

1430234

Parangarahu Lakes Plan Hearing Subcommittee: Summary of oral submissions 27 June 2014

The oral submissions covered a number of broad issues already raised in written submissions. The key points raised by submitters included:

Cultural, ecological and recreational aspects

- Support for the focus on cultural and ecological values
- Desire for a cultural monitoring plan, including: surveys of eels, fish, native flora and fauna relative to iwi and for iwi to do this.
- Desire for greater collaboration with all stakeholders, namely HCC and DOC.
- Support for completion of the Cameron's Ridge track.
- Support for continued cycling and mountain bike access including alternative public access from Baring Head.

Access for Duck Hunting

- Opposition to the proposed ban on duck hunting
- View that existing public recreational use rights are protected under the Settlement Act. The ability to restrict access (s.52 Settlement Act) is only applicable for adverse risk; this is not present.
- Considered that there is no conflict with other users.
- Few alternative hunting sites available close to Wellington.
- Considered there are sufficient controls in place to avoid the risk of introducing weeds to the lakes.
- View that stopping hunting will cause a larger number of birds at the lakes and a decline in water quality. A managed cull will be unlikely as the numbers not sufficient.
- Advice that the Wellington Wildfowlers Club provides numbers and details to DOC who arranges permits to be issued on the Friday before opening. Any person can hunt. DOC doesn't restrict numbers.
- Advice that Hutt City Council give the Club permission to access the lakes via Burden's Gate, and that generally access permits were only issues to the Wellington Wildfowlers Club.
- Proposal that if the number of hunters became excessive they could be balloted.
- Support for a collaborative approach and for those using the lakes for duck hunting to participate in projects at the lakes.
- Advice that staff at Fish and Game are skilled on shallow lake management, have seen lakes degraded and recognise the values these lakes still have.
- Suggestion that the GWRC boardwalk (formerly located above Lake Kohangatera) caused damming and slipping, created perfect environment for weeds to proliferate.