



Report **09.579**
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Committee **Regional Sustainability Committee**
Author **Murray Waititi, Manager, Parks**

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan – for adoption

1. Purpose

To consider recommending to Council the adoption of the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan*.

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*.

The process followed for consultation of the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan (draft Plan) has closely followed the Special Consultative Procedures of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

3.1 Deliberations

On 16 April 2009, the Regional Sustainability Committee heard 15 oral submissions on the draft Plan. The written submissions were considered at the Committee's meeting on 12 May 2009. The Committee deliberated on the submissions at its meeting on 3 September.

The deliberations were undertaken by the same five Councillors who heard the oral submissions and considered the written submissions. As a result, officers were requested to incorporate the Committee's directions, **Attachment 1**. A copy of the draft Plan with these changes is in **Attachment 2**. Officers were also requested to create a schedule (**Attachment 3**) of the linkages in the submissions to the Committee's proposed changes to the draft Plan.

As part of the deliberations, the Committee requested officers to remove references to the proposed Puketiro wind farm from the draft Plan. References have accordingly been removed in the revised draft Plan, **Attachment 2**.

3.2 Puketiro wind farm

In September 2008, the Council passed a number of resolutions regarding the Puketiro wind farm. The effect of these was included in a text box (see below) in the draft of the Plan that was subject to the last round of public consultation.

Puketiro Wind Farm Development

Background information

Prior to the release of this draft Management Plan, the Regional Council approved making Battle Hill Farm Forest Park available to an independent developer on commercial terms for any ancillary activities relating to the development of a wind farm on Akatarawa Forest and other land close to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park:

- *A road access from Paekakariki Hill Road to the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park/Akatarawa Forest ridge to connect with wind farm roads, generally in accordance with the roading provisions of the 1992 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan.*
- *Road access along the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park/Akatarawa Forest ridge.*
- *Temporary construction works and activities.*
- *The installation of underground power and communications cables for any wind energy development on Akatarawa Forest and/or adjoining Council land acquired from the New Zealand Transport Agency.*
- *The installation of underground or aboveground cables to connect any wind energy development on Akatarawa Forest and/or adjoining Council land acquired from the New Zealand Transport Agency and/or any nearby private land to the national grid controlled by Transpower New Zealand Limited.*

Adoption of the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Plan will not extinguish the September 2008 Council resolutions or any other Council resolutions. The draft Plan is forward looking and any new activities at Battle Hill, not already approved, will have to be considered taking the Plan into account.

To enable the public to be fully aware of the factual situation, the text box above could be reinstated in the Plan by way of explanation.

3.3 Process for approval

Only those members of the Committee who heard the submissions should vote on the draft Plan to be put forward to Council for adoption.

The Committee's recommendations and Council's decision must be made in light of the submissions that have been received.

4. Communication

Formal replies will be sent to all submitters who have supplied their contact details soon after Council has made its decision on the Plan. It is proposed that the replies include a brief summary of the reasons for Council's decision.

A press release will be issued and copies of the Plan made publicly available.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends to Council that it:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Revokes** the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan adopted in 1992.*
- 4. **Adopts** the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan [including the text box in this report] subject to any minor technical or editorial amendments to be approved by the Committee Chair.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1: Committee's directions table

Attachment 2: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan

Attachment 3: Table of management plan changes with linkages to the submissions