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FILE: R/5/1/1

REPORT 95.160

LANDCARE COMMITTEE

Minute extract from meeting held on Thursday 11 May 1995

LC 10 **Belmont Regional Park: Pending Disposal of ex-Electricorp Land,
Takapu Road.**

Resolved to Recommend

That Council:

1. **Reaffirm the importance of protecting the rural character and walkway opportunity within the Takapu Block as an integral part of Belmont Regional Park.**
2. **Submit to Treasury support for the allocation of all of the Takapu Block to the Department of Conservation who, in turn, should appoint the WRC to control and manage the land as a Recreation Reserve and part of Belmont Regional Park.**

COUNCIL

16 MAY 1995

**COMMITTEE REPORT
ADOPTED**

Darroch
D.J. DARROCH
COMMITTEE SERVICES

17.50

Mr Annakin : For your action please

Darroch
D. J. DARROCH
COMMITTEE SERVICES 17.5.95



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Report 95.160

26 April 1995

File: R/5/1/1

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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Barry Chalmers, Manager, Recreation Department

Belmont Regional Park: Pending Disposal of ex-Electricorp Land, Takapu Road

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the Committee that Treasury have instructed Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI) to dispose of ex-Electricorp land in Belmont Regional Park and to seek the Committee's approval to submit to Treasury a request to provide protection for existing public access and the farm character of the property through a reserve designation.

2. Background

The Department of Survey and Land Information has been instructed by Treasury to dispose of 300 hectares of Crown land within Belmont Regional Park known as the Takapu Block. This has implications for the protection of the farm character and the continuation of public access over the property (see plan, Attachment 1).

Until now the land has been leased to Landcorp by Electricorp and managed as part of the Waitangirua Farm within Belmont Regional Park. While owned by the Crown the farm character of the property and access by the public was secure, the Crown acknowledging the policies within the Belmont Regional Park Management Plan 1989.

The Takapu Block has subsequently become surplus to Electricorp's requirements and disposal of the property passed to DOSLI. Currently negotiations are underway to legally secure public access over all of the Belmont Regional Park walking tracks through the NZ Walkways Act, 1990. DOSLI was approached about including the walking tracks over the Takapu Block into the Belmont Regional Park walkways system.

DOSLI are aware of the historical context of the walking tracks across the Takapu Block but are seeking to recover the value of the land along which the proposed **wal** kway lays. They are also concerned that the inclusion of the Takapu Block walking tracks in the Belmont Regional Park walkways system may delay or interfere with this process or adversely **affect** the land's value.

3. **Comment**

Until transfer of the land to DOSLI for disposal, the public access and protection of the farm landscape character were secure. The Department of Conservation (DOC) in its advocacy role sought the protection of the recreation values over the Takapu Block with **Electricorp** back in 1988, and sought to have the area considered as a Recreation Reserve. While the recommendation for Recreation Reserve status was not carried out in the first round of allocations DOC believed that this would occur in a subsequent allocation round and therefore, the protection of the recreation values were relatively secure.

While the general agreement amongst Landcorp, Electricorp, DOC and the WRC was that the site values within the Takapu Block were secure this has not been reflected in Treasury's instruction to DOSLI to dispose of the land. DOC has expressed concern that these values may be lost altogether if action is not taken immediately.

DOC have now sought to have the land classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act, 1977 and vested in DOC. WRC would then be appointed to control and manage it as part of Belmont Regional Park. The walking tracks across this property would also be gazetted as walkways under the NZ Walkways Act, 1990. Under this arrangement the area of land would be leased for farming purposes and any park and property costs relating to the area would be met through farm income.

The existing walkways and the rural landscape character of the Takapu Block could be lost to Belmont Regional Park. At a minimum, Council may have to purchase the existing tracks to compensate for any loss of value DOSLI might attribute. The open rural landscape character could also be lost to other **landuses** such as forestry if the land was to be held in private ownership.

4. **Conclusion**

It would be appropriate and timely for Council to support **DOC's** request for the area to be given reserve status and managed as part of Belmont Regional Park. Support should be by way of a submission to Treasury recognising that there has been an oversight in the allocation process and that the site values are extremely important for the security of Belmont Regional Park.

5. **Recommendations**

That Council:

- (1) *Reaffirm the importance of protecting the rural character and walkway opportunity within the Takapu Block as an integral part of Belmont Regional Park*
- (2) *Submit to Treasury support for the allocation of all of the Takapu Block to the Department of Conservation who, in turn, should appoint the WRC to control and manage the land as a Recreation Reserve and part of Belmont Regional Park*

Report prepared by:



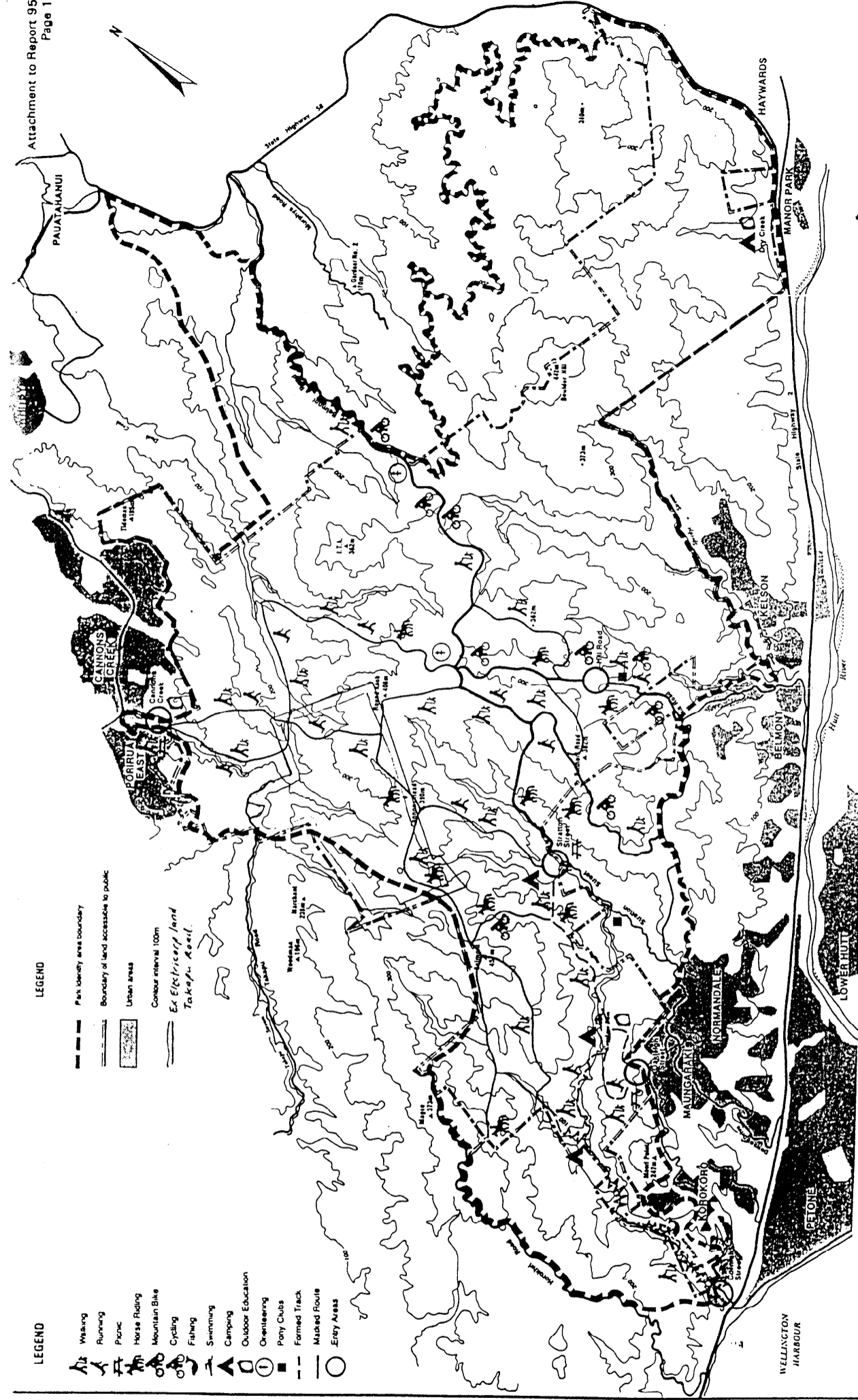
BARRY CHALMERS
Manager, Recreation

Approved for submission:



ANDREW ANNAKIN
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment



Belmont Regional Park Recreational Uses



The Wellington Regional Council, 1999