

Report **12.347**
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File PK/14/02/03

Committee **Council**
Authors **Sharon Lee, Parks Planner**

Transfer of management responsibilities for part of Queen Elizabeth Park

1. Purpose

To propose that Greater Wellington Regional Council relinquish their control and management responsibilities for a section of land at the Tilley Road entrance (Queen Elizabeth Park), with the intention that these responsibilities are given to Kapiti Coast District Council.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. The decision-making process and significance

The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Minister of Conservation making a decision. The decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for by Section 28 of the Reserves Act 1977.

4. Background

When the Parks Network Plan was being prepared in 2009, Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) in their submission to Greater Wellington indicated their interest to provide more 'informal playing fields' for the Paekakariki community, and that some area on the urban edge of Queen Elizabeth Park may be suitable. This intent was noted in the Parks Network Plan under the Projected Future Changes for Queen Elizabeth Park (page 90): namely, *to investigate neighbourhood park for local use at Paekakariki in conjunction with Kapiti Coast District Council.*

KCDC undertook a needs analysis survey, which looked at the use and capacity of its open space areas. Though this survey, KCDC recognized that some additional practice playing fields would benefit the local Paekakariki

community, easing the burden on the Campbell Park. In 2010 KCDC formally approached the Greater Wellington to progress the issue.

4.1 What is the land currently used for?

The Tilley Road area (shown in Map 1 above) is one of three entrances to Queen Elizabeth Park from the Paekakariki village. It sits between the urban area and the Paekakariki campground.



Map 1: Approximate area of Queen Elizabeth Park to be transferred

From this area, visitors can follow a pathway down to the main Wellington Road entrance or cross the Wainui Stream bridge and either follow the stream or take a connecting track along the dunes toward Whareroa Road.

For many years there was a dog obedience school located in this area and the abandoned shelter associated with the school was removed in 2012. The area has an expired grazing licence so is now on an open ended, month to month basis and terminable by either party.

The area is also the location of the Paekakariki Weavers Club, which is based in the building that was previously the Bowling Clubrooms. The Paekakariki Weavers Club has a licence to occupy the clubrooms for a three year term

expiring on 31 May 2013. The group is active and recently repainted the interior and exterior of the building.

KCDC have indicated that they would continue the licence to occupy this building to the Club in the future.

4.2 Kapiti Coast District Council's intentions for the land

Due to the shortage of active recreation reserves in Paekakariki KCDC intends to develop the area for junior sport and for training grounds which will reduce the pressure and use of Campbell Park.

A development plan will be produced by KCDC. This will be used in consultation with residents of Tilley Road, as they may have concerns about the effects of parking on the road during Saturday sport. KCDC have indicated it hopes to re-use the sealed area which was previously part of the dog obedience training area for carparking.

Officers noted in their discussions with KCDC that the Tilley Road section of the walkway/cycleway which crosses the Wainui stream into Queen Elizabeth Park would be retained. Signage and track maintenance would continue to be undertaken by Greater Wellington.

5. Status of the land

Queen Elizabeth Park is a recreation reserve, owned by the Department of Conservation. The responsibility to control and manage the Park was delegated to Greater Wellington in the mid 1990s (as per Section 28 of the Reserves Act).

Officers have been in contact with the Office of Treaty Settlements and can confirm that the land in question is not part of the current negotiations.

The land is legally in the same property parcel as the wider park but it is possible to have the land clearly identified as being separate or have it surveyed and a new title created. This would be the responsibility of the Department of Conservation.

5.1 Process to transfer control and manage responsibilities to another local authority

Section 28(2) of the Reserves Act provides for management and control appointments to be cancelled and Section 28(1) provides for new appointments to be made. The process to transfer control and manage responsibilities for a reserve (or part thereof) is undertaken by the Department of Conservation.

The Department of Conservation require:

- Advice whether iwi claiming tangata whenua status in the area have any issues; and
- Confirmation from Greater Wellington of their intention to relinquish their control and manage responsibilities and for KCDC to confirm their intention to take up this responsibility

Once the changes of appointment are completed by the Department of Conservation, a survey or a graphic description survey plan is prepared so that the new appointment can be notified in the Gazette.

6. Comment

Greater Wellington contacted both iwi that have an interest in the Park about the proposal. Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Atiawa ki a Whakarongotai are generally comfortable with the transfer and their written comments are included in **Attachment 1**.

There is no further requirement for public consultation and as noted above the concept of a neighbourhood park has already been considered in the Parks Network Plan 2010. The next step is for Greater Wellington agree to relinquish its appointment to this part of Queen Elizabeth Park.

KCDC were consulted in writing of this report.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Agrees** to relinquish their control and management responsibilities of the Tilley Road area of Queen Elizabeth Park as noted in Map 1.
4. **Notes** the intention that this area would become the responsibility of the Kapiti Coast District Council, through a new delegation by the Minister of Conservation to that Council.
5. **Requests** officers to prepare the necessary documentation to be sent to the Minister of Conservation.

Report prepared by:

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Report approved by:

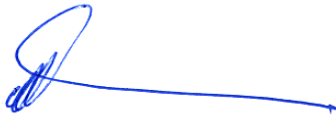
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Attachment 1: Responses from Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Atiawa ki a Whakarongotai