

Report **05.695**
Date 6 December 2005
File PK/14/05/01

Committee **Landcare**
Author **Fiona Shaw** Advisor, Planning & Policy

Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan

1. Purpose

To consider adopting the Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan.

2. Significance of the decision

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

3. Background

The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan review began in late 2004. The plan review has followed statutory processes set out in the Reserves Act 1977. The two consultation phases of the plan review have attracted good public interest, with over three hundred submissions in each round.

The Parks & Forests Hearing Committee formally considered each of 405 submissions received in the last round of submissions at the hearing, with 37 submitters being heard. (Please refer to report 05.610 for the minutes of the Hearing.)

4. Consideration of submissions

Submitters were generally supportive of the draft plan's approach with the exception of two significant issues, the permissibility of motorised recreation within the park and inclusion of Whareroa Farm into the plan.

Submitters who spoke at the hearing were generally divided into two camps; either "pro" or "anti" motorised recreation. Those that were "anti" motorised recreation, for the most part supported the plan's approach with minor changes. This group also made a strong lobby for inclusion of Whareroa Farm into the management plan's objectives and policies.

Those in the "pro" motorised recreation camp suggested a variety of motor sport and associated facilities be provided, ranging from small driving training events to Motorkana's to Manfield sized operations.

Issues raised by submitters and officer’s comments were summarised in the hearing report that was presented to the committee at its day of deliberations following the hearing. Following the deliberations the Committee instructed Officers to make revisions as per the officers comments, and in response to the submissions considered and heard.

4.1 Summary of amendments

Many submitters identified editing and style improvements that could be made. officers agree that these could be made with little or no substantive changes to the plan’s intent. Small editing changes that do not alter the meaning or intent of the plan have not been noted. Changes to the plan’s text have been highlighted in the attached plan and are summarised in the table below.

Tables have been revised accordingly and maps labelled to provide greater clarity. Text boxes are used to illustrate the plan and inform readers about the land’s values and/or particular management issues. A text box has been used to note Whareroa Farm’s relationship to Queen Elizabeth Park and the policy on ash scattering has been altered as discussed during deliberations. (Please note that the wording of the “Whareroa Farm text box” will be finalised after further consultation with Iwi and the Chair of the Landcare Committee)

The major changes are noted in the table below:

Suggestion	Submitter	Amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen heritage management policies to provide for “heritage landscape” concepts and monitoring of archaeological sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Forbes Dr Bruce McFadgen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change wording in policy 2.28, 2.30 and strengthen policy 2.31 to ensure heritage management and monitoring occurs as suggested.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide policy for best practice protocols for works around waterways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included policy under section “ecosystem protection and enhancement” to advocate for best practiced to be used around waterways
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whareroa Farm included in plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include “text box” to show Whareroa Farm’s historical relevance to QEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ‘minor upgrades’ and “subject to compliance with the Electricity (Hazards from trees) Regulations 2003” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added to policy 3.49 and 3.50 respectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash scattering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of QEP, various 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended Policy 1.29 to remove “the spreading or burial of ashes”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundry editing changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As marked, throughout document

4.2 Other matters raised in submissions

Some matters were raised that, after consideration by the Hearing Committee, did not result in changes to the draft management plan. Matters included lifting the proposed prohibition on motorised recreation and reducing the management control to being a “restricted” activity. The Hearing Committee considered that the activity should remain a “prohibited” activity; noise impact, damage to the dunes and peatland, safety, traffic congestion and the protection of existing park values were reasons given for the decision.

Another significant factor in the decision making was that there were no specific proposals offered by submitters with regard to motor sport activities, instead focusing on securing an “enabling provision”. Because of this the Hearing Committee found it difficult to determine the scale and nature of facilities required to satisfy the needs of the various sectors of the motor sport fraternity. On balance, and because there are other options as far as venues are concerned, the committee felt it better to err on the side of caution and maintain the park free of all motorised activity in the immediate future.

The extension of the tramways and the further development of the rail tracks to provide for better public transport into the park was discussed. The Hearing Committee decided that Greater Wellington’s position would be to remain an advocate for public transport to the park but would not commit the council to extending the infrastructure. Policy 1.16 reflects this position.

The future development of tracks and the appropriate development of multiuse tracks was also a raised in the submission process. The Hearing Committee determined that policies relating to track development and bicycle use were sufficient and the management of this issue could be dealt with adequately at an operational level.

Finally there has been debate over the use of the north eastern sector of the park. Development suggestions for this area have ranged from formal recreation facilities such as sports fields, areas for motorised recreation to rowing lakes and wetland facilities. “The Way Forward” section of the plan outlines any future development of this area and there is no change to the draft plan proposed.

5. The final management plan

Officers have made the changes as instructed at the hearing and summarised above. The amended management plan is attached to this paper for your consideration and changes are highlighted (Attachment 2).

6. Next steps

Once the committee adopts the management plan, Officers will begin getting the document ready for publication. Some small editing changes may be required, prior to publication, but these will not affect the intent or meaning of the final plan, its objectives or policies.

7. Communication

Letters will be sent to submitters, advising them of the Committee's deliberations and decisions. Newsletters will also be sent to all those people interested in the plan's review. Copies of the final plan will be made available to stakeholders, submitters, Council offices and libraries. The management plan's adoption will be announced with a media release and will be included in the next Green Shoots community newsletter.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee;

1. **Receive** the report and **note** the contents of the report.
2. **Recommend** to Council that it
 - i. **Adopt** the *Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan*, subject to any minor technical or editorial amendments to be approved by the Landcare Committee Chair.
 - ii. **Revoke** the relevant provisions of the *Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan 1993*
 - iii. **Instruct** Officers to finalise the publication and distribution of the *Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan*.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Fiona Shaw

Advisor, Planning & Policy
Parks & Forests

Murray Waititi

Manager, Parks & Forests

Attachment 1: Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan