



MEMO

TO All Councillors, Mr Flavell and Mr Gilbert
FROM Trecia Smith
DATE 13 May 2004
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FOR YOUR ACTION

Councillors Workshop 12 May 2004

Thank you for attending Wednesday's workshop, your comments are appreciated. I have briefly summarised your discussion and suggestions below. If you have any further comments, or I have left something out, please feel free to contact me by Friday 21 May so that the draft can be amended accordingly.

I have gone through the plan section by section below. Other matters raised at the workshop but not covered by the plan are discussed in the following section.

Draft Forest Lands Plan

In the plan's introduction, Councillors felt that the purpose wasn't clear enough. It was suggested that the first paragraph from the 'Future Water Supply' section be added for clarity and that the vision be moved to before the 'purpose' section. Councillors also thought it important to recognise within the vision that it is essential to safeguard and protect the water resource.

Councillors were happy that the following plan sections did not require amendment:

- Future water supply,
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreation
- Plantation Forestry
- Communities, neighbours, and other agencies
- Tangata Whenua
- Implementation, funding and methods

Environment

There was some discussion over the areas' environmental values. The areas with higher values have been identified in Table 1 and an accompanying map will better illustrate where these areas are. The plan's introduction also briefly discusses the areas' vegetation (pages 5 and 6). The areas' multiple uses are reflected throughout the plan, particularly in the use and recreation sections.

Use, Development and Management

Councillors were generally happy with this section's policies. It was noted that the two baches at Moonshine may remain and an end date should not be imposed. The four uninhabitable baches at Karapoti Road are to be removed. Accordingly, policy 5.5 will be removed and a clear definition of 'bach' will be added. Cultural harvesting by any person is governed by the 'removal of natural materials' policies and permit system (policies 5.19- 5.26). Using the 'Belmont' approach to assess wind within the plan was seen as an appropriate way forward, although there was some discussion about whether 'wind turbines' were a utility.

Research, monitoring and review

This section would be improved by making clear linkages to the current reporting practices of Council.

Next steps

After receiving any comments back from Councillors, the draft plan will be amended reflecting the workshop discussions and a new draft prepared. It is hoped that this draft will be ready for the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee, sitting on 29 June 2004, to approve the plan for consultation. This will mean the consultation period would fall over the months of August and September, with a hearing after any submissions have been analysed. It is anticipated that the final plan will be available approximately six months after the draft plan is approved.

Other Issues

Kapiti Coast District Council's Water Supply Areas

The water supply areas for the Kapiti Coast community within the Akatarawa Forest was discussed with reference to Greater Wellington's different management regimes for controlling activities and management in current water collection areas, compared with future areas.

The catchment areas concerned are Mount Wainui and the Maungakotukutuku stream catchment. The headwaters of Mount Wainui are within the forest; however, the Maungakotukutuku stream also passes through the Maungakotukutuku Scenic reserve managed by the Department of Conservation. In addition the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) manages various esplanade reserves along the stream. Dean Hearfield noted that in the past the District Council had not wanted to invest in management activities, including pest control.

In past KCDC submissions, the focus has been on recreation within the Akatarawa Forest and the last submission has been included for your information. In February, KCDC Officers, Chris Trattles and Sherilyn Hinton, with GW staff inspected the Wainui catchment to look at slips in the area that were caused by storms. Since February, goats have been culled from the area. However, boundary fences are in a state of disrepair and stock from neighbouring properties move freely into the Mt Wainui catchment.

Currently the draft plan does not specifically recognise that these areas are water collection areas for the Kapiti Coast. Some care will be needed to ensure that it is clear where the management and funding responsibilities fall between the two Councils. The Mount Wainui area is already noted as an area of high environmental value and is therefore protected (policy 2.1). This approach could be used to protect the Maungakotukutuku stream that falls within the ambit of this plan. In addition, KCDC Officers could be approached to determine the District Council's position.

Wind

There was some discussion about how the wind proposals should be considered across Council lands. Would there be a decision to weigh the different effects of each proposal against each site? It was noted that Councillors would assess wind proposals and effects at a later date.

Plantation Forestry

The current draft plan does not govern plantation forestry's commercial operations but does note the processes that govern these activities, such as GW's Forestry Plan 2000-2010, consents and district plans. Recreation through the plantation forestry areas is governed by the draft Forest Lands Plan. Current plantation forestry boundaries are unlikely to change as no increase in plantation forestry plantings is anticipated. A question was raised about whether a decision had been made about the appropriateness of plantation forestry, as an activity, to be undertaken in the future water collection areas. After discussion, it was noted that the place to debate this issue was at the annual report of plantation forestry activities, not within this draft plan. In addition, before replanting a harvesting area, an assessment is undertaken to determine its appropriateness.

Public Works Act

Councillors asked for an update on the land's status and the Public Works Act. Murray Waititi noted that the matter was being investigated and he would provide further information in a memo to the Councillor's Bulletin.

GW Asset Management Plan - Water Collection Areas

Councillors were happy with the approach and there was some discussion about whether any form of comment or consultation was appropriate. It was suggested that copies of the draft asset management plan be distributed to the four metropolitan water supply customers, ensuring that the metropolitan areas remained aware of Greater Wellington's management and actively supported its intentions.

Trecia Smith

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