



Report 04.372
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy and Council
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Draft Forest Lands Plan

1. Purpose

To seek the Council's approval to release the draft *Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas* for public consultation.

2. Background

The *Forest Lands Water Collection Areas Interim Management Plan*, was adopted in 1996 and covered both the current and future water collection areas. The review process began at the same time as the regional park's review process. Consultation occurred in 2001 and 2002 and comments were received alongside the park network planning process. In 2002, the first draft Forest Lands Plan, including the current water collection areas, was prepared and a Councillors workshop held.

In 2003, a second draft plan was prepared and another Councillor's workshop held, covering the future water collection areas only. Suggestions from the workshop were incorporated into the redrafted plan presented to the Councillor's workshop held in May this year. Councillors were generally happy with the draft and the changes are summarised in Attachment 1.

3. Purpose of the Plan

The plan, once finalised will guide the long-term management of the future water collection areas through the plan's vision, objectives and policies, *until such time as the lands are required for water collection purposes*. The plan is prepared as a matter of good practice, rather than a legal requirement.

The draft plan, once approved for release, will enable the regional community to review the plan and offer comments by way of submission. This will ensure that the final plan represents a common understanding and agreement between Greater Wellington and the community about the land's long-term vision and management

4. Outstanding issues

Maps of the significant indigenous environmental areas have been revised and include the ecological areas identified in the Kapiti Coast District Council's district plan. A larger portion of the Kapiti Coast's current water collection areas is now protected by the draft plan's environmental policies. Kapiti Coast District Council officers will be contacted to discuss the issues identified at the Councillor's workshop, once Council has agreed to release the draft plan.

A request after the workshop to acknowledge the Te Araroa walkway development that seeks to link tracks the length of New Zealand was made. This has been included in Policy 6.4, which identifies the walkway as part of making links with other recreational opportunities. In addition, a letter reiterating Council's support has been sent to the Te Araroa Trust's Wellington representative.

5. Communication

Once the draft plan is approved for consultation, notices will be placed in the main regional newspapers calling for comments and submissions on the draft plan. A two-month consultation period, in keeping with other plans produced by Parks and Forests, will occur during August and September. A formal hearing of any submissions on the draft plan will take place in late October. A final plan should be available early next year.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*
3. *approve the draft Forest Lands Plan's release for public consultation, subject to any minor technical amendments that may be authorised by the Committee Chairperson*

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Attachment 1: Memo: Councillors Workshop May 12 2004

Attachment 2: Draft Forest Lands Management Plan