

Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan Phases 2 and 3

Phase 2 as proposed, with variations (Review by 30 June 2002)

Interest Groups

- In general, only groups from *bona fide* clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only).
- One trip-day will be reserved for tours for individual members of the public (i.e. as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run on that day. All conditions applying to groups from clubs and other *bona fide* organisations visiting the catchment will apply.
- Access will be granted to the Wainuiomata Catchment only – tour groups must stay on the formed roads or designated tracks.
- Groups must enter and exit at one point (i.e. via the main gate) and fill in the logbook.
- Landcare rangers (or other Council staff) will accompany/guide the groups; a Landcare Ranger must always accompany any group accessing the Georges Creek area.
- There will be an average of one trip-day per month (weekends).
- The ratio¹ of rangers to visitors will be 1:10.
- Group size: max 20.
- Maximum number of people in the catchment: 40 per ‘trip-day’.
- There are to be no general open days for the public.
- Vetting and training of tripleaders² will commence on site during January 2002 – tripleaders may require additional training days over and above the ‘trip-days’ noted above; tripleaders will be required to hold a current first aid certificate and be tested for typhoid.
- Tours of the Water Treatment Plant and Morton Dam are to remain the responsibility of The Water Group.
- Refer to ‘*Security and control measures*’ in the Access Plan for requirements on visitors.

¹ Ratios have been set after consultation with the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council.

² A formal tripleader programme (similar to that for guides at the Karori Sanctuary) will need to be established and implemented. It is envisaged that approved tripleaders (potentially from groups such as Forest and Bird, the Botanical Society and tramping clubs) will be considered for ‘honorary ranger’ status.

Research

- Applications from *bona fide* organisations to undertake scientific, heritage and/or cultural research may be granted on merit.
- A copy of the research report must be submitted to the Council.
- A strict approval process will be followed (refer Access Plan for details).
- All specified conditions placed on the researcher(s) must be adhered to.

Hunting

- Organised hunting limited to the 'Roar Hunt', which may become an annual event (noting PR and security benefits).
- 'Roar Hunt' administration as for the 2000 'Roar Hunt' (i.e. public ballot, allocation of hunting blocks, same conditions on vehicle use, removal of animals, etc.).
- No casual hunting permitted.
- Professional hunters may be contracted in accordance with the Council lands Pest Management Plan. This would be part of an agreed strategy between the Utility Services and Landcare Divisions. The work would be managed by the Landcare Ranger.

Camping

- No camping.

Vehicles

- No private motor vehicles – permitted operator and management vehicles only and professional pest control (limited).
- Vehicles for people with limited mobility, undertaking study and during the 'Roar Hunt' may be approved on application at the Ranger's discretion – these groups will be required to use a 4WD vehicle.

Concessions

- The introduction of concessions in the catchment will be considered as part of *Phase 3*. Should special circumstances arise before *Phase 3*, concession applications will be considered by the Utility Services Committee taking into account the WRC Concessions Policy for Parks and Forests.
- Casual, or concessions for cultural harvesting may be approved on request but will be encouraged to use areas outside the catchment if possible.

Police/Search and Rescue

- One exercise a year may be approved if requested but will be encouraged to use other areas outside the catchment.

Access to WRC Staff on Official Business

- Sign for key and fill in logbook before accessing catchment (Landcare Ranger to continue to have access to logbook).

Areas Off Limits

- No access in immediate vicinity of intakes.
- Restricted areas to be marked on maps (distributed to all visitors).

Phase 3 (Review 30 June 2003)

Interest Groups

- In general, groups from *bona fide* clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only).
- One trip-day to be reserved for tours for individual members of the public (i.e. as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run on that day; all conditions applying to groups from clubs and other *bona fide* organisations visiting the catchment will apply. (It may be possible to allow individual members of the public to ballot for places on one or more other tours reserved for that purpose during *Phase 3*).
- Groups visiting the Wainuiomata Catchment must enter and exit at one point (i.e. via the main gate). Groups visiting the Orongorongo Catchment must enter via the main gate but may exit at an alternative point with the approval of the Landcare Ranger. All visitors must fill in the logbook.
- A Landcare Ranger or approved tripler will accompany/guide the groups (any group accessing the Georges Creek area must always be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger).
- There will be an average of one 'trip-day' per month.
- Ratio of rangers/triplers to visitors in the Wainuiomata Catchment: 1:10.
- The ratio of triplers to visitors in the Orongorongo Catchment may be reviewed during *Phase 3*, depending on the experience of the tripler and the groups entering the area (e.g. the ratio for experienced trampers may be changed to 1:20)
- Group size: maximum 20.
- Maximum number of people in the catchment: 40 per 'trip-day' (but may be reviewed during *Phase 3*).
- Approved triplers may take tours through the Orongorongo Catchment (12 trips during *Phase 3*, which must take place on approved 'trip-days').
- Triplers must have taken groups through the Wainuiomata Catchment before they can take groups through the Orongorongo Catchment.
- Only experienced groups, with a good level of fitness will be permitted in the Orongorongo Catchment.
- Access along Moores Valley Ridge Track is dependent on the agreement of private landowners.
- There will be no general open days for the public during *Phase 3* but an open day for a limited number of people in a localised area could be considered in future.

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