



Report 06.574  
Date 17 October 2006  
File PK/12/01/11

Committee Policy Finance and Strategy Committee  
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## East Harbour Regional Park draft Management Plan - Hearing

### 1. Purpose

To provide an overview of the submissions Greater Wellington has received from the public on the draft East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan.

### 2. Significance

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 draft East Harbour Regional Park (EHRP) management plan was released for public consultation earlier this year (Report 06.247) and submissions were received on the draft until consultation concluded on September 25 2006.

The draft management plan for EHRP updates the existing management plan to align it with the management concepts in the Regional Parks network management plan, as well as reflecting the vision the community has for this park.

### 4. Summary of Submissions

A copy of all the submissions on the draft management plan were made available to Councillors through the Councillors Bulletin and were distributed in the Councillors pigeon holes on 10 October. A summary of each submission is available in **attachment one** of this report.

72 submissions were received in total. 30 of these submissions (42%) were single issue submissions (submissions that addressed only one issue), while the remaining 42 submissions (58 %) addressed a variety of issues. Of the 30 single issue submissions, 16 addressed phasing out duck hunting on the two Lakes in the Lakes Block, 5 addressed hunting in the northern block, 5 related to mountain biking in the northern block, 3 to horse riding in the Lakes Block and 1 to dogs in the remote zone.

In total;

- 30 submissions were received opposing the Department of Conservation's (DOC) proposed intention to phase out duck shooting at the Pencarrow lakes
- 25 submissions opposed the phasing out of hunting in the Northern Block, with 9 submissions supporting it.
- 12 submissions opposed prohibiting mountain biking in the Northern Block, while 9 submissions supported this policy
- 12 submissions opposed prohibiting dogs in the Remote Zone, with 8 submissions supporting the ban
- 10 opposing and 2 supporting submissions were received regarding the proposed camping policy in Zone 1
- There were 9 submissions against and 3 supporting the proposed prohibition of horse riding in the Lakes Block
- The reclassification of the Lakes Block as a Scenic Reserve was requested by 8 submitters, while the repair of fish passage at the front of the lakes was raised by 10 submitters (4 opposing and 6 supporting changes to the culverts).

## **5. Iwi**

Contact with the Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai and the Tenth's Trust was maintained throughout the plan process. No written submissions were received from them. However, representatives have indicated that they would like to make an oral submission during the Hearings, especially around the issue of the future management of Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera.

## **6. Key issues**

A brief outline of issues raised by submitters are summarised in **Table 1** and a complete summary of submissions is attached.

### **6.1 Duck hunting in the Lakes Block**

Duck hunting on the Pencarrow Lakes was the most common issue raised in the submissions received. The decision about whether or not duck hunting should continue in this area currently lies with the Crown because the lakes are managed by DOC as a Wildlife Management Reserve. The lakes are also subject to a Treaty claim, which again may affect their future management.

At the time of writing the draft plan, DOC had indicated that they wished to phase out duck shooting at the lakes. The policies included in the draft plan therefore reflected that decision. As it now stands, DOC has decided to undertake another round of public consultation with affected parties over the future management of the lakes. Some of the policies in the plan would need to be changed if duck hunting were to be continued, notably the recreational hunting and firearms policies. Many duck hunters also requested the use of dogs and boats for hunting purposes.

## **6.2 Hunting in the Northern Block**

The second most significant issue to emerge from the submissions was the proposal to prohibit hunting in the Northern Block. 35% of submitters opposed the proposed ban, while 13% supported it. A number of submissions that oppose the ban suggested restricted access, such as a permit system or a restricted season. Other suggestions were that pig hunting and bow hunting could be allowed as these activities do not involve the use of firearms.

## **6.3 Mountain biking in the northern block**

Submissions on mountain biking were fairly evenly split between opposing and supporting a proposed ban on cycling in the northern block. Some submitters have suggested that restricted access could be allowed on selected tracks. Hutt City Council opposed mountain biking in the Lakes Block.

## **6.4 Camping in Zone1 and dogs in Zone 2**

There were a number of submissions opposing a proposed ban on camping at Butterfly Creek. Some submitters suggested that a permitted system could be allowed. There were also a few submissions requesting that camping be allowed in the Lakes Block.

Prohibiting dogs from the remote zone was a concern for nine submitters. Some suggested that a ban could be implemented later if ground birds were reintroduced to the area.

## **6.5 Horse riding in Zone 3**

Nine submissions opposing a proposed ban on horse riding were received. Access from Burdan's Gate for the wider community would need to be discussed with Hutt City Council if this activity was allowed.

## **6.6 Scenic Reserve Status**

A number of submitters advocated for a change of reserve status of the lakes block from Recreation to Scenic Reserve. Four requests were also made for the nomination of the Pencarrow lakes as a RAMSAR Site.

## **6.7 Other issues**

Four submissions opposing and one supporting the investigation of a marked route from the Wainuiomata Golf Course were received. Those opposed were concerned about the impact of the route on the mainland island. One submitter requested changes to the 'use of aircraft' policy to allow for hang gliding in Zone 1 and at Baring Head. Other submissions related to track locations, the spread of gorse and appropriate plant species, as well as editorial changes on a number of policies.

Some neighbouring landowners opposed the policies relating to park linkages and developments on lands adjacent to the park, while other submitters supported these policies. The investigation of fish passage in front of the lakes

was also raised by neighbouring land owners who were concerned that changes to the road could affect their access.

**Table 1: Brief Outline of Issues Raised**

<p><b>Vision and overarching goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General support, but concerns from neighbouring landowners about the mention of raised beaches in the vision, as some of these are on private land</li> <li>• General support, but differing views about the policies relating to linkages and development affecting the park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment and Landscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally strong support for this section.</li> <li>• Neighbouring landowners concerned about any mention of areas that could be on private land in geological section</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some wording changes suggested</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities and use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differing views about policies relating to dogs, cycling, camping, recreational hunting, horses and firearms</li> <li>• Qualifiers requested for fires and removal of natural materials</li> <li>• Some opposition to new tracks, but also suggestions for linking tracks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions that specific organisations should be mentioned</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for change of status of Lakes Block to Scenic Reserve</li> <li>• Repair of fish passage at the front of the lakes raised</li> </ul>

## 7. Next steps

The Hearings for the plan review are to be held on 9 and 10 November. The Hearings Committee will then deliberate on the Hearings on 15 November. A venue for the hearings and the Deliberations has just fallen though, but we will contact all members of the Hearings Committee regarding the venue as soon as it is known.

After the Committee has heard and considered all the submissions, officers will begin drafting the final plan in line with the direction given by the Committee after the day of deliberations. It is our intention that the final plan will then be considered by Council on 14 December 2006.

Once the Council is satisfied with the final plan, copies 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. A letter will be sent to all submitters outlining the results of the Committee's deliberations.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. receive the report and*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*
- 3. consider the written and oral submissions on the draft East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan*
- 4. instruct Officers to proceed with finalising the East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan after the submissions have been heard and deliberations made.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment one: Draft East Harbour Regional Park Summary of Submissions – Phase 2