

Report to the Landcare Committee
from Victoria Owen and Anne Manley, Landcare Planners – Policy, Parks and Forests

Vision and Guiding Principles for Regional Parks, Forests and Water Collection Areas

1. Purpose

This paper sets out:

- proposed guiding principles for developing the management plans.
- a proposed vision for regional parks, forests and water collection areas to be incorporated in the Draft Management Plans.

2. Guiding Principles for Management Plans

Following the Councillor workshops on the Parks and Forests Management Plans, we thought that it may be helpful to check back with Councillors on some of the more significant issues that have been canvassed.

Based on the feedback from Councillors, the public and Tangata Whenua, we have developed some draft principles to guide the development of the management plans. They are as follows:

Draft Principle 1 – Enhancing quality for Life

In determining the ‘appropriateness’ of an activity within the regional parks, forests and water collection areas, management planning and assessments of activities will be based on:

- encouraging activities that enhance the Council’s quality for life outcomes.¹
- allowing activities that are effectively neutral in terms of quality for life outcomes.
- discouraging or prohibiting activities that detract from quality for life outcomes.

¹ Possible Council outcomes may be based around the ten key areas of Bio-diversity, Water, Air, Energy, Land, Access/Transport, Waste, Recreation, Safety/hazards, and Community.

Draft Principle 2 – Protecting the natural environment and cultural heritage values

Where environmental or heritage values are high (e.g. in areas of native bush, archaeological sites), areas will be managed primarily to protect those values, and social and economic activities will be more constrained.

Where environmental or heritage values are lower (e.g. in modified grasslands, areas of low heritage value), areas will be managed primarily for sustainable use, and social and economic activities will be less constrained.

Draft Principle 3 – Providing a high quality water supply

Current water collection areas will be managed primarily to maintain water quality and to provide security at water supply facilities, in order to provide a high quality water supply for the people of the Wellington Region.

3. Draft Vision for the Regional Parks, Forests & Water Collection Areas

With the Councillors' suggested quality for life goals in mind, and taking into account feedback from the public and Iwi thus far, we have drafted a proposed vision for the regional parks, forests and water collection areas:

To enhance quality for life in the Wellington region by providing regional parks, forests and water collection areas that:

- *Protect our natural environment and cultural heritage for current and future generations.*
- *Supply clean water to the Region.*
- *Provide the community with opportunities to use and enjoy these lands in a sustainable manner.*
- *Involve Tangata Whenua and the community in meaningful ways.*

This vision recognises that:

- Regional parks, forests and water collection areas are part of a network of lands managed by the Wellington Regional Council containing resources that are important for the long-term sustainable future of the Region and its people.
- It is essential to provide a high quality water supply in order to maintain the public health of current and future generations in the Region.
- Regional parks, forests and water collection areas assist to protect our natural environment and cultural heritage, and provide opportunities for community use and enjoyment.
- Tangata Whenua maintain strong links with the lands on which regional parks, forests and water collection areas are established, and continue to have guardianship roles and responsibilities.

- Continuing community involvement through opportunities to enjoy, visit, learn about, participate in, and protect, parks, forests and water collection areas² is a fundamental purpose of their management.

4. **Communication**

No particular communication initiatives are proposed at this stage.

If the draft vision and guiding principles are approved for inclusion in the management plans, the public will get the opportunity to give feedback once the draft management plans are released for public consultation.

5. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.
- (3) **Agree** to the draft guiding principles for management plans.
- (4) **Agree** to the draft vision for regional parks, forests and water collection areas.

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² As appropriate. Public access is restricted in current water collection areas to minimise the risk of contamination.