



greater WELLINGTON
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Report 05.127

18 March 2005

File: E/6/16/2

File: landcare/report 05.127.docpw

Report of the Meeting of the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee held in the Council Chambers, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Friday, 18 March 2005 at 9.30am

Matters for Council Decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.
Matters for Information of Council are in italic type.

Present

Councillors Laidlaw (Chairperson), Baber, Greig and Long

Officers Present

Messrs Forlong, Oliver, Jackson and Nadine Conway, Phillipa Crisp, Annabel Riley, Fiona Shaw and Trecia Smith

Public Business

Procedural Items

PFH 01 Apologies

That the apologies for Councillors Aitken, Buchanan, Glensor, Shields and Turver and Mr Gilbert be confirmed.

Matters for Consideration

PFH 02 Parks and Forests Hearing Committee: Appointees

Report 05.124

File: PK/03/03/02

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Baber)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That Councillor Chris Turver and Mr John Gilbert be appointed to the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee.*

PFH 03 Parks and Forests Hearing Committee: Hearing Process

Report 05.123

File: PK/03/03/02

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Greig)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That the process outlined in this paper for hearing and considering the submissions on the draft Regional Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas, in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, be endorsed.*
- (3) That all submissions be received on the draft Regional Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas.*
- (4) That the submitters be heard in support of their submissions.*
- (5) That all written submissions be considered.*

PFH 04 Draft Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas Management Plan - Hearing

Verbal submissions

Peter Hill – Fish and Game

Mr Hill from Fish and Game requested that trout fishing be more specifically provided for in the Plan, the habitat of trout be given recognition and that the Council allow upland game hunting within the forest lands. The Hutt River fishery is the most important fishery in the region, and many of its spawning tributaries are located within the forest lands.

Hugh McCracken – Rimutaka Railway Heritage Trust

Mr McCracken provided further information to add to his detailed written submission and requested that the Council specifically allow for the Trust's proposal in the Plan. In discussing Mr McCracken's submission, Councillors noted that the policies as outlined in the draft plan did not preclude the restoration of a heritage railway.

Chris Horne and Ms Mitcalfe – Wellington Botanical Society

Mr Horne and Ms Mitcalfe expanded on their submission relating to the botanical issues of the forest lands. They noted that the Botanical values of the forests lands were highly significant in the region and they would view any loss with dismay.

Andy Cockcroft – Tread Lightly

Mr Cockcroft commented on the good relationship between the Council and the 4WD community. He requested that the Council continue its positive response to four wheel driving within the forest lands. He also suggested that the Council could make more use of the marketing benefits of its affiliation to Tread Lightly.

Grant Purdie - ARAC

Mr Purdie asked that there be more flexibility in the allocation of tracks for four wheel driving to take account of change in use patterns and as new information comes to hand. He also requested that the Council formalises in the Management Plan its regular liaison with ARAC. ARAC were also keen to have recreational vehicles given access to Pakuratahi Forest.

Ken McAdam – NZ 4WD Assoc/Windy City

Mr McAdam commented that opportunities for four wheel driving were reducing as land owners and public authorities closed off their properties. Thus the land covered by this Plan was becoming more important. He also noted that 4WD's were the only way that disabled people are able to gain access into the forest. Finally Mr McAdam questioned the fees charged to 4WD, noting that motor bikes do not pay any fees.

Philip Orchard – Cross Country Vehicle Club (CCVC)

On behalf of the Cross Country Vehicle Club Mr Orchard strongly supported the managed access to the forests for 4WD. He noted that access was a privilege not a right and CCVC had to be seen to act in a responsible manner. He also commented on the need for flexibility in determining which tracks were available for 4WD access in the Akatarawa Forest.

Richard Zdrahal

Mr Zdrahal thought that the maps contained in the Plan were not sufficiently detailed to allow quad bikes to determine where they were and were not, allowed. He requested more detailed maps.

Jeff Flavell – Department of Conservation

Mr Flavell commented that DOC decided to appear after having read the submissions from other submitters and in particular, the current provisions of the Management Plan relating to the restoration of a heritage railway as the railway proposal. He noted that DOC was a key player in this issue as the Fell engines would operate on what is now DOC land and that DOC supported the Management Plan as written.

Following the verbal submissions Councillors considered each written submission in turn and after deliberations reached the following resolutions:

Report 05.122

File: PK/03/03/02

*Resolved**(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Baber)*

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That the attached submissions on the draft Regional Forests Land Plan: Future Water Collection Areas Management Plan be considered.*
- (3) That officers proceed with finalising the Regional Forests Land Plan: Future Water Collection Areas Management Plan as per the officer's recommendations contained in Report 05.122 and with those alterations directed by the Committee.*

PFH 05 General

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

Cr C LAIDLAW
Chairperson

Date:

Landcare – 12 May 2005

To be moved:

That the report of the meeting of the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee held on 18 March 2005, Items PFH 01 to PFH 05 inclusive, be adopted.