant regional pests if establishment occurs); reducing the extent of others, and containing those species that are already well established (ensuring that Sustained Control and Progressive Containment pests are maintained or decreased within their current infestation zones).</p> <p>By enabling monitoring for the presence of declared pests in the Wellington region (through inspections and surveillance programmes focused on those particular pests).</p>



RPMP objective	Related RPMP Operational Plan activities for 2021/22
<p>Maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach</p>	<p>Working with landowners, care groups, iwi, local and national government on a range of regional and national projects.</p> <p>Support pest management in the region by enabling public and communities to reduce the adverse effects of pest animals through education and advice on pest animal control and impacts.</p> <p>Building and maintaining relationships with private landowners and Territorial Local Authorities (TLA) within the region through the Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) programme.</p> <p>A range of paper and electronic resources are available to the public, with Biosecurity staff continuing to give presentations to schools and community and interest groups on RPMP related topics.</p>
<p>Reverse loss of biodiversity in the managed high-value biodiversity areas in the region over the next 20 years</p>	<p>Continuing extensive site-led biodiversity programmes in KNE's across private land, local authority reserves and Regional parks. This protects and enhances the best sites of biodiversity in the Wellington Region.</p> <p>Formal agreements to deliver additional pest control for a number of TLAs.</p> <p>Continuation of the expanding Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme.</p>
<p>Make a pest-free status of a considerable area of the Wellington region a reality</p>	<p>Eradicating target pests on land within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington initiative.</p> <p>Continuing the extensive site-led biodiversity programmes in Key Native Ecosystems (KNE).</p> <p>Formal agreements to deliver additional pest control for a number of TLAs.</p> <p>Continuation of the expanding Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme.</p>

7. Officers consider the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 (**Attachment 1**) is consistent with the RPMP and recommend that no written disallowance notice is required under section 100B(4) of the 1993 Act.

### **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

8. Engagement was carried out, as required by section 72 of the 1993 Act, as part of the process of developing the RPMP, which the annual operational plan implements. Due

to an extensive consultation process in the review stages of the RPMP process there is no requirement to engage with public or stakeholders in devising the annual operational plans.

9. Section 100(1)(d) of the 1993 Act requires that copies of the annual operational plan, and every amended version, are made available to the public. An electronic version of RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 (**Attachment 1**) is already available on the Greater Wellington’s website and a printed version is available upon request. A copy was also supplied to both the Minister of Conservation and the National Library.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

10. If the Environment Committee recommends that all or part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 is disallowed, a late report will then be prepared for Council’s meeting on 28 October 2021 (to meet the 20 working day statutory timeframe as there is no Council meeting scheduled for November 2021).
11. The Operational Plan Report on progressing implementation of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2020/21 will be provided to Councillors in November 2021.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plan for 2021/22

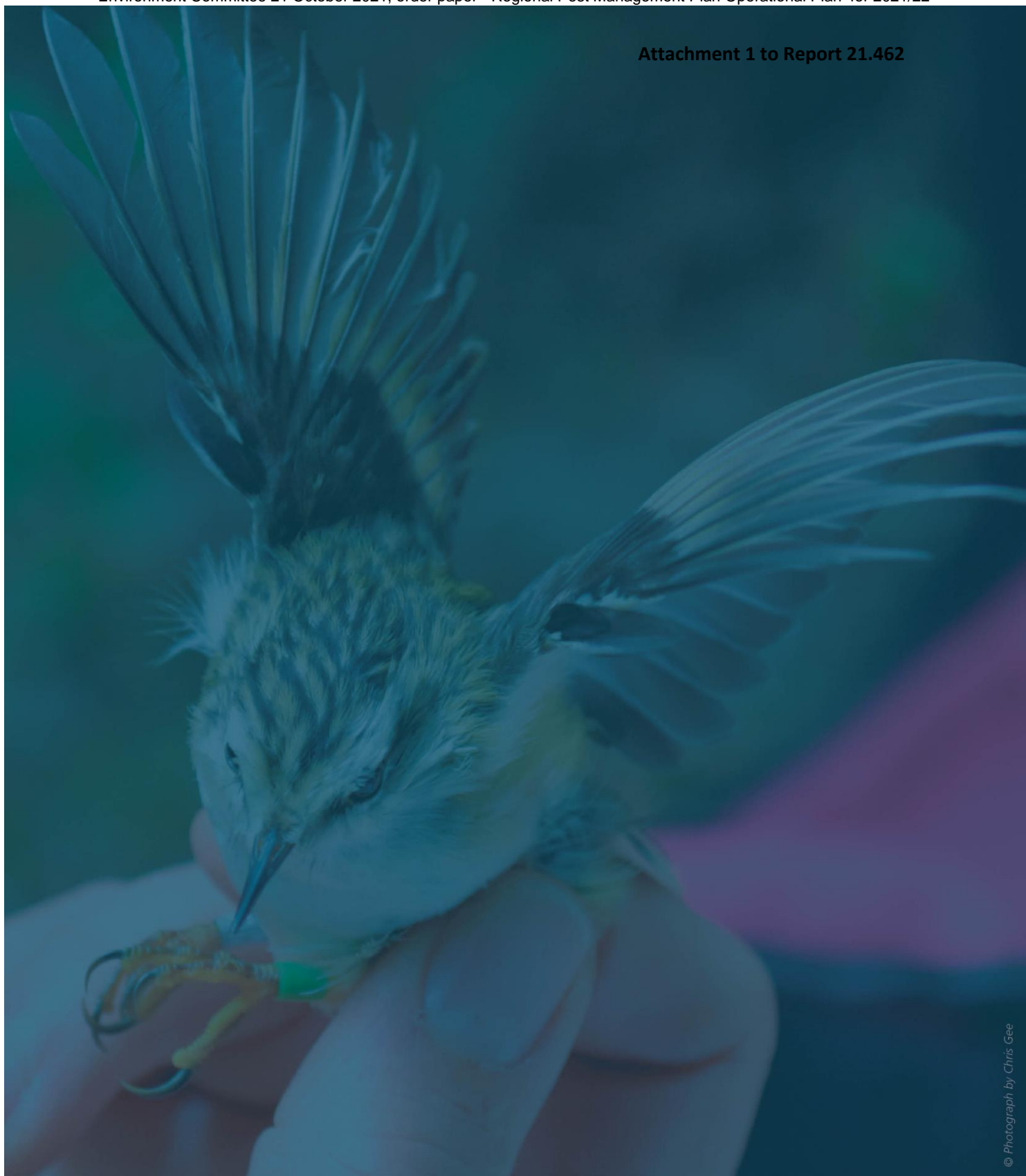
**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writer	Katrina Merrifield - Biosecurity Advisor Policy
Approvers	Davor Bejakovich - Manager, Biosecurity Wayne O’Donnell – General Manager, Catchment Management

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility for “oversee[ing] the development and review of Council’s environmental ... plans, programmes, and initiatives...”.</p> <p>Council has retained the power under section 100B(4) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to disallow all or part of the RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 if Council believes that the whole operational plan, or the part of it, is inconsistent with the RPMP. The Environment Committee can recommend such disallowance, if it so chooses.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Mana whenua and Māori make an important contribution to biosecurity. For mana whenua this includes involvement in biosecurity as an important part of exercising kaitiakitanga over their whenua. Māori also carry out significant pest management through their primary sector economic interests and as landowners and/or occupiers</p> <p>Activities carried out under the RPMP provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and taonga, and the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests. This protection is specifically required under the Biosecurity Act 1993.</p> <p>The RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 aligns with the intentions of the RPMP on this aspect due to the nature of the activities specified in it.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The RPMP Operational Plan for 2021/22 is intended to implement the RPMP’s objectives for 2021/22.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal engagement</i></b></p> <p>In writing this report, we consulted with the Democratic Services department and the Climate Change Team.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no specific risks relating to the matters for decision, but there are environmental risks around the implications to the environment of not taking action.</p> <p>These key risks are the possibility of loss of native plants and animals; reduced productivity for farming and horticulture; public nuisance; and a failure to protect the ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and taonga of Māori.</p> <p>Specific risks are listed for each pest species stated in RPMP under the heading ‘Adverse effects’.</p>

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© Photograph by Chris Gee

**REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT  
PLAN 2019-2039  
OPERATIONAL PLAN 2021/22**



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Greater Wellington (GW) biosecurity activities involve the control of unwanted plants and animals for environmental, economic, social and cultural reasons:

- **Environmental**

Many of New Zealand's native plants and animals cannot co-exist with introduced species. In areas of high biodiversity value, pest plants and pest animals need to be controlled to protect vulnerable ecosystems

- **Economic**

The impact of pest plants and pest animals leads to considerable economic loss in many of New Zealand's primary industries. Pest management is essential to the success of industries such as agriculture

- **Social**

Pest organisms create a range of social problems within our communities. Pest plants and pest animals cause a considerable nuisance in many aspects of rural and urban life, inhibiting the ability of people to enjoy their property, lifestyle and wellbeing

- **Cultural**

Activities carried out under the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2039 (RPMP) provide for the protection of the relationship between Maori and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wahi tapu and taonga, and the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests.

The RPMP was prepared in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and became operative on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

## 1.2 Linkage to the Regional Pest Management Plan

This Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. This plan identifies and outlines the nature and scope of activities GW intends to undertake in the implementation of its RPMP for the financial year 2021/22.

The RPMP contains objectives specific to individual pests and outlines the means by which GW, as the Management Agency, will achieve those objectives.

The RPMP has clearly defined rules to be met by all land occupiers. GW has responsibility to ensure land occupiers are aware of, and meet, their obligations for pest management on their properties. GW can also undertake pest control operations where there is recognised regional benefit.

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### 1.3 Implementation

The purpose of this plan is to implement the RPMP region-wide by:

- **Minimising the actual and potential adverse or unintended effects associated with the specified organisms;**
- **Eradicating certain organisms, reducing the extent of others, and containing those species that are already well established;**
- **Enabling monitoring for the presence of declared pests in the Wellington region.**

### 1.4 Review

This plan will be reviewed and reported on annually. The plan may be amended to ensure that the objectives of the RPMP will be achieved within its terms. Section 100G of the Biosecurity Act allows GW to make minor changes to the RPMP, provided that it is satisfied that the changes will not have any significant effects on the rights and obligations of any persons.

### 1.5 Integration with Annual Plan

As far as practicable, the Operational Plan has been integrated with GW's Annual Plan. The Annual Plan sets the overall priorities and work programmes for the organisation and provides an overview of related pest management activities for the 2021/22 year. Implementation costs are included in the Annual Plan.

### 1.6 Integration with GW biodiversity activities

GW has responsibilities to manage biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991. Various council programmes that contribute to the management of biodiversity have been consolidated into the Biodiversity department. Biodiversity related activities and the role of the Biodiversity department are guided by the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy.

The management of high value biodiversity areas across the region is coordinated by the Biodiversity department. Pest plant and pest animal control is a key method for managing native biodiversity, requiring ongoing investment of council resources, with a significant amount allocated to the Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme. The KNE programme focuses on managing representative areas of original ecosystems types that are of high biodiversity value, predominately through ongoing coordinated pest control for KNE sites. Implementation of this programme is largely undertaken by the Biosecurity department.

This work is complemented by other efforts such as fencing to exclude farm stock and advocating for legal protection under QEII and other covenanting agencies



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### 1.7 Areas of responsibility

This plan and the RPMP are based on the following core areas of GW's responsibility:

- **Regulation (standards and enforcement)**

Standards, rules and restrictions are set and compliance enforced with penalties, when and where necessary

- **Inspection**

Regular property inspections ensure that rules and regulations are being met and changes in pest densities are determined over time

- **Monitoring**

Undertaking monitoring for pests in the region to determine their presence, distribution and effects, and to measure the extent to which the objectives of the RPMP are being achieved

- **Direct control**

Funding and undertaking pest control in some circumstances as a service for regional benefit

- **Advice and education**

Free advice is given to raise awareness of pest problems and to provide land occupiers with the information to control their own pests

- **Community initiatives**

Guidance and support is provided for community driven initiatives to control pests

- **Cost recovery**

A full cost recovery operational service is available for pest control

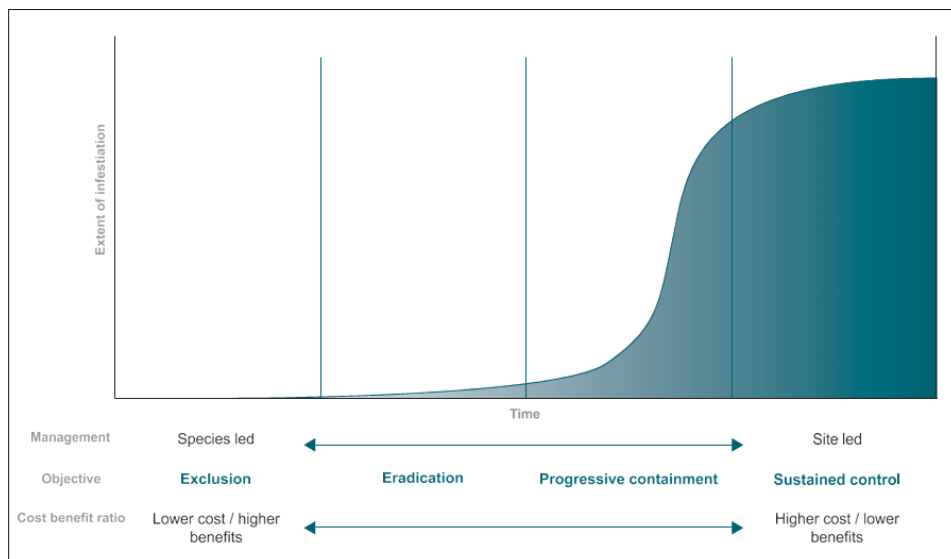
- **Biological control**

As approved biological control agents become available, GW may elect to utilise them. Biocontrol is currently a key tool in the management of rabbits and various pest plant and other harmful species.

### 1.8 How the pest species are decided

A cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is undertaken for all species proposed for the RPMP. This process decides what control, if any, is to be undertaken and what level of management is needed for the species. The CBA works in conjunction with the invasion curve, which designates the different management programmes.

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**Figure 1: Phases of a pest through time in relation to its appropriate management. Adapted from Greater Wellington’s Regional Pest Management Plan, published May 2019.**

Infestation phase	Phase characteristics	Management programmes
<b>Absent</b>	Pest not yet established in the Wellington region, or, all known sites are eradicated	Exclusion
<b>Lag</b>	Pest numbers low, rate of population increase low, distribution limited	Eradication
<b>Explosion</b>	Rapid growth in population size and range	Progressive Containment
<b>Established</b>	Pest fills most of available habitat	Sustained Control

**1.9 Species in the Operational Plan**

Some species in the plan are collated by category, but individual species or projects with a considerable investment or public interest are listed separately to provide greater transparency of expenditure.

**1.10 Pest control methods**

Greater Wellington uses a range of methods and tools to control pest plants and pest animals within the region. All control operations are undertaken by trained staff, contractors or volunteers using industry accepted best practice techniques. This methodology considers environmental and humane factors alongside cost-effectiveness and practicality. Chemical based pest control methods are utilised only when non-chemical methods are impractical or inadequate. All GW control operations aim to minimise the amount of chemical used in the natural environment. For a full list of the pesticides used by GW refer to Appendix 1.

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**2. Pest Animals**

**2.1 Performance targets and measures**

2.1.1 Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*, *M. eugenii*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led control
<b>Objective</b>	Prevent the establishment of wallabies in the Wellington region.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control in areas that are vulnerable to infestation by wallaby species based on sightings or reports of illegal releases.  Service will be provided within one working day of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of detections of live and dead animals per year, over time.			

2.1.2 Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led control
<b>Objective</b>	Eradicate all rooks from the region - no active rookeries within 10 years of the commencement of the RPMP.			
<b>Activities</b>	Survey rook populations annually in areas where they are known to exist, and where new infestations are reported (aerial and ground based surveys).  Undertake direct control (by aerial nest treatment or ground control) of rooks by service delivery at all known sites.  Inspect pet shops, online sales and rook keepers for the sale and/or breeding of rooks.  Support appropriate research initiatives, including biological control should it become available.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Numbers of rooks and rook nests recorded and controlled over time.			

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2.1.3 Feral rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Mitigate impacts of feral rabbits by ensuring land occupiers maintain feral rabbits on their land at population levels below Level 5 on the Modified McLean Rabbit Infestation Scale 2012 (see Appendix 2).			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Provide inspection and control advice to landowners.</p> <p>Require landowners to undertake rabbit control if population level exceed Level 5 on the Modified McLean Rabbit Infestation Scale 2012.</p> <p>Provide a referral or cost recovery service (free inspection, full cost of control) to land owners/occupiers and local authorities who request rabbit control.</p> <p>Respond to public enquiries within ten working days.</p> <p>Release biological control agents for the control of feral rabbits when appropriate.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of rabbit enquiries received per year, over time.			

2.1.4 Wasps: common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*), German wasp (*V. germanica*), Australian paper wasp (*Polistes humilis*), Asian paper wasp (*P. chinensis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Mitigate impacts of wasps to protect the environment and public health in the Wellington region.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Respond to public enquiries within ten working days to provide a referral service to land owners/occupiers who require wasp control.</p> <p>Require land occupiers to destroy all wasp nests on their property if there is a health and safety hazard associated with wasp nests.</p> <p>Record and maintain records of wasp complaints received and their location in the Wellington region through client data base information.</p> <p>Support research initiatives into the control of wasps.</p> <p>Release biological control agents for the control of wasps where appropriate.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of wasp enquiries received per year, over time.			

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2.1.5 European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control hedgehogs in KNE areas and territorial authority (TA) reserves within the Wellington region as required.			
<b>Activities</b>	Undertake inspections, monitoring and surveillance within selected KNE's to determine the presence of hedgehogs using tracking tunnels.  Undertake control of hedgehogs within selected KNE's as part of the integrated management of those areas, to levels that protect the biodiversity values of the areas.  Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Small mammal monitoring programme.			

2.1.6 Feral deer: fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Sika (*C. nippon*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control feral deer in KNE areas and on TA reserves within the Wellington region as required.			
<b>Activities</b>	Undertake direct control by service delivery of feral deer in selected KNE's as part of the integrated management of those areas, to levels that protect the biodiversity values of the areas.  Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare number of deer shot against hunter effort, over time.			

2.1.7 Feral goat (*Capra hircus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control feral goats in KNE areas and on TA reserves within the Wellington region as required.			
<b>Activities</b>	Undertake direct control by service delivery of feral goats in selected KNE's as part of the integrated management of those areas, to levels that protect the biodiversity values of the areas.			

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	Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare number of goats shot against hunter effort, over time.

2.1.8 Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen tibicen*, *G. tibicen hypoleuca*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control aggressive / swooping magpies to protect the public, and reduce the effects of magpies on the natural environment in the Wellington region through the loan of traps.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake control of magpies by within ten working days where there is known to be a threat of injury to members of the public, or complaints are made to that effect.</p> <p>Respond to land owners/occupiers wanting to undertake magpie control within 15 working days of receiving a request for information and/or assistance. Provide control tools as they become available.</p> <p>Provide advice, education and assistance to occupiers wanting to undertake magpie control.</p> <p>Support appropriate research initiatives into magpie impacts.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Track number of magpie enquiries received per year.			

2.1.9 Mustelids: ferrets (*Mustela furo*), stoats (*M. ermine*), weasels (*M. nivalis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Control mustelids in KNE and Regional Possum Predator Control Programme (RPPCP) areas as well as TA reserves, as required.</p> <p>Eradicate mustelids on land contained within the boundaries of Predator Free Wellington initiatives.</p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Support and/or undertake control in conjunction with Predator Free Wellington project partners.</p> <p>Undertake control of mustelids in selected KNE and RPPCP areas as part of the integrated management of those areas.</p> <p>Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.</p>			

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<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Small mammal monitoring programme.
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2.1.10 Pest cat (*Felis catus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control pest cats in KNE areas and on TA reserves within the Wellington region as required.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake inspections, monitoring and surveillance in KNE areas and actively managed TA reserves, to determine the presence of pest cats and status of existing or historical sites of cat colonies.</p> <p>Undertake control of pest cats within selected KNE's as part of the integrated management of those areas, to levels that protect the biodiversity values of the areas.</p> <p>Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.</p> <p>Provide information and advice on the impacts of pest cats and best-practice control methods, particularly to communities near KNE's and TA reserves.</p> <p>Enforce the rule that no person shall feed or provide shelter to pest cats on private or public land within the Wellington region, without the permission of the occupier.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of pest cat complaints received and resolved per year, over time.			

2.1.11 Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Eradicate possums on land contained within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington (PFW) initiative.</p> <p>Control possums in selected KNE's and TA reserves to reduce the impacts on the biodiversity and cultural and economic values in the Wellington region.</p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake inspections, monitoring and surveillance on land contained within the Predator Free Wellington initiative.</p> <p>Support and/or undertake control in conjunction with Predator Free Wellington project partners.</p> <p>Undertake control in KNE's and other sites of ecological</p>			

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	<p>significance in agreement with the land owners/occupiers.</p> <p>Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.</p> <p>Support research initiatives, including biological control.</p>
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	No possum detections and sightings in the PFW areas.

2.1.12 Regional Possum Predator Control Programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Control possums to low numbers (5% or less of residual trap catch index – ‘RTC’) in the RPPCP area.</p> <p>Control mustelids in selected high native biodiversity value sites within the RPPCP area.</p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Establish and maintain possum and predator control programmes, in collaboration with landowners (possum ground control over 80,000 ha and mustelid control over 4,300 ha).</p> <p>Provide up to date information on the RPPCP on our website.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Monitor selected sites to assess effectiveness of possum control.			

2.1.13 Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Control rats in selected KNE areas and TA reserves as required.</p> <p>Eradicate rats on land contained within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington initiative.</p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake inspections, monitoring and surveillance on land contained within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington initiative.</p> <p>Support and/or undertake control of rats in conjunction with Predator Free Wellington project partners.</p> <p>Undertake control of rats in selected KNE’s as part of the integrated management of those areas.</p> <p>Provide a cost recovery service in actively managed TA reserves in agreement with the associated TA.</p>			



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<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Small mammal monitoring programme.
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2.1.14 Advice, Education and Engagement

<b>Exclusion</b>	<b>Eradication</b>	<b>Progressive containment</b>	<b>Sustained control</b>	<b>Site-led</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Support pest animal management in the region by enabling public and communities to reduce the adverse effects of pest animals through education and advice on pest animal control and impacts.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Provide a referral or cost recovery service to occupiers who require pest animal control.</p> <p>Provide information to landowners about their responsibilities for pest animal control.</p> <p>Provide information and advice to the public regarding pest animal identification, impacts and control, through website information, social media, events and site inspections.</p> <p>Provide advice and support community groups undertaking pest animal control.</p> <p>Provide up to date information on all RPMP pest animal species on our website</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of pest animal related public enquiries received per year, compared over time.			

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**3. Pest Plants**

**3.1 Performance targets and measures**

3.1.1 Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*), Nassella tussock (*N. trichotoma*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Prevent the establishment of exclusion species in the Wellington region.			
<b>Activities</b>	Respond to reported sightings of exclusion pest plants and carry out control within one working day of notification.  Develop promotional material and a schedule for engagement with the general public, stakeholders, interest groups and others associated with invasion pathways.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Track number of people engaged in media posts and number of enquiries received through the client enquiry system, over time.			

3.1.2 Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Destroy all known infestations of moth plant within the Wellington region, prior to seed set.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in known moth plant infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database.  Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.			

3.1.3 Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Destroy all known infestations of Senegal tea within the Wellington region, prior to seed set.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in known Senegal tea infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database.			

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	Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.

3.1.4 *Spartina (Spartina anglica, S. alterniflora)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Destroy all known infestations of spartina within the Wellington region, prior to seed set.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in known spartina infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database. Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land per year over time.			

3.1.5 *Velvetleaf (Abutilon theophrasti)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Destroy all known infestations of velvet leaf within the Wellington region, prior to seed set.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control in all active velvetleaf infested areas (three times at six weekly intervals during the growth season). Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.			

3.1.6 *Woolly nightshade (Solanum mauritianum)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Destroy all known infestations of woolly nightshade within the Wellington region, prior to seed set.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in known woolly nightshade infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database. Respond to public enquiries within five working days of			

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	notification.
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land per year over time.

3.1.7 Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of purple loosestrife in wetlands or waterbodies identified as specific outstanding waterbodies and wetlands in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington region.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and undertake control of all purple loosestrife infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database.  Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.			

3.1.8 Wilding conifers: European larch (*Larix decidua*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and pine species (*Pinus spp.*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of wilding conifers where the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems of the Pakuratahi Forest KNE in the Remutaka Ranges are at risk.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control in targeted areas based on sightings and/or public reports or current distribution database.  Respond to public enquiries within ten working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land per year over time.			

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3.1.9 Blue passionflower (*Passiflora caerulea*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control blue passionflower within the Wellington region to minimise adverse effects on native biodiversity, the economy and environment.			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in all known blue passionflower infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database. Respond to public enquiries within five working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.			

3.1.10 Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control boneseed in sites of non-productive coastal habitats to preserve special coastal communities.			
<b>Activities</b>	Carry out control of boneseed in known targeted areas of non-productive coastal habitats based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database. Respond to public enquiries within ten working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.			

3.1.11 Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control climbing spindleberry within the Wellington region to maintain at low levels (as per last detailed survey in 2014).			
<b>Activities</b>	Conduct searches and control work in all known climbing spindleberry infested areas based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database. Respond to public enquiries within ten working days of notification.			

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<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land over time.
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3.1.12 Eelgrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*, *V. gigantea*)

<b>Exclusion</b>	<b>Eradication</b>	<b>Progressive containment</b>	<b>Sustained control</b>	<b>Site-led</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Control eelgrass in wetlands or waterbodies identified as specific outstanding waterbodies and wetlands in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington region to protect wetland habitats with high native biodiversity values			
<b>Activities</b>	Control of eelgrass in known targeted wetlands and waterbodies based on sightings/public reports or current distribution database.  Provide signage at the targeted locations as advisory notices for the public.  Respond to public enquiries within ten working days of notification.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Compare area of infested land per year over time.			

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3.1.13 Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mixta*, *P. mollissima*, *P. tripartita*), Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*), Old man’s beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Control and reduce the geographic distribution and/or extent of these species within the Hutt City Council TA boundary. Programme delivered by Hutt City Council.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Hutt City Council may conduct searches and control these species in areas known to be infested by these species.</p> <p>Hutt City Council will provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public to report any infestations.</p> <p>Hutt City Council will provide education, advice and awareness-raising and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of these species.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Hutt City Council’s responsibility.			

3.1.14 Key Native Ecosystems, Reserves and Forest Health (Pest Plants)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Protect and improve indigenous biodiversity through control of pest plants in the Key Native Ecosystems as per KNE operational management plans.			
<b>Activities</b>	Undertake control of plants identified in the KNE operational management plans.			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Annual KNE site inspections			

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.462**

3.1.15 Biocontrol

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Assist effective control of widely established invasive plants and RPMP pest species by the release of biocontrol agents where appropriate.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Participate in the National Biocontrol Collective to support relevant biological control research initiatives. Assist in biocontrol research projects.</p> <p>Release of biocontrol agents as available and required following the National Biocontrol Collective guidance and national best practice.</p> <p>Carry out biocontrol agent distribution and impact monitoring work.</p> <p>Harvest and disperse successful agents throughout the region.</p> <p>Harvest agents for other regions where possible.</p> <p>Provide up to date information on biocontrol on our website.</p>			
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Monitor biocontrol agents distribution and impacts as detailed by the National Biocontrol Collective.			

3.1.16 Advice, Education and Engagement

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Effective collaboration and engagement with our external biosecurity partners and the public to ensure effective pest plant management in the region.			
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Inspect plant retailers, plant sale outlets and markets within the Wellington Region as per National Pest Plant Accord.</p> <p>Undertake monitoring, surveillance and control of all known sites of the Ministry for Primary Industries National Interest Pest Response programme species (Manchurian wild rice and Cape tulip).</p> <p>Provide education to the public and stakeholders in the identification of pest plants and control advice when required.</p> <p>Public engagement via social media, newspaper, radio, event attendance to promote awareness of pest plants and their adverse impacts.</p>			



**Attachment 1 to Report 21.462**

	Provide up to date information on RPMP pest plant species on our website.
<b>How we monitor progress</b>	Number of public enquiries, reports and sightings of pest plant over time. Uptake of social media promotions.

**4. Anticipated costs**

The table below outlines the anticipated costs of implementing the Plan:

	<b>Species-Led</b>	<b>Site-Led KNE</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pest Animals</b>	\$1,605,600	\$969,700	\$2,575,300
<b>Pest Plants</b>	\$1,297,100	\$635,400	\$1,932,500
<b>Biocontrol</b>			\$165,400
<b>Landscape RPPCP</b>			\$1,750,000
<b>Total</b>	\$2,902,700	\$1,605,100	\$6,423,200

**5. Implementation report**

A report on the RPMP Operational Plan and the summary of its implementation will be prepared no later than five months after conclusion of the financial year. Copies of the report will be made available to the public.

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.462**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: Chemical Controls in use by Greater Wellington to implement the RPMP**

**Herbicides:**

Clopyralid (Void)

Diquat (Reglone, Dy-Quat)

Glyphosate 360, 450, 510, 540 (Roundup, Agpro Glyphosate, Cut and Treat Gel)

Haloxypop-P-Methyl (Agpro Haloxypop 100, Ignite)

Metsulfuron-Methyl 600 (Escort, Agpro Meturon, Zeal)

Picloram (Tordon Brushkiller XT, Vigilant II Gel)

Triclopyr 600 EC (Grazon, Tordon Brush Killer XT, Agpro Triclop 600, X-Tree Wet & Dry)

Triclopyr 360 Triethylamine (Garlon 360)

**Vertebrate Toxic Agents and insecticides:**

1080 pellets (RS5, No 7)

1080 Paste

Alphachloralose (paste, wheat)

Brodifacoum (Pestoff pellets, Pestoff High Strength, rodent blocks)

Bromadiolone (Confrac blocks)

Cholecalciferol (cereal pellets and Feracol paste)

Coumatetralyl (blocks)

Cyanide (Feratox, paste)

Diphacinone (50D, Ratabate, Ditrac)

Diphacinone and Cholecalciferol (Double Tap)

Difethialone (rodent paste bait)

DRC 1339 paste (rook nest baiting) and bread dripping baits, macaroni baits)

Fipronil (Vanquish ant bait, Vespex wasp bait)

Magtoxin (fumigant pellets)

PAAP (stoat control)

Permethrin (Permex, Dust 2 Dust powder)

Pindone (possum pellets, rabbit pellets, liquid concentrate)

Sodium Nitrate (possum and pig bait)

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.462****Appendix 2: Modified McLean Scale**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Rabbit Infestation</b>
1	No sign seen. No rabbits seen.
2	Very infrequent sign seen. Unlikely to see rabbits.
3	Sign infrequent with faecal heaps more than 10 metres apart. Odd rabbit may be seen.
4	Sign frequent with some faecal heaps more than 5 metres apart, but less than 10 metres apart. Groups of rabbits may be seen.
5	Sign very frequent with faecal heaps less than 5 metres apart in pockets. Rabbits spreading.
6	Sign very frequent with faecal heaps less than 5 metres apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen over whole area.
7	Sign very frequent with 2-3 faecal heaps often less than 5 metres apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area.
8	Sign very frequent with 3 or more faecal heaps less than 5 metres apart over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area.

**Attachment 1 to Report 21.462**

For more information, please contact Greater Wellington:

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Upper Hutt 5018

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**T 04 384 5708**



September 2021



Environment Committee  
21 October 2021  
Report 21.485



For Information

## CROWN FUNDED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES UPDATE – OCTOBER 2021

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the Crown funded COVID-19 recovery projects.

### Te horopaki

#### Context

2. The Government announced infrastructure investment funding to create jobs and progress COVID recovery. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) secured funding for regional projects, as outlined in [Attachment 1](#) – Crown funded COVID recovery projects – progress update presentation October 2021.

### Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

#### Next steps

3. The General Manager Catchment Management will speak to [Attachment 1](#) at the Committee's meeting on 21 October 2021.

### Ngā āpitihanga

#### Attachment

Number	Title
1	Crown funded COVID recovery projects – progress update October 2021

### Ngā kaiwaitohu

#### Signatory

Writer	Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager Catchment Management
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<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>It is appropriate for the Committee to be informed of the progress of the Crown funded COVID recovery projects as the projects in the Wellington Region relate to Council's environmental strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives, which address environmental issues in the Region.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Implications for Māori are advised to the extent described in <b>Attachment 1</b>.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The update contributes to the delivery of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project, Hutt River and Ruamāhanga River flood protection strategies, Predator Free Wellington, and 1 Billion Trees Partnership Project.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>All Crown Funded projects are reported to the Greater Wellington Crown Funded Project Board, comprising representatives from Catchment, Environment and Corporate Services.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no known risks or impacts.</p>

# Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects - Progress Update

# The Projects:

Attachment 1 to Report 21.485

FUND	FUNDER	PROJECT	TOTAL VALUE	GW CONTRIBUTION	JOBS CREATED
MfE	J4N	Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Expansion	\$5M	\$1.5	2 FTE + staff support & DOC resources
PDU	Shovel Ready	Climate Resilience Programme – Erosion Projects	\$19.6M	\$8.8M	50 FTE
PDU	Shovel Ready	Climate Resilience Programme – Major Projects			
MfE	J4N	Ruamahanga River buffer riparian planting	\$2M	\$1.3M	1 FTE
PFW	PF2050 Ltd	Predator Free Wellington	\$7M	\$250K	31 FTE Up to 15 contractors
1BT	MPI	1 Billion Trees – Hill Country Erosion	\$15M	\$7.4 (GW & landowner)	6 FTE (100% MPI funded)
1BT	MPI	1 Billion Trees Partnership Grant – Riparian/Parks/Biodiversity programme increase	\$4.5M	\$3.25M (GW & landowner)	1 FTE (100% MPI funded)

MfE – Ministry for the Environment  
 J4N – Jobs for Nature  
 PDU – Provincial Development Unit  
 MPI – Ministry of Primary Industries





# J4N Wairarapa Moana Wetland Enhancement

Clarification and further information have been provided to MfE in relation to requests following the Year 1 draft annual report submission in June.

A change to the deed of funding will be undertaken following MfE approval of the Year 1 report. Changes will confirm revised budgets for years 2-5.

Contract negotiation is underway with two consultancies for the development of Restoration and Visitor Engagement Plans. Staff are considering options for delivery of the Scientific Research Plan. Plans expected to be completed early 2022.

Year 2 work programme underway.

## Resilient River Communities (previously Shovel Ready)

Two projects over 17 sites (work has begun on 4 sites)

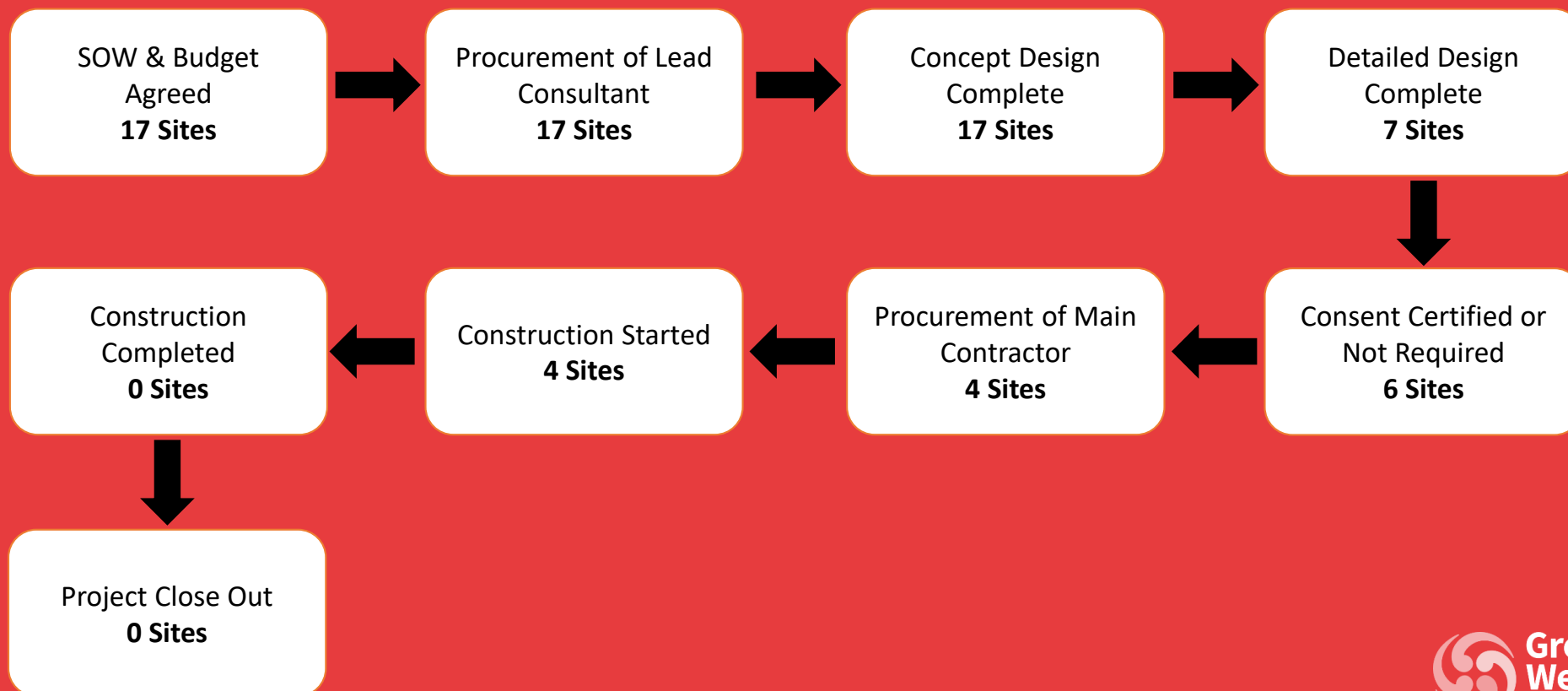
Detailed design and consenting process continuing as scheduled

Three co-design contracts with mana whenua signed (Rangitāne, Kahungunu, Ngāti Toa)

### Sustainable procurement process:

- Supporting growth of Māori businesses
  - *Mills Albert - local, Māori owned contractor procured for works at multiple sites*
- Employment of under-represented worker demographics
- Wetland restoration project
- Professional development, life skills, & youth career training
- Procurement of 28,000 plants from local correctional facility

## Resilient River Communities Programme Overview – Oct. 2021



## J4N Ruamahanga River Riparian Planting

- Last planting site almost completed, COVID lockdown caused minor delays
- Finalising last planting sites for winter 2022
- Discussions are almost completed with nurseries for winter planting 2022 (72,000 plants)
- Contractors are being confirmed for pest plant and animal control. Pest plant activities starting December 2021 and pest animal starting January 2022

# Predator Free Wellington

Lot of staff movement and development from the PFW team. Staff promotions and attrition has caused a large recruitment drive.

The team are not yet at full capacity due to recruitment and contractors being hard to obtain, due to businesses playing catch up after Covid.

The team has moved to the new depot in Wilton, Wellington with renovations still ongoing.

A full sweep of the urban area rat killing devices has been completed and the project is still in a healthy state post-Covid.

A new strategy for dealing with incursions and remaining rat populations has occurred in consultation with TAG group.

New community initiative for more community involvement in Phase 2 is being developed which will see one of the staff with volunteers commencing work in Phase 2 ahead of the PFW team.

# 1 Billion Trees

- **2021 winter plantings have now been completed. Significant effort was made to ensure these were all finished on time, despite COVID related disruptions.**
- **Physical works are now focusing on completing post-planting maintenance activities.**
- **Planning for 2022 plantings are well underway.**