



Report 05.175
Date 27 April 2005
File PK/11/01/12

Committee Landcare
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Belmont Regional Park - petition

1. Purpose

To present to Council the petition gathered from the Wellington community by the *Friends of Belmont Regional Park* to secure Waitangirua Farm in public ownership.

2. Significance of decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

On Tuesday 19th April, Greater Wellington was presented with a petition to *secure into public ownership for the purposes of conservation and recreation, that part of the Belmont Regional Park currently owned outright by Landcorp and known as the Waitangirua Farm*. The Friends of Belmont Regional Park oversaw the petition. The petition is made up of 12,771 signatures. While Greater Wellington Regional Council has not attempted to verify the signatures there is no reason to doubt the numbers. Even if we were to interpret the petition conservatively there seems little doubt that there is considerable community support for the Council acquiring the farm.

The issue the petition covers is currently under discussion between Greater Wellington Regional Council, government agencies and Landcorp. All parties are making a strenuous effort to retain Waitangirua Farm within public ownership.

4. Communication

The petition has already received considerable publicity so no further public communication is required.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the petitions*
2. *instruct Officers to write to “Friends of Belmont” thanking them for their interest and concern for the future of Belmont Regional Park*
3. *instruct Officers to write to government agencies and Landcorp formally advising them of the petition and its objectives.*

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