

Report 04.309
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Committee Landcare
Author Trecia Smith, Advisor – Planning and Policy

South Coast Trail

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the feasibility study for a coastal trail along Wellington's south coast.

2. Background

At the last Annual Plan round a feasibility study for a coastal trail along Wellington's south coast from Makara to Owhiro Bay was allocated a \$20,000 budget to be spent in the 2003/2004 financial year.

Last year, officers spoke with Terawhiti Station representatives to discuss access across the station, which is a necessary part of any trail proposal. Officers also spoke with the Department of Conservation and the Wellington City Council, and both organisations are supportive of the feasibility study proposal.

A successful field trip to Terawhiti Station was held earlier this year with staff and Councillors from both Greater Wellington and Wellington City Councils. After the trip, Terawhiti Station noted that they required further time to consider future management options for the station. As a consequence, the feasibility study was deferred until the station's shareholders had the necessary time to consider the idea.

Since this time, limited contact has been kept with Terawhiti Station representatives and Greater Wellington. Councillors Barr and Andy Foster from the city council have been particularly supportive and helpful in liaising with Terawhiti Station.

3. Next steps

Alastair Wright, chair of the Terawhiti Station shareholders' group, has reconfirmed the station's interest in the feasibility study. He will be coming to Wellington in the next couple of months to discuss the proposal with other shareholders. He has indicated that he is also interested in visiting Belmont Regional Park and a field trip will be organised once Mr Wright's visit has been confirmed. Officers are also collating material on health and safety aspects across private land, for Mr Wright's information.

The feasibility study will recommence within the next six months. Four individual components have been identified as being essential to any future proposals. Briefly this entails looking at the legal requirements, the recreation opportunities, the historical and environmental values and the structural and operational aspects. Once this information has been compiled a report will be presented to the Landcare Committee to consider.

4. Communication

Until the feasibility study is undertaken, no further communication is anticipated at this stage.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Trecia Smith
Advisor – Planning and Policy

Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks and Forests

Rob Forlong
Divisional Manager, Landcare