



Report **06.359**
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Committee **Landcare**
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Draft East Harbour Regional Park management plan - Hearing on submissions by Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee

1. Purpose

To:

- Outline the hearing process for the draft East Harbour Regional Park management plan, especially dates and times
- Consider membership of the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee for this hearing.

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. Background

At its meeting on 08 February 2005, the Landcare Committee established the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee and adopted the Terms of Reference [**Attachment 1**] for that subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to hear submissions on the Regional Parks & Forests management plans.

The Landcare Committee has also considered several reports recently regarding the East Harbour Regional Park management plan review - Report 06.62 on 29 March 2006 setting the direction for the preparation of a draft management plan and Report 06.247 on 22 June 2006 recommending that Council release the draft management plan for public consultation (approved by Council on 20 July 2006).

4. Next steps for the draft East Harbour Regional Park management plan

With the East Harbour Regional Park draft Management Plan recently being released for public consultation, arrangements now need to be made for the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee to hear and consider submissions received on the draft plan. Submissions close on 25 September 2006 so it is not yet known how many submissions will be received or how many people will wish to be heard.

4.1 Dates for hearing and workshop

The dates set down for the Hearing and a Workshop to consider the submissions are:

- Hearing - Friday 10 November 2006 (0930 – 1630), Council Chambers
- Hearings and Subcommittee deliberations - Wednesday 15 November 2006 (0930 – 1630), Council Chambers

The above dates have been provisionally booked pending confirmation by the Subcommittee. If only a few people wish to be heard it may be possible to complete the hearings and have the Subcommittee deliberations on the afternoon of Friday 10 November. This will be confirmed closer to the time once hearing numbers are known. The 15th November date has been booked if needed.

4.2 Membership of the Subcommittee

The membership of the Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee is the same as the Landcare Committee. The Subcommittee also has the ability to appoint such other members for shorter fixed durations if it so desires. This may include representatives from the local Iwi, the Department of Conservation, or a territorial authority.

In this instance, the Subcommittee may consider it important and appropriate to invite Iwi representatives from the East Harbour Iwi Working Group (Teri Puketapu, from Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui and Liz Mellish from Wellington Tenth's Trust), and representatives from the Department of Conservation and the Hutt City Council.

4.3 Quasi judicial role

The Subcommittee has a quasi judicial role, so it is important that those members deliberating on the submissions commit to attending as much of the proceedings as possible. It would be desirable if Subcommittee members who deliberate on submissions were present at the hearings.

The Subcommittee quorum is two regional councillors who must be present throughout the entire hearing.

5. Communication

The Hearing dates will be communicated by public notices and letters to those who have indicated they wish to be heard.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Confirm** that the dates and times for the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee and Committee workshop considering submissions on the East Harbour Regional Park draft management plan be:
 - *Hearing - Fri 10 Nov 2006 (0930 – 1630) at GW Council Chambers*
 - *Hearings and subcommittee deliberations – Wed 15 Nov 2006 (0900 – 1630) at GW Council Chambers*
2. **Invite** a representative each from *Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui, Wellington Tenth's Trust, Department of Conservation and the Hutt City Council to be members of the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee for the duration of the hearing and deliberation of submissions on the East Harbour Regional Park draft management plan.*
3. **Authorise** the Chairperson, Councillor Laidlaw, in consultation with the Manager Parks, to finalise the additional appointments as outlined above.

Report approved by:

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Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks & Forests

Attachment 1: Parks and Forests Hearing Committee: Terms of Reference