

Summary of feedback to date

Submissions

38 submissions were received in total. Key issues raised include:

- six submissions supported the exploration or possible use of Belmont Regional Park as a windfarm site, three supported with conditions, one stated opposition, while two mentioned the possibility but didn't indicate a preference. (Several of the submissions in favour were from windfarm associations/companies)
- four submissions opposed any roading within/through the Park, one was supportive
- submissions from Transpower and Telecom both requested provision for network utilities
- two submissions specifically mentioned the open space values
- ten submitters requested additional tracks or improved access into the Park and one specifically mentioned improving linkages to other areas
- two submitters mentioned conflict between walkers and mountain bikers in particular areas of the Park and asked for limitations on mountain bikers. Two submitters felt that the conflict was not a big problem and asked that mountain biking continue to be allowed
- seven submissions requested conservation/pest management or sustainable management actions
- three related to heritage values and their protection
- seven asked for ownership, management, or protection of the Park to be clarified
- two submitters questioned whether the current limitations in access through the farmed areas (e.g. during lambing) need to be so tight
- four submitters opposed any motorised activity, while one supported the activity
- four submitters specifically stated support for the current aims and objectives of the 1996 plan
- two asked for the protection of the peneplain features.

Issues raised by single submitters relate to:

- continued outdoor education activities in the Park
- reconsideration of the dog policies
- banning horses in Korokoro Valley
- Council setting goals which it fails to implement
- fire management
- increased ranger staff
- additional mountain bike tracks /access
- signage
- interpretation
- not referring to/affecting surrounding properties through management plan.

Full copies of submissions are available in the Councillors lounge.

Department of Conservation

The key issues raised in meetings with the Department of Conservation and in their submission include:

- impact of farming practices on land and water
- concern that roading should not compromise Park values
- need to clarify the status, roles and responsibilities of the different agencies
- possible addition of legal roads to the Park and purchase of new areas
- management planning process can only cover areas vested in Greater Wellington
- covenanted areas within Landcorp farm could be added to the Park.

Local authorities

Key issues in discussions with the Territorial Local Authorities include:

Porirua City Council (PCC)

- PCC will retain control and management of the Cannons Creek Lake Reserve
- need to clarify roles and look at consistency of policies
- more entrances on Porirua side of the Park
- need to clarify mountain biking areas
- improved signage.

Wellington City Council (WCC)

- links to WCC processes such as Northern Growth Management Framework need to be made
- improved access points and linkages to WCC land
- WCC block to remain in WCC control

Hutt City Council (HCC)

- need to clarify legal issues surrounding roles and responsibilities of HCC and Greater Wellington
- need to refer to District Plan
- potential impact of increased/changed use on roads and infrastructure
- links to HCC reserves
- relationship of Belmont Regional Park to surrounding area.

Friends of Belmont Regional Park

The Friends' working group assessed the current aim and objectives for the Park. There was general support although some were considered unnecessary or in need of amending. Suggestions included: reference to the network plan; more focus on ecosystems; concern about runoff; re-vegetation of gullies; linking ecosystems; reference to landscape and visual amenity; concern about ongoing exotic forestry.

The group suggested that gaps in the current plan include – increasing public awareness, improving and increasing public use and public access, involving and informing user organisations

The best features of the Park were deemed to be its proximity to urban areas and its open space, while its worst features were the lack of security/protection of the Park into the future and access to and within the Park. The greatest need was seen as protection of the Park through ownership and/or reservation of lands not currently protected.

Public meeting

A public meeting was held on 6 November. We will provide an oral report to Committee on this meeting as time constraints for Committee papers prevented us from covering the meeting in this report.

Iwi

We have contacted relevant Iwi groups (Ngati Toa, Wellington Tenth, Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui) about the review, but had not met by the time this paper was drafted.