

**Report** 04.142  
**Date** 12 March 2004  
**File** PK/01/01/11

**Committee** Landcare  
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## **Parks and forests storm damage**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of the damage sustained in the parks and forest areas caused by the storm events during February 2004 and to seek approval to overspend by \$46,140 in order to repair the storm damage.

### **2. Storm events**

Throughout February 2004 there were several storms that affected parts of the Wellington region. During the storm events, heavy and sustained rainfall and severe winds caused slips and flooding in many parts of the parks and forest areas requiring remedial work to be undertaken.

### **3. Storm damage assessment**

Officers have been busy assessing damage to the network. Luckily, only a couple of major infrastructure items were affected by the storms. Most of the damage sustained tends to be from slips and fallen trees that blocked entry points, roads or tracks. Although time consuming, this type of damage is relatively easy to deal with and officers and contractors have started clearing them. Below is a summary of the storm damage in each park.

#### **3.1 Belmont Regional Park**

The most severely affected areas were the Korokoro Stream from Stratton Street to Cornish Street, and Dry Creek. Some park tracks were closed given the severity of the damage. Fallen pine trees have been the biggest job to clear. Worst hit was the isolated stand of 70-year-old pine trees in the Baked Beans Bend/Korokoro Stream area. Large numbers of trees were blown down by the wind and these have required a major effort to clear.

No major damage was caused to structures in the park, although many footbridges floated off their foundations as they are designed to do in high stream flows. These bridges will be moved back onto their foundations as we work progressively through the track network.

### **3.2 Kaitoke Regional Park**

The park was closed on two days, Monday 16 and Friday 20 February. Floodwaters damaged two sections of the gorge access road. The Weir Track is still closed by a large slip. The ford at Farm Creek was washed out and has had to be reinstated. The Pakuratahi River washed out sections of willows above the Waterworks Road entrance bridge and the river will need to be realigned. Several big trees were cleared from various tracks and roads.

### **3.3 East Harbour Regional Park**

Strong winds have caused a number of pine trees to fall on the Ferry Road track. The track has now been reopened.

A number of slips have occurred on the border of the Park causing material to end up in some private residential property. We are currently assessing whether we have any liability for cleaning up this material.

### **3.4 Queen Elizabeth Park**

Strong winds and king tides have caused erosion to the coastline affecting a number of beach access ways and the fencing around the Spinifex trial planting at Raumati South.

### **3.5 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park**

The October 2003 flood decimated Battle Hill. No new damage to report other than existing remedial work.

### **3.6 Hutt River Trail**

The Hutt River rose to the six metre at the Birchville Recorder, submerging parts of the river trail and scouring the trail's surface. Clearing of debris continues.

### **3.7 Akatarawa Forest**

Numerous windthrown native and pine trees have had to be cleared from roads and tracks in the Forest. This was finished prior to the annual Karapoti Classic mountain bike race. Whakatikei Road has been closed due to a couple of washouts along it.

### **3.8 Pakuratahi Forest**

Damage to the Rimutaka Incline has been significant with three large slips and numerous windthrown pine trees affecting the walkway formation. Our planned Rimutaka Rail Trail Walk has had to be postponed twice this month due to weather conditions.

The Tunnel Gully entrance bridge sustained significant damage to one of the abutments. Repairs and tidy up will be undertaken by both Ranger staff and contractors and is expected to take at least four weeks.

### 3.9 Wainuiomata recreation area

The abutment of the truss bridge connecting the recreation area with Hine Road has been scoured out and will need river protection work done. One ford across the Wainuiomata stream has been inundated with one metre of river material. The true condition of the ford will not be known until after the material is removed.

## 4. Estimated cost of storm damage

There is no reserve to fund clean-up and repairs from flooding. Consequently, any costs have to be funded by cutting existing programmes or obtaining further funds.

The storm damage repair cost estimates to date for the parks and forest areas are summarised as follows. Parks and Forest can fund \$45,000 of the damages by undertaking no further environmental education infrastructure work this year, and using “gains on sale” of vehicles. However, the remainder of the work \$46,140 is unfunded.

Park	Nature of damage	Est. cost	\$ cost
Battle Hill	Tree removal	1,000	
	Slip removal	1,000	
	Bridge work	1,500	
	Fences/flood gates	1,000	
	Misc.	500	
	<b>Total Battle Hill</b>		<b>5,000</b>
QEP	Tree removal	1,000	
	Wainui Stream clean up	1,000	
	Sea wall Wainui Stream	10,000	
	<b>Total QEP</b>		<b>12,000</b>
Belmont	Korokoro track reinstatement	10,000	
	Tree removal	15,000	
	Misc cleanup	5,000	
	<b>Total Belmont</b>		<b>30,000</b>
Wainuiomata recreation area	Truss bridge abutment protection	2,500	
	<b>Total Wainui</b>		<b>2,500</b>
Rimutaka Incline	Windfall damage and 4 large slip clearance	14,000	
	Cross-blade river beneath first tunnel to stop erosion	2,500	
	<b>Total Rimutaka Incline</b>		<b>16,500</b>
Tunnel Gully	Reinstatement bridge	5,000	
	<b>Total Tunnel Gully</b>		<b>5,000</b>
Kaitoke	Cross-blading Pakuratahi River	6,960	
	Clearing abutments	680	
	Slip on gorge road	6,000	
	Slip near Pakuratahi forks	2,000	
	<b>Total Kaitoke</b>		<b>15,640</b>
Akatarawa Forest	Estimate for windfall and washout clean up	3,500	
	<b>Total Akatarawas</b>		<b>3,500</b>
East Harbour	Tree surgery Ferry Road	1,000	
	<b>Total East Harbour</b>		<b>1,000</b>
	<b>Total Parks and Forests</b>	<b>91,140</b>	<b>91,140</b>

## 5. Time frame for repairing the storm damage

Although the majority of the damage in the network has been of a minor nature, remedial work has had to be carried out immediately so tracks and roads could be opened. Remedial work in areas where there is little danger to the public will be incorporated into our regular maintenance programme.

We anticipate that all remedial work can be completed within the current (2003/04) financial year.

## 6. Communication

The status of the parks and forests areas has been available through press releases and on the Greater Wellington website. Safety signs have been erected to warn the public in the affected areas where necessary. No other communications have been considered necessary at this time.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receive** the report.
2. **Note** the contents of the report.
3. **Approve** an additional \$46,140 to fund Parks and Forests storm damage repairs.

Report prepared by:

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