

Report 16.131
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File CCAB-8-462

Committee Council
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Minor amendments to retain currency of the Parks Network Plan

1. Purpose

To recommend to Council two minor amendments to the Parks Network Plan 2011 (PNP).

2. Consideration by Committee

The matters contained in this report were considered by the Environment Committee (Committee) at its meeting on 30 March 2016 (Report 16.104 refers). The recommendations of this report were endorsed by the Committee for the Council's consideration and decision.

3. Background

The PNP is the current policy and overall management plan for the majority of the park network managed by GWRC. Two amendments are proposed:

1. A revised Akatarawa Forest Map 20 proposed for incorporation into the Parks Network Plan which identifies existing trails not previously mapped but regularly used by motorised recreation vehicles.

Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee (ARAC) who represent 4WD and motorcycle club and other like-minded groups that use the Akatarawa Forest. ARAC have worked closely with GWRC officers over several years to map and determine which of the previously unmapped tracks should be officially approved for motorised recreation access.

The new map is attached as **Attachment 1**. The track Protocol provides the criteria for assessment of tracks, and is attached as **Attachment 2**. The proposed summary communication about the map changes is attached as **Attachment 3**.

2. A revision of the maximum stay period for camping at Kaitoke, Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Parks to a maximum of forty days within a twelve

month period is proposed (for each campground), and removal of the Stratton Street, Belmont Regional Park entrance as a 'designated camping area'. The detail of the proposed PNP changes is attached as **Attachment 4**.

These changes are in accordance with the requirements of section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977 which requires the administering body (Council) to keep management plans under continuous review, adapting to changing circumstances and increased knowledge.

4. Communication

Public notification and targeted consultation about the proposed revised map and camping maximum stay period is considered appropriate. This will ensure that any interested parties have an opportunity to comment on these minor formal changes to policy. An eight week consultation period is proposed and engagement activities are outlined below.

5. The decision-making process and significance

5.1 Significance of the decision

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matters be considered to have low significance.

Extensive engagement with the main recreational users (ARAC) has occurred to identify tracks for access and develop the revised Map 20, as a result there here are expected to be few general community concerns with the new proposed Map 20. The changes to the campground maximum stay period will create consistency in policy across GWRC parks and is unlikely to affect many park visitors.

5.2 Engagement

Engagement activities proposed include:

- Direct mail to key stakeholders including recreation clubs, conservation groups, camping peak bodies and other agencies who may have an interest in the proposed changes
- Notices on park notice boards, at park entry points and rangers offices
- Information on the GWRC website, social media and via media releases
- A public drop in session at the GWRC Upper Hutt Depot

Feedback will be is invited via written submissions, face to face engagement and a feedback form.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Approves** the proposed amendments to the Parks Network Plan for public consultation.
4. **Approves** a two month consultation period for the proposed minor amendments to the Parks Network Plan 2011

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Attachment 1: Revised PNP Map 20

Attachment 2: Akatarawa Forest Track Protocol

Attachment 3: Summary consultation document for Map 20

Attachment 4: Detail of Parks Network Plan proposed camping maximum stay period changes