

For Decision

REPORT OF THE HEARING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE DRAFT TOITŪ TE WHENUA PARKS NETWORK PLAN 2020-30

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. This report outlines the deliberations and recommendations of the Toitū te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Hearing Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) on the draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30.

He tūtohu

Recommendations

That Council:

1. **Approves** the recommended amendments to the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 made by the sub-committee during deliberations on 25 November 2020 as outlined in **Attachment 1**.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. The development of the management plan and consultation process encompassing hearings for public submissions is set out in the Reserves Act 1977 and outlined in Establishment of the Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 hearing sub-committee (Report 20.372).
3. Consultation on the draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan commenced on 18 August 2020 and concluded on 23 October 2020.
4. Subcommittee met on 23 and 25 November 2020 to hear 56 oral submissions, followed by deliberations considering all submissions (outlined in Report 20.372).
5. In total 390 submissions were received; 265 of these were received via Greater Wellington's website 'Have your say' and 125 through the parks planning email address.
6. A summary of the written submissions was prepared for consideration by the Subcommittee, along with officers' comments in response (Report 20.372 Attachment 3).
7. The Subcommittee deliberated following the hearing of oral submissions on 25 November considering the views and information presented in:

- Written submissions (Report 20.372, Attachments 1 and 2).
- Oral submissions
- Summary of submissions and officer comments (Report 20.372, Attachment 3).

Deliberations summary

8. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend to Council that:
- No substantive changes to the overall directions of the draft Plan are required. Many submissions were focused on smaller details and many minor changes were accepted.
 - Changes to the draft Plan, as outlined **Attachment 1**, and summarised as:
 - Correction of spelling, grammatical errors and minor amendments as noted
 - Additional stakeholders added throughout including predator free groups
 - Master planning text moved forward from Plan Appendix 1 and example added
 - Additional text and imagery referencing walking, tramping, hunting, horse riding and mountain biking activities. Additional images
 - Rearranging text and adding images to reflect pest plan and animal work programme work and the restoration focus of the Plan
 - Adding KNE programme boundaries on maps to illustrate their extent
 - Minor changes in Definitions

Policy section key changes

 - Set riparian setbacks at 15 metres for Battle Hill, 10m for plantation forest and 20m for the Remutaka Rail Trail
 - Ensuring farming activity practices protect soil, water and remnant native vegetation as stock grazing is phased out
 - Excluding plantation forestry expansion to new areas of park
 - Integrating proposed masterplans into the management plan following Reserves Act process
 - Prioritising the reduction of pest/introduced animals and plants to support biodiversity and restoration work

Action section key changes

 - Investigate an access 'pass' (not 'permit') with horse riders
 - Amended action to include possible collaborative working groups for specific topics or recreation activities
 - Action added to map ecological corridors connecting to and within parks

- p. Action amended referencing working with others regarding predator fencing options where cost effective

Rule section key changes

- q. Backcountry camping – minor changes to Belmont (Allowed), Queen Elizabeth Parks and Baring Head (Managed)
- r. Fishing – eel and whitebait changed to Prohibited, with an exception for mana whenua customary harvest
- s. Firewood harvesting – include in Plan, prohibited, with the exception of ranger residences, mana whenua customary uses, art and education purposes
- t. Remove reference to East Harbour Hunting phasing out by 2025.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

- 9. Implementation of the management plan will be through long term plan and annual plan processes, supported by community contributions through volunteering, grants and other resources.

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi

Consideration of climate change

- 10. The matter for decision in this report was considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington's *Climate Change Consideration Guide*.
- 11. Many written submissions and oral presentations during the hearing urged Greater Wellington respond more rapidly to climate change action such as accelerating native vegetation restoration.

Ngā tikanga whakatau

Decision-making process

- 12. The matter requiring decision in this report was considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 13. This report outlines the recommendations of the Committee as a result of consultation on the development of the draft parks management plan and follows consultation procedure as required by the Act.

Te hiranga

Significance

- 14. The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of high significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002. There is a high level of public interest as expressed through 390 public submissions on the draft Plan.

Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement

15. All submissions were acknowledged when received. At the hearing all submitters presenting oral submissions were thanked for their attendance and contribution to the planning process. Post hearing a thank you email was sent.
16. Further communication will be sent after the Council meeting on 10 December. As required by the Reserves Act 1977, submitters will receive a copy of the report identifying the recommendations of the Subcommittee and final Plan agreed by the Council. A media release will also be prepared and all stakeholders on the parks planning database notified.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei Next steps

17. Council will consider the draft Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan for Adoption on 10 December 2020.
18. After approval the Plan becomes operative and new policies come into effect.

Ngā āpitihanga Attachments

Number	Title
1	Summary of submissions, officer advice and hearing deliberations

Ngā kaiwaitohu Signatories

Writer	Penny Gaylor, Chair, Toitū te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 Hearing Subcommittee
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**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

The principles of consultation, set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 applied to the submission process. Section 41 of the Reserves Act applies to the draft plan development and hearing process. Council is authorised to develop the Plan under the Reserves Act.

Implications for Māori

Mana whenua expressed values are reflected in the draft management plan and have a key role in development implementation of it.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Implementation of the management plan will be through long term plan and annual plan processes.

Internal consultation

Officers in the Democratic Services department were consulted about this report.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

The management plan once adopted may be of interest to the media.