



Report 07.472  
Date 16 July 2007  
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Committee Parks & Forests Hearing Committee  
Author Murray Waititi, Manager - Parks

## **Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2007**

### **1. Purpose**

To consider changes to the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan and to recommend these changes to Landcare Committee for approval.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

The Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan Review began in February 2006. Battle Hill Farm Forest Management Plan 2007 was written under the Local Government Act 2002 but follows the statutory process set out in the Reserves Act 1977.

The two phases of consultation received few submissions with 45 being received in total. This is in part due to the location and lack of significant community involvement in the park.

The Parks and Forests Hearing Committee formally considered the 17 submissions received in the last round of consultation at a hearing on 20 June where six submitters wished to be heard. The Subcommittee agreed to give all written submissions preliminary consideration, then revisit in greater detail at a later time (see Report 07.443).

Issues surrounding the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management plan were discussed with officers at a workshop on Wednesday 11 July 2007. No decisions were made in this workshop.

## **4. Consideration of submissions**

Seventeen submissions were received on the draft plan. Generally submitters were supportive of the plan with amendments suggested to the content of the draft.

Issues raised by submitters were summarised in the hearing report that was presented to the Committee during deliberations following the hearing on Wednesday 20 June.

### **4.1 Summary of amendments**

Many submitters identified editing and style improvements that could be made. Officers agree that these could be made with little or no substantive changes to the plans intent. Small editing changes that do not alter the meaning or intent of the plan have not been noted.

Tables have been revised and maps labelled to provide greater clarity. Text boxes will be used to illustrate the plan and inform readers about the land's value and/or particular management issues. A text box has been used to note Horokiri Stream's significance, policies have been modified to accommodate hang gliding and paragliding and provide for motorised recreation access to the Akatarawa Forest. Recommendations made by the Historic Places Trust (HPT) have been incorporated into the plan.

Finally, in response to the RES NZ Ltd submission, policies have been developed to ensure that any conflict between the broader objectives and policies for the management of the park and those pertaining to the development of a wind farm are alleviated. The management plan now errs in favour of the wind farm development wherever these inconsistencies occur.

A Summary of Significant Changes to the Plan is found in Attachment 1

A full Summary of the Submissions and Recommended Changes is included in Attachment 2.

## **5. The final management plan**

Officers have made the changes as instructed at the Hearing and summarised above. A copy of the amended plan has been circulated to Councillors.

## **6. Next Steps**

The Parks and Forests Hearing Committee is to consider the changes to the draft plan and to provide a recommendation to the Landcare Committee to approve the final plan. If Landcare Committee accepts this recommendation, the plan will be forwarded to Council for formal approval.

## 7. Communication

Letters will be sent by the Chairperson of the Landcare Committee to submitters, advising them of the Committee's deliberations and decisions. A newsletter will be sent to all those people interested in the park and the plan review. Copies of the final plan will be made available to stakeholders, submitters, Council offices and libraries. The management plan's adoption will be announced with a media release and will be included in the next *Green Shoots* community newsletter. The media release will also highlight that a number of changes have been made to the draft plan as a direct result of public submissions.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee:*

1. ***Accepts*** the changes to the draft plan
2. ***Recommends*** to Landcare Committee that it approves the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2007, for adoption as the final management plan

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Murray Waititi**  
Manager – Parks

**Murray Kennedy**  
Divisional Manager – WSPF

**Attachment 1: Summary of Significant Changes to the Plan**

**Attachment 2: Summary of Submissions and Recommended Changes**