



Report 07.612
Date 11 September 2007
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
Author Murray Kennedy Divisional Manager, Water Supply,
Parks and Forests

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To:

- Comment on items of interest/note
- Receive the attached activity reports for the period ending 8 June 2007. (**Attachments 1 and 2**).

2. Significance of the decision

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

3. Manager's reports

The department managers' reports are attached.

4. Comment

This is my last Divisional Manager's report to the Landcare Committee as it is expected a new committee will cover Water Supply, Parks and Forests in the next triennium.

4.1 Parks

It is pleasing that the Department of Conservation is to offer this Council management of the Whitireia Park. Over the years, many Councillors have championed this cause and it is fitting it should potentially be considered by the last Council meeting of this triennium.

Consideration of the Battle Hill Farm Forest Management Plan by the committee brings to a close this part of the planning process for Battle Hill.

During the triennium, four Parks' plans will have been completed, namely Kaitoke Regional Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, East Harbour Regional Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. Councillors' contributions to this process through public meetings, workshops, hearing submissions and Council committee meetings has certainly made it easier for the staff to deliver the plans as outcomes. It is expected that the Belmont Regional Park Plan will be completed next year and this will be followed by a review of the Parks Network Plan.

Porirua City Council is expected to advertise a plan change later this month to create new open space zone rules. This will include Council land at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and Belmont Regional Park land within Porirua City. Parks Department and Environment Management Division staff have been working with Porirua City staff to ensure this Council's objectives for its Parks can be met. While it is possible there could be changes to the draft when it is considered at a Porirua City Council sub committee meeting, the initial impression is that Porirua City staff have taken on board this Council's comments. It is expected submissions will close in mid December.

4.2 Marketing and Design

A Regional Parks Annual Report will be completed in late October and will go to the first meeting of the Water Supply, Parks and Forests Committee for approval. It will largely be a review of Parks' activities for the year and will not contain financial data.

September's Buggy Walk was in the Trentham Memorial Park. The fact that a grant has been obtained for the running of the events indicates the concept has matured as a regular event within the region.

4.3 Renewable Energy

Puketiro

Porirua City Council is to consider a District Plan change at a sub committee meeting on 12 September. While the proposal will provide a much more robust framework for considering wind farms, it is a pity that it has taken Porirua City Council a while to introduce this. It would have been helpful if Porirua City had at least signalled the intended plan changes before tenderers were called for the Puketiro development.

Notwithstanding the above comments, it is pleasing that Porirua City will have a comprehensive framework for considering the Puketiro consent application when RES NZ Ltd lodges it early next year.

The plan change is scheduled to be notified on 22 September with submissions closing on 14 December.

Wind resource report

A wind resource report and wind map for the Wellington Region are being finalised at the time this report is being written. It is expected a report will be sent to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

5. Communications

No communications are needed.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager
Water Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1: Manager, Parks report for period ended 7 September 2007

Attachment 2: Manager, Marketing and Design report for period ended 7 September 2007