

Report 12.77
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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee
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East Harbour Regional Park - Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui Draft Amendment

1. Purpose

To approve the East Harbour Regional Park – Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui Draft Amendment to the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan for consultation.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of medium significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002. Officers advise that a decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for this decision by Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. That prescribed process is set out at section 4 of this report.

3. Background

On 24 May 2011, Council agreed to notify its intention to reserve Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui as Scenic Reserve and also notify its intention to prepare a management plan for the area. This was an amendment to the Parks Network Plan which covers the whole of our regional parks and forests network. Currently the Parks Network Plan only covers the Recreation Reserve land at Baring Head.

Through this notification process the community had the opportunity to state their views on management priorities for the area, what activities are appropriate and feedback on any other matters that should be contained within a management plan. Feedback was through submissions or online through the ‘*haveyoursay*’ forums. We received 12 submissions and considerable discussion was generated through the forum. This feedback was discussed with the Committee on 23 November 2011. A summary of the community’s views and preferences is included in the background paper (**Attachment 1, Section 2**) and these views have been considered in the preparation of the Draft

Amendment to the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan (hereafter called the Draft Amendment).

In addition to this, officers met with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, agencies involved in managing assets in the area (NIWA, DOC and Ministry of Fisheries) as well as smaller groups on particular issues.

4. Draft Amendment

The Draft Amendment to the Parks Network Plan (contained in **Attachment 2**) outlines the changes proposed to incorporate Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui into the overall Parks Network Plan. The Draft Amendment covers both the recreation reserve (the lighthouse compound) and the scenic reserve (the remainder of the property). It will form a part of the East Harbour Regional Park chapter of the Parks Network Plan.

It outlines the following areas:

- key park characteristics
- management focus
- park-specific policies
- projected changes
- rules applying to activities.

In addition to the Draft Amendment, the background document will also be made available. This provides background to the reason why particular policies have been included.

5. Process and timeframes

Under the Reserves Act, the public have two opportunities to input into a management plan, once prior to a draft and a second when a draft plan has been completed. The first opportunity was in May/June 2011 prior to developing the Draft Amendment. This Draft Amendment is now ready for approval by the Committee to release for public comment.

Under the Act a minimum period of two months is required for the public to provide written submissions on the draft. This will include 'drop in' sessions where the public can talk to officers about matters contained in the Draft Amendment. Two drop-in sessions are proposed at the Greater Wellington Offices in Wakefield Street and a venue in Lower Hutt.

Anyone making a written submission has the option of presenting their submission in person. It is expected that there would be some oral submissions and therefore it is likely that the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee will need to meet to hear submitters and deliberate on the plan on 14 June 2012.

This is the same process we have used for developing the Parks Network Plan and the management plans which predate this.

The anticipated timeline for this is as follows:

14 March	Draft Amendment approved for consultation
19 March	Publicly advertised (web, media and print)
19 March – 18 May	Submission period
14 June	Hearings and deliberations on the Draft Amendment
Late June or August	Amendment approved by Council for inclusion in the Parks Network Plan. (date dependent on nature of changes to draft plan) Following this, approved amendment will be sent to the Minister of Conservation for final approval.*

*Note that the amendment will come into force once it has been approved by the Minister of Conservation (for the area that is Scenic Reserve).

6. Communication

In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 provisions, a public notice will be inserted into the local newspapers. Those who have been involved in the online public forum, sent submissions, or attended meetings with Council officers will be informed in writing.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Approves** the East Harbour Regional Park - Baring Head/Ōrua-Pouanui Draft Amendment to the Parks Network Plan for consultation as set out in Attachment 2 subject to any changes agreed at the meeting.
4. **Notes** the consultation timetable set out in Section 5 of the report.

5. *Agrees to hear and consider the submissions on the Draft Amendment and to make recommendations to Council regarding its adoption.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: A background paper on the future of Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui

Attachment 2: Draft Amendment to the Parks Network Plan: Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui