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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Draft Regional Parks Network Management Plan

1. Purpose

To approve the draft Regional Parks Network Management Plan for public consultation (**Attachment 1**).

2. Background

In November 2001, the Committee agreed to a process for reviewing the regional park management plans. This included the development of:

- an overarching network management plan addressing the common management issues across the five regional parks; and
- specific management plans addressing issues particular to each regional park.

Since that time we have engaged with the public, Tangata Whenua, relevant local authorities, the Department of Conservation and Councillors to help develop the draft. Council staff from various Divisions have also participated in the process.

When a draft document was completed, it was distributed to Tangata Whenua, Councillors, and the Department of Conservation for comment.

The revised draft incorporates comments received from these groups and from the Councillor workshops of 25 October and 3 December 2002 (a summary of comments received and amendments made has been provided to Councillors).

3. What does the Plan Propose?

This network plan sets out the future direction for management of regional parks in the Wellington region and provides a framework for addressing issues common to all regional parks. The Network Plan ensures that regional parks are managed in a comprehensive and consistent way.

The plan proposes a vision for the regional parks as follows:

To enhance quality of life in the Wellington region by providing regional parks where:

- *Our environment and cultural heritage is protected for current and future generations.*
- *People can fully and actively use, recreate in, enjoy and learn from these lands in a sustainable manner.*
- *The community is actively involved.*
- *Tangata Whenua interests are respected.*

The plan translates this vision into a set of objectives and policies – which together focus on providing for community, recreational and commercial opportunities and use of the parks whilst maintaining their key environmental and cultural heritage values.

4. Are Any Key Issues Outstanding?

Most of the issues raised about the draft, during the process have been addressed in the attached document, however some comments do need to be brought to the attention of Councillors.

In particular, some issues raised by Iwi were beyond the scope of the plan, specifically those relating to governance. The Wellington Tenth Trust stated that they would like to “act with our Treaty partner [GW] in a governance role” in relation to the parks, while Rangitaane sought more formal recognition of their relationship beyond that “based solely on good faith, co-operation and understanding.” These issues have not been addressed in the draft, as they are matters for Ara Tahi and similar fora.

5. What Happens Next?

Once Council approval is obtained, the Department of Conservation’s agreement for the release of the plan will be sought. The plan will then be publicly notified (early March) and submissions called for. The minimum period for submissions is two months. Following that, work will commence on the park specific plans.

6. Communication

As noted above, the approved plan will be publicly notified and submissions called for. Associated media releases will also be developed. An article for the March *Elements* magazine has been drafted.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) **approve** the draft *Regional Parks Network Management Plan*.
- (2) **direct** staff to seek the Department of Conservation's agreement to notify the draft *Regional Parks Network Management Plan*.
- (3) **release** the plan for public consultation, once the approval of the Department of Conservation has been obtained.

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Attachment 1: draft Regional Parks Network Management Plan