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Committee Council  
Author Cr Rex Kirton, Chair, Parks, Forests and Utilities  
Committee  
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply,  
Parks and Forests

## **Report of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee Meeting held on 31 July 2008**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform Council about the meeting of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee that took place at the Wellington Regional Council Chamber on 31 July 2008.

### **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. Classifying Waitangarua Farm as Reserve (under the Reserves Act 1977)**

Waitangarua Farm forms part of the park and under the Government grant given to assist with the purchase was that the land should be classified as a reserve. Three submitters were heard:

- Ms Sylvia Jenkins' main concern was to continue to protect the bushland areas which had been covenanted under the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust through designating these as scenic reserves. Mr Alan McKenzie (DoC representative on the Committee), in response, advised that the QEII covenants would remain intact.
- Mr Chris Horne preferred that the park was designated a scenic reserve instead of a recreational reserve because this would provide the best protection of some unusual geological and botanic features. In particular, the distinctive penepain remnants and five species of podocarps near Boulder hill would be looked after better.
- Mr Peter Matcham supports the recreational designation in general and that the bushland needs to be managed effectively.

Councillor Baber mentioned that fencing needed to be maintained to give effect to the QEII covenants.

Mr Teri Puketapu inquired about vehicle access onto the park. Officers advised that vehicles have limited access under organised events (e.g. four wheel drive club). He also raised a concern about motor bikes and the potential damage that they can cause.

Councillor Baber asked that a management plan be developed, and costings and financial implications be taken to the LTCCP meetings.

Officers were asked to provide some clarity over the key differences between recreational and scenic reserves, particularly in relation to access, with a report to be put to the next committee meeting

#### **4. Kapiti Pony Club licence/lease for land in Queen Elizabeth Park**

The Kapiti Pony Club has applied to lease land at Queen Elizabeth Park over a 10 year period.

Ms Barbara Mitcalfe and Mr Chris Horne presented their joint submission. They have a concern regarding the proximity of horses to the fragile Poplar Avenue wetland. They requested that such an activity is kept separate to the wetland catchment.

Councillor Kirton suggested that any fencing needed should be at the lessee's cost.

Councillor Wilde raised concerns about public and private benefits and the need for a consistent approach. In addition, requested that officers approach KCDC regarding other land used for sports grounds.

Councillor Glensor asked officers explain the pros and cons of the leasing arrangement, with a report to be put to the next committee meeting

#### **5. Parks' Marketing and Design report 2007/08**

Councillor Greig complimented officers for the work completed as outlined in the report.

#### **6. Community enhancement projects performance indicator**

Councillor Baber acknowledged the work of these community groups and that they were very appreciative of any help from Councillors who assisted on a Saturday morning.

#### **7. Stuart Macaskill Lake 1: Apron joint repair**

Councillor Glensor inquired whether the wall could be done at the same time as the present works. Mr Kennedy advised that the design work and resource consent applications means that the construction of the wall is at least a year away.

Councillor Lamason requested that officers prepare a news release telling the community why the lake has been emptied.

Councillor Greig requested that the next meeting be held at Te Marua water treatment plant.

## **8. Divisional Manager's report**

Mr Kennedy advised that park visitor numbers had increased by around 25% over the past summer which reflects not only the unusually long summer but also on our work.

In addition, Mr Kennedy updated the committee about the Water Group restructuring that has been substantially completed.

Mr Laidlow explained how the Optimiser stage 2 operates and the benefits that we will accrue from managing energy and chemical usage better.

Mr Leonard advised that the forestry work near Upper Hutt had to cease operations because of the recent high winds – the only time that Mr Leonard has done so.

## **9. Other business**

Mr Kennedy advised that the lessee of the Rimutaka Tea rooms and toilet provided a business plan.

## **10. Unconfirmed minutes**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee's meeting are attached as Attachment 1.

## **11. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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**Cr Rex Kirton**  
Chair  
Parks, Forests and Utilities  
Committee

**Murray Kennedy**  
Divisional Manager, Water  
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**Attachment 1:** Public minutes