



Report 09.247  
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Committee Regional Sustainability Committee  
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## Consideration of submissions for the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2008

### 1. Purpose

To consider written submissions to the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan* and highlight the key issues of both the written and oral submissions.

### 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. The draft *Battle Hill Farm Forest Management Plan* was written under the now repealed provisions of the *Local Government Act 1974* and consultation on it has broadly followed the statutory process set out in that Act and the *Reserves Act 1977*. As part of this process, the Wellington Regional Sustainability Committee is to receive public submissions and to conduct hearings related to this management plan.

A Parks and Forests Hearing Subcommittee heard submissions on the draft *Battle Hill Farm Forest Management Plan* on 27 June 2007. A second round of consultation on this draft plan was recommended and initiated by the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee on 24 October 2008 (Report No. 08.759). The submission period for this round of consultation ran from early December 2008 to 2 March 2009.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) received 43 written submissions. Fifteen oral submissions were heard by the Regional Sustainability Committee on 16 April 2009 (Report No. 09.208).

## **4. The consideration of oral and written submissions**

The oral submissions were heard and considered on 16 April. A summary has been provided within section 5 of this report to highlight the “key points” for deliberation of both the oral and written submissions.

The written submissions will need to be formally considered at this meeting. However, any deliberations or decisions are to be made at a future Wellington Regional Sustainability Committee meeting.

Only those members of the Committee who heard the oral submissions should be involved in the consideration and deliberation on the submissions, and in the formulation of any recommendations made as a result of those deliberations.

The summary of submissions is attached in Attachment 1.

## **5. Key issues of the submissions**

### **5.1 Introduction**

GWRC has received 43 written submissions. A number of issues that were raised by submitters were similar in nature. These concerns have been grouped together below for their consideration.

### **5.2 Wind farm related activities - support**

Two submissions support the wind farm related activities, with recommendations for some minor changes. These submissions:

- Support the changes of the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan* regarding wind farm activities and support the development of Puketiro wind farm.
- Consider that as a prohibited activity wind turbines within the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park are recognised as “activities that would have long-term adverse effects on the environment”. The submitters believe that this statement is inappropriate as wind farms do not universally result in long-term adverse effects on the environment.

### **5.3 Wind farm related activities - opposed**

Thirty-three submissions oppose the use of the park for wind farm related activities, especially the wind farm access and infrastructure required for the wind farm development. Points made by these submitters were that:

- The submitters support the prohibition of wind turbines within the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.
- Activities associated with the proposed Puketiro wind farm are inconsistent with the vision regarding protection of the park’s landscape values from excessive development.

- The wind farm will introduce visual pollution into the natural landscape of the park and will reduce the open space character of the park.
- The inclusion of wind farm provisions introduces a commercial interest into an area that is of historical and environmental significance, and is designated for recreational purposes. The wind farm provisions are inconsistent with the purpose for which the park was purchased.
- The construction of a major access road through the park will change the character of the park. It will restrict the right of access for the public and local communities. Allowing access to the wind farm will introduce significant industrial development into a natural area for commercial benefit.
- Wind turbine flyover should not be allowed to encroach into Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. The siting of wind turbines close to the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park's boundary will reduce the scenic value of the park.
- The nature, scale and size of the roads for wind farm construction will increase the risk of erosion and sedimentation impacting on the Horokiri Stream and Pauatahanui Inlet.
- GWRC is acting outside its powers and from a position of predetermination and bias as the wind farm activities cannot be considered to have been approved before the consultation process has been completed.
- GWRC should postpone the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan* process until Plan Change 7 of the Porirua District Plan is finalised.
- Wind farm access to the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park should be revoked and the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park not be made available for wind farm related activities, and all such activities should be classified as prohibited.

#### **5.4 Access road for logging and/or the wind farm**

Two submitters oppose the proposed road through the park for logging and/or the wind farm but did not mention any of the wind farm related activities. These matters are summarised as follows. These submissions:

- Consider that the park should remain "as is" without an additional roadway, as an extra road is unacceptable and will result in heavy vehicles using Paekakariki Road, Haywards Hill Road and Pauatahanui Village.
- Question why a road is required through a park for the logging of another park and consider that felled trees should be transported out of the park via existing routes and roadways.

#### **5.5 Other matters raised**

Six submitters raised other matters and noted errors and inconsistencies found within the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan*. They recommend technical amendments to the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan*.

Ngati Toa generally supports the *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan*. They also acknowledge the access that is required for Puketiro wind farm but believes further discussion is required in relation to the access.

The matters within the other submissions are summarised as follows:

- The plan should be amended to reflect the changes for the future requirements of the Transmission Gully motorway project.
- The minor upgrading of network utilities should be specifically provided for.
- The *Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan* does not consider the surrounding land uses and possibilities. Seeks consistency with naming the bush remnant.

## 6. Next steps

The final deliberations of these submissions and the formulation of any recommendations will occur at a future Regional Sustainability Committee meeting.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives and notes the content of the report.*
2. *Notes the key issues raised in the submissions, as outlined in section 5 of this report.*
3. *Considers the written submissions for the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2008.*
4. *Notes that deliberations on the submissions will occur and any recommended changes to the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2008 will be made at a future meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee.*

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## Attachments

1 Draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2008 summary of submissions