



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012

Logging operation in Belmont Regional Park starting in November

Notice to residents and affected parties

Contractors for the Greater Wellington Regional Council plan to begin an operation to log a 24-hectare pine plantation at the head of Korokoro Valley near the Stratton Street entrance to Belmont Regional Park in November 2012.

The logging is necessary as the pines have reached maturity and have the potential to be toppled by strong winds, therefore presenting a risk to park users.

We'll be making every effort to keep the operation as safe as possible, both for the community and the environment. Please turn over the page for Q&As which I hope will address your concerns and questions.

Some of you will remember that the Regional Council asked for feedback on options for the site's reinstatement last year. Councillors will consider your feedback when they make a decision on reinstatement early in 2013.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this operation.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is the Regional Council carrying out this logging operation?

The 24-hectare stand of radiata pines was planted in the early 1980s as plantation forest, with the intention of felling the pines once they reached maturity.

Leaving the pines isn't an option as once pines are mature, they become unmanageable and there's a risk of "wind-throw", (that's when mature pines are blown over). This would create a hazard for park users.

What's the timeline?

The operation will begin on – or close – to 1 November and is likely to finish by May 2013.

Initially, trees will be removed from areas where roads and skid sites will be built, using ground-based machinery. This is expected to generate an average of three truck or trailer loads of logs per day leaving the site, and should take about three months to complete.

Construction of roads will also take place during this timeframe, requiring about 86 truck and trailer loads of gravel to be trucked into the site.

Once the roads and skid sites have been constructed, clearfelling of the whole block will begin using cable harvesting machinery. This should generate an average of around five truck and trailer loads of logs a day, taking about four months to complete.

What are the hours for the operation?

Logging and road construction will take place between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

What about all the trucks that will be coming to and from the site?

The logging contractors will be operating under a traffic management plan approved by Hutt City Council. There will be signage.

The logging trucks will turn off SH2 and drive along Dowse Drive, Miromiro Road and Stratton Street. Truck movements will only take place between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

What about the walking tracks during the busy summer period?

The best time to do the logging operation is over summer as the work requires dry conditions.

The work will require different walking tracks to be closed at various stages of the operation. We'll update the status of tracks on our website and with signage around the logging site.

Will the operation affect the Old Coach Road?

We won't be removing logs through the Old Coach Road. However, the road will be closed to walkers during some phases of the operation.

What's going to happen to the mountain biking tracks in and around the pine stand?

The following tracks either run through the logging site or lead directly to it, and will be destroyed as part of the operation:

- Danzig mountain biking track
- Bridle Trail
- Pylon Track
- Middle Ridge Valley Track

Information on alternative mountain biking tracks can be found by visiting www.gw.govt.nz/belmont.

We are currently working with the Belmont Area Mountain Biking Association (BAMBA) on a planned approach towards mountain bike track development once the logging has finished.

Will the Korokoro Stream be affected? And what about native bush remnants in the block?

Part of the Korokoro Stream runs along the bottom of the logging site, so we will be using silt traps and other methods to stop sediment getting into the stream. One of the conditions of the logging contract is to avoid native bush blocks.

We've consulted with the Friends of Belmont Regional Park, the Korokoro Environmental Group and other interested parties on aspects

of this operation, including environmental effects.

Will the operation affect the woolshed classroom at the end of Stratton Street?

The Woolshed Classroom will be closed during the day while the Stratton Street entrance to Belmont Regional Park is used as a staging site for the logging operation. However, people will be able to use the classroom in the evenings.

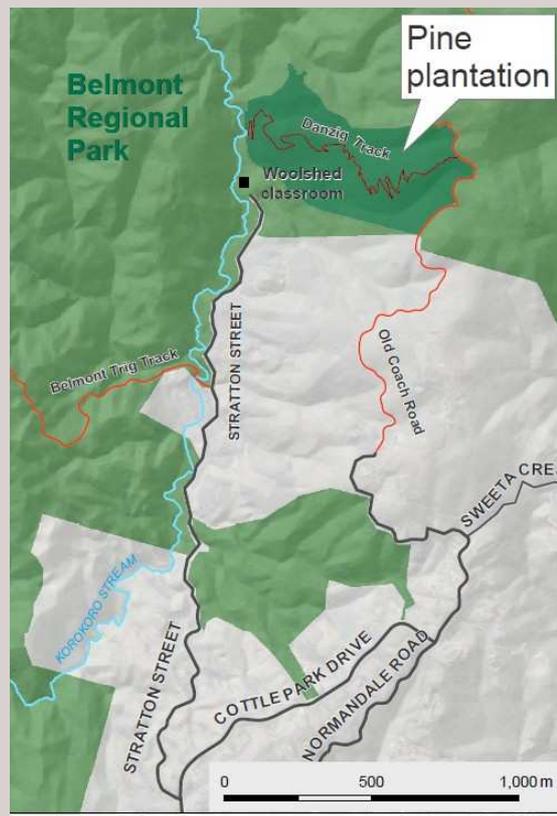
What will happen to the site once the logging is over?

Options for site reinstatement were the subject of a public drop-in meeting in October 2011, and the Regional Council asked for public feedback on this issue from September to December 2011.

Councillors will use this feedback to inform a decision on reinstatement early in 2013. They will also decide how any profit from the operation will be reinvested.

Information about the Belmont Regional Park logging operation:

www.gw.govt.nz/belmont



Map showing the pine plantation that will be logged

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