

30 April 2024

File Ref: OIAPR1274023063-26071

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-057**

I refer to your request for information dated 28 March 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 28 March 2024. You have requested the following:

*“Flat paddocks of Queen Elizabeth Park (a recreation reserve) have been mowed two or more times since farming ceased, once was after Cyclone Gabriel and one was quite recently perhaps shortly after Christmas. The hay was baled and taken away.*

*Would you please identify how many, where and when this mowing occurred?*

*For each of these occasions;*

- What was the motivation and reasoning for mowing these flat lands?*
- Are there any emails or papers that discuss the pros and cons of this decision?*
- Were there commercial considerations and, if so, what were they?*
- Approximately how many bales were produced?*
- If so, did GW get an income from the bales?*
- If not, what was the quid-pro-quo or benefit to GW?*
- Who were the recipients of the hay bales? (This question is asking for a general answer, not the names of the recipients. E.g. They were sold to bidders at an online auction. They were given to people (or person) who...*

*The whole of QEP has been classified in terms of wetlands.*

*Did mowing occur on any of the classified wetlands?*

*The reason for this OIA request is that the areas mowed are partly drained wetlands and low sand dunes. I saw native reeds that were mown. The mown land, especially the*

*drained wetlands, should be left to revert to a natural state, or revegetated, perhaps weed controlled, but not mown. They contain some native plants and animals, especially insects which are part of the QEP environment and contribute to the overall biodiversity of the park, as food for birds and fish and in their own right. Mowing is not consistent with the Reserves Act. Areas should not be mowed without good reason.*

*If this was a GW operation and not some local arrangement, then the bales obtained money or were swapped for services, or for some other purpose. I am interested to know what that was.*

*Finally, will mowing of QEP paddocks, like those that this OIA request questions, be happening again?"*

**Greater Wellington's response follows:**

For ease of responding, we have numbered the parts of your request.

1. *Flat paddocks of Queen Elizabeth Park (a recreation reserve) have been mowed two or more times since farming ceased, once was after Cyclone Gabriel and one was quite recently perhaps shortly after Christmas. The hay was baled and taken away. Would you please identify how many, where and when this mowing occurred?*

Six paddocks were mown over a three-year period, once shortly after cyclone Gabriel and twice over the 2023/2024 summer once in December (bailage) and once in March (hay).

Approximately 192 bales were removed from the park in December 2022. These were sold off site with the credit used for baling and other mowing around the park (refer **Attachment 1** 2022 fire memo for more detail).

Approximately 200 round bales were removed from the park in February 2023 following Cyclone Gabriel, (refer **Attachment 2** 2023 fire memo for more detail)

Approximately 100 round bales were removed from the park in March 2024 and the mown areas are identified in **Attachment 3** 2024 fire memo.

2. *For each of these occasions, what was the motivation and reasoning for mowing these flat lands?*

1 March 2022 mowing - conventional bales for Greater Wellington silt control and Pony clubs. Round bales to be sold to farmers with the credit to go back into the park to pay for track mowing and baling. Conventional bales made on the eventing paddock, to provide a space for Eventing Wellington to operate.

February 2023 mowing - conventional bails supplied to Kapiti Pony Club as they did not have enough feed for horses and for use by Greater Wellington on earthworks sites withing

parks to stabilise ground, and approximately 200 round bails to support farmers in the Hawkes Bay effected by Cyclone Gabriel.

December 2023 mowing - bailage cut off six paddocks in exchange of services to remove four truck and trailer loads of old tires from the park, the tyres posed a significant fire risk to the park, disposing of these to landfill was not a great option either, due to the environmental impact and significant cost.

March 2024 mowing - hay cut off the same six paddocks at no cost to Greater Wellington, there were several reasons in this situation, including:

- Removal of grass from the eventing areas (carpark area and eventing paddock) mowing these areas is a significant cost to Greater Wellington.
- Removal of grass around the aero modellers strip, (they had a large event which required more parking and reduction of potential fire risk in the landing and take-off zone).
- Removal of grass in key locations in the northern area of the park to provide areas of less fuel in the event of a fire coming across the park.
- Removal of grass in strategic areas acts like a magnet for rabbits and hares, Greater Wellington currently undertakes night shooting in the park each month. The large mown areas away from public tracks allow for safe eradication of rabbits and hares from the park.

3. *Are there any emails or papers that discuss the pros and cons of this decision?*

Greater Wellington does not hold any emails discussing the pros and cons of this decision. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the grounds that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either:

- (i) Held by another local authority or a department of Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
- (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department of Minister of the Crown of organisation.

Greater Wellington park rangers have produced a Fire Memo each year following the removal of stock from the park, which identifies areas that we cut for hay/bailage to reduce the potential risk and spread of fire within the park – refer to **Attachments 1, 2 and 3**.

4. *Were there commercial considerations and, if so, what were they?*

No commercial considerations were involved.

5. *Approximately how many bales were produced?*

This information is provided in Part 1 of your request.

6. *If so, did GW get an income from the bales?*

Greater Wellington did sell hay in the first year to offset the cost of the hay making. All revenue from the hay sold went towards future mowing.

7. *If not, what was the quid-pro-quo or benefit to GW?*

Year one, to pay for other mowing/mulching in the park, as well as to support groups within the park.

Year two, to pay for cutting of the hay in the park. To support the Kapiti Pony Club to become established in the park, as well as supporting struggling farmers in the Hawkes Bay following Cyclone Gabriel.

Year three, removal of four truck and trailer loads of old tyres at the park from previous farming, (cost to send these to the landfill was \$616.00 per tonne 20 tonnes per truck and trailer load, \$50,000 approximately).

8. *Who were the recipients of the hay bales? (This question is asking for a general answer, not the names of the recipients. E.g. They were sold to bidders at an online auction. They were given to people (or person) who...*

Year one, Kapiti Pony Club and local farmers.

Year two, Kapiti Pony Club and farmers post cyclone Gabriel.

Year three, they were given to the farmer who removed the tyres from the park.

9. *The whole of QEP has been classified in terms of wetlands. Did mowing occur on any of the classified wetlands?*

No mowing occurred on any identified wetlands. The contractor was taken around and shown these areas prior to cutting occurring on each of the occasions identified above.



10. *Finally, will mowing of QEP paddocks, like those that this OIA request questions, be happening again?*

Some of the areas identified in this information request may be cut again to provide recreation opportunities to the public as well for fire risk management and to provide good areas to control rabbits and hares.

Areas that are reverting naturally will not be cut again.

We have withheld personal identifying information from **Attachments 1, 2 and 3** in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington's need to withhold certain information from **Attachments 1, 2 and 3**. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington's reason for withholding parts of the document under the ground identified above.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment Group

## Queen Elizabeth Park – Fire Risk / Control Measures

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Date: 13th May 2022

To: Jeremy Paterson, Jimmy Young

From: Brendan Bulliff

Copy: Gary Wheaton

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### Purpose

This memo outlines the actions taken to date by parks staff to mitigate the fire risk caused by the decision the Regional Council made in 2021 to remove grazing stock from Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP).

### Background

Previously approximately 500ha of QEP was being grazed by stock and gradually retired for native forest restoration. With the implementation of the new Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 the land use has shifted strongly and suddenly towards a recreation and restoration focus.

Reclothing Papatūānuku Parks Restoration Plan – the Toitū Te Whenua vision is ‘*Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature*’. A restoration plan is in development. It focuses on restoring ecosystem health (healing whenua) in parks, and in particular the previously stock grazed areas.

### Context AND/OR Objective(s)

#### Short term:

1. Continuing the practice of baling hay or creating silage in the flatter park areas,
2. mulching other vegetation that is not suitable for baling will be undertaken
3. Seasonal mowing/cut backs along tracks and roads (to reduce fine fuel loads) will be undertaken. Look to increase distances/widths. This increases the effectiveness of tracks and roads as fire breaks, and helps ensure easy access for emergency response.
4. Hazard reduction. Removal or reduction of dry undergrowth associated with highly flammable pines and other species close to residential areas. This work is in progress for trees close to the northern residential areas (the location of most beach fires)
5. Relocating existing utility based firefighting equipment from Battle Hill to QEP to support rapid response, and refresher training for park staff. This will enable rapid response by rangers based on the park (prior to emergency services) should a fire be started or spread into the park from the beach campfires.

6. The close proximity of the park to Kapiti Airport allows for rapid aerial emergency response by helicopter with monsoon buckets should a fire occur. ??? not sure about this
7. Utilising existing, and refreshing application of, national standard operating procedures and guidelines such as the:
  - Heat and Spark Hazardous Operations (Hotworks) Fire Prevention Guideline'
  - Refresher training for park rangers in fire threat management and response
  - Incorporation of fire threat management related rules into concessionaire and event agreements and annual operating plans.

Horse grazing some areas in the north by pony club could also be a short term measure.

## Actions to Date

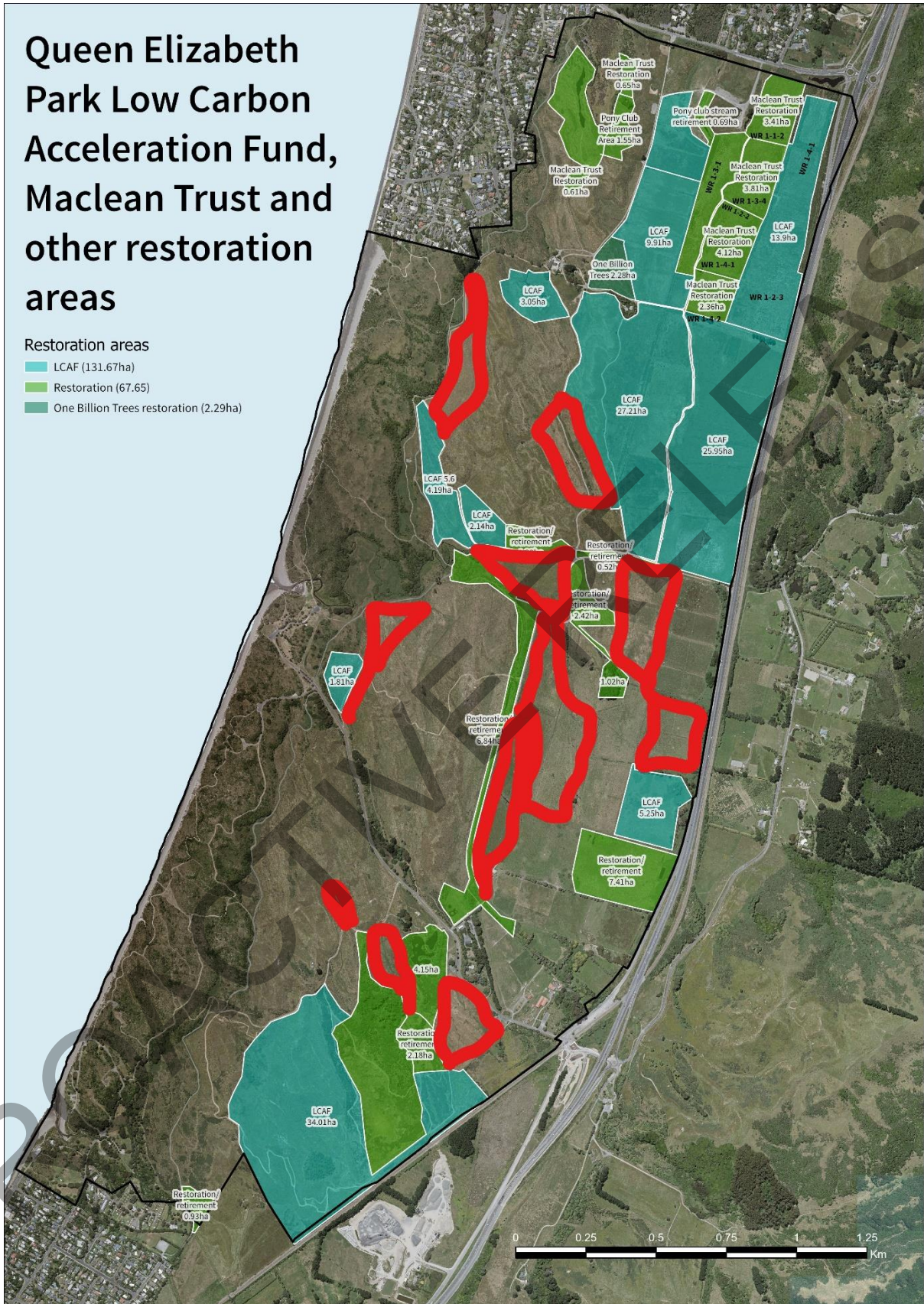
**Horse grazing:** was used outside the usual boundaries to reduce the risk of long grass near parks infrastructure from November 2021. The Kapiti Pony Club grazed up around the old dairy sheds and skyline garage. Stables On The Park grazed beside the Old Farm Track close to and North West (ie usually upwind) of the general area of the Western Depot Office and Workshop.

**Haymaking:** Rural Contracting ( ) were contracted to cut hay on the flat areas where practical (Map. 1) This was done in conjunction with and we were able to start the work with a credit from previous jobs. It is worth noting that in future there will be little to no value in the hay cut on QEP due to the weed infestation that has occurred since farm management practices such as weed control, fertilisation and grazing ceased. We will still need to cut the hay but it will be at a greater cost. Details for the first cut in 2021 from : *"Thanks for the opportunity to cut hay at QEP. As discussed, last year we paid \$5 per round bale and \$1 per square bale for grass and that was left in credit for mulcher mowing of tracks in return (tractor & mulcher mower \$165 per hr) Bales were left in paddocks until sold. We will do our best to have grass baled by Christmas but is very weather dependant. There was \$650 credit leftover from last season. ( I have done 12 hrs mowing this season)... To date this season we have baled 192 rounds."*



# Queen Elizabeth Park Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, Maclean Trust and other restoration areas

- Restoration areas
- LCAF (131.67ha)
  - Restoration (67.65)
  - One Billion Trees restoration (2.29ha)



Map 1: <Paddocks in Red were used for Hay Production>

**Tracks / Fire breaks:** [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) were contracted to mow and mulch some new tracks and fire breaks in the Northern end of QEP as well as maintain existing ones (Map 2). As well as providing clear emergency access it has created a couple of new horse riding trails and will contribute to opening up more public access to the former farm land. As well as the new trails the existing ones such as The Old Farm Track got an extra mow along the sides to widen them as a fire break. This work was done on the following dates:

27th September 2021

30th November 2021

11 February 2022

Another contractor [REDACTED] also mowed the edges of the Old Farm Track over summer.

Going forward we will be adding regular additional edge mowing of the Old Farm Track, Yankee Trail and Te Ara O Whareroa to provide good North South fire breaks the length of QEP.

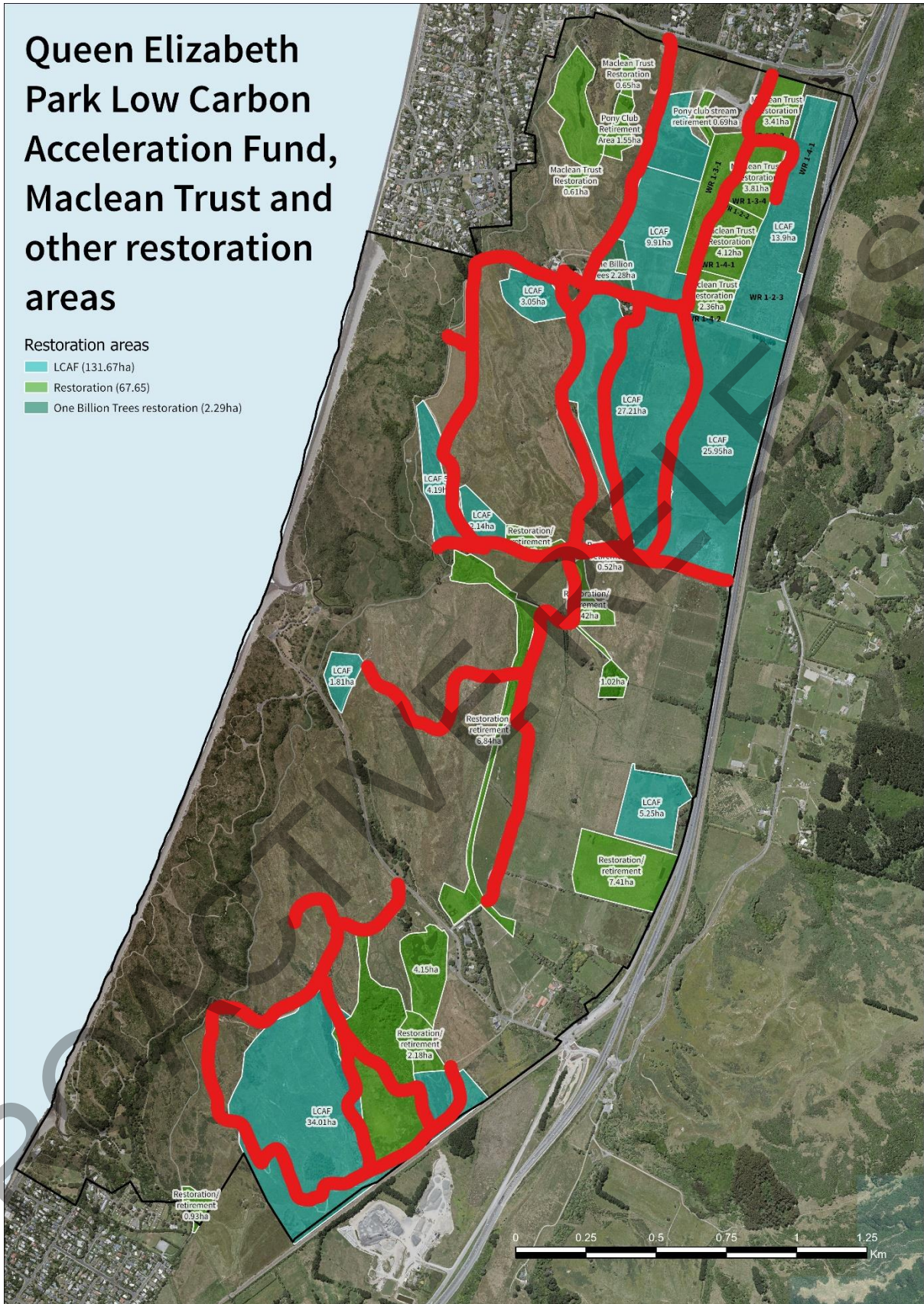
[REDACTED] also mulched the edge of the ridge in April 2022 through the Maclean Trust extending the sides.

PROACTIVE RELEASE



# Queen Elizabeth Park Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, Maclean Trust and other restoration areas

- Restoration areas
- LCAF (131.67ha)
  - Restoration (67.65)
  - One Billion Trees restoration (2.29ha)



Map 2: <Tracks in Red were mowed for fire breaks and access>



**Hazard Reduction:** To date three blocks of pines have been successfully removed by contractors from QEP. Most of this work was able to be done using funding donated by the Maclean Trust and set aside for environmental restoration. Luckily this is beneficial to our overall fire risk reduction plan. Details of the jobs are attached on the following pages.

September 2021 [REDACTED] felled and removed a row of pines that ran East West from SH1 towards the Dairy Cottage (Job 1).



Job 1



## TAX INVOICE

Wayne Boness Greater Wellington Regional Council  
Po box 11646, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

**Invoice Date**

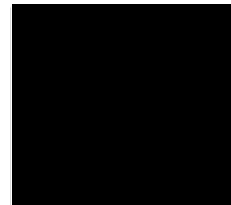
1 Oct 2021

**Invoice Number**

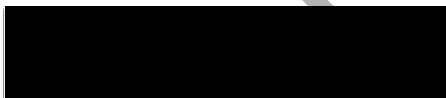
INV-1226

**Reference**

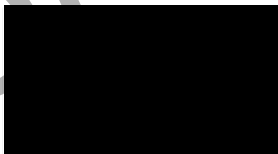
270107



Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount NZD
To fell and de-limb 14 Pine trees located closest to the state highway. all wood to be cut to length and stacked as directed for cartage and green waste to remain on site. To supply excavator with grapple attachment.	31.00	275.00	8,525.00
To fell and de-limb 9 large Pine trees located along the tanker track. all wood to be cut to length and stacked as directed for cartage and green waste to remain on site. To supply excavator with grapple attachment. To supply excavator with grapple attachment	22.00	275.00	6,050.00
Transport per hour. allow 2.5 hrs to and from site.	5.00	220.00	1,100.00
To supply one man and excavator to remove fence posts alongside the pine trees.	2.00	155.00	310.00
		Subtotal	15,985.00
		TOTAL GST 15%	2,397.75
		<b>TOTAL NZD</b>	<b>18,382.75</b>



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**PAYMENT ADVICE**



**Customer** Wayne Boness Greater Wellington Regional Council

**Invoice Number** INV-1226

**Amount Due** 18,382.75

**Due Date** 31 Oct 2021

**Amount Enclosed**

Enter the amount you are paying above



March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 [REDACTED] removed dangerous gum and poplar trees and lifted lower branches from some of the poplar trees surrounding the Tramways Museum. (Job 2).





Job 2

Brendan Bulliff  
Park Ranger  
GWRC  
P.O.Box 40847  
Upper Hutt 5140

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Tree Work – QE park, Tram workshop.

Hi Brendan

Thanks for meeting me on site on Friday. Please find my quote below to undertake the required felling and pruning work on the identified trees

1. 2 x Dead Gum trees on the northern boundary. Trees will be removed using roping and lowering techniques to avoid damage to buildings.
2. Large Poplar tree near cnr of fence – remove lower limbs
3. Section fell 2 x Polar trees with leans.
4. Section fell Gum tree near Power Lines.
5. Crown lift Poplar tree
6. All branches will be chipped. Mulch stockpiled on site for GWRC future use.
7. All timber cut into lengths and left on site

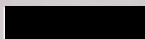
*Total Cost = \$5,450 + GST*

A site specific safety plan will be provided prior to any work being undertaken.

We are covered by public liability insurance for \$2,000,000

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or advice.

Yours truly





May 2022 [REDACTED] felled a stand of pines near the Kapiti Pony Club barn.





Brendan Bulliff  
Park Ranger  
GWRC  
P.O.Box 40847  
Upper Hutt 5140

15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Pine Tree removals – QE park.**

Hi Brendan & Gary

As per our discussion I have revamped our quote below to allow for extra overheads from both sub - contractor and ourselves to cover increased costs since the original quote was accepted in October 2021. The delay in completing the contract sooner has occurred for a number of reasons most of which have been outside of my control. I appreciate the opportunity to re-quote on this work. The quoted work specifications remains exactly the same as previously.

**Felling work to include:**

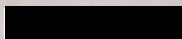
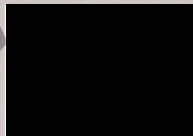
- The felling of the group of three Pine trees and two large individual Pine trees for a total of five trees.
- All branches will be chipped. Mulch stockpiled on site for GWRC future use.
- All timber cut into lengths and loaded with digger and grapple onto supplied logging trucks at end of each days felling ops.
- At the end of the operation all slash will be removed and the site left in a tidy condition with mulch stock piled as required.

**Total Cost = \$22,800 + GST**

A site specific safety plan will be provided prior to any work being undertaken.

We are covered by public liability insurance for \$2,000,000

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or advice.



Going forward one of our greatest risks with trees is the area between Rainbow Court, Whareroa Road (Raumati South), and The Esplanade. There are numerous exotic pine trees on GW land bordering residential properties. Whareroa Road (Raumati South) is vulnerable due to the fact the high number of illegal driftwood fires on the beach below near Raumati Esplanade.

See below for one example that came via KCDC. Note our advice is always to encourage the public to call the Fire Service on 111.

**“Report details**

**Reference**

██████████

**Submitted on**

Sun 8 May 2022 7:04 AM

**Contact name**

██████████

**Phone number**

██████████

**Email address**

██

**Report type**

Cleanup needed

**Photos**

(not provided)

**Location**

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=-40.9447821560404,174.972699434173>

Lat/Long: -40.94478, 174.97270

No nearby address

**Description**

*Large burning campfire found at 515 am with live embers nearby. My walking companion and I kicked sand on top of fire and embers to put out as wind fairly strong. Bottles and other rubbish left. Some broken glass. Location is just at entrance to Whareroa Beach in QEII Park.”*

**Relocating Firefighting Equipment:** The Western Principal Ranger has taken the old truck mounted QEP ‘Smoke Chaser Unit’ from storage at Battle and sent it off to an engineer to be mounted on a trailer.

**Other Measures:** Extra consideration has now been given to species selection in QEP planting plans. Mainly the selection use of fire retardant species where possible along the boundaries of properties and other assets.



**Brendan Bulliff**

Kaitiakitanga / Park Ranger

Queen Elizabeth Park

**Greater Wellington Te Pane Matua Taiao**

**M 027 244 5319**

PO Box 18, Paekakariki 5258

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PROACTIVE RELEASE

## Queen Elizabeth Park – Fire Risk / Control Measures Updated 2023

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Date: 29th January 2023

To: Jeremy Paterson, Jimmy Young

From: Brendan Bulliff

Copy: Gary Wheaton

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### Purpose

This memo outlines the actions taken to date by parks staff to mitigate the fire risk caused by the decision the Regional Council made in 2021 to remove grazing stock from Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP).

### Background

Previously approximately 500ha of QEP was being grazed by stock and gradually retired for native forest restoration. With the implementation of the new Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 the land use has shifted strongly and suddenly towards a recreation and restoration focus.

Reclimbing Papatūānuku Parks Restoration Plan – the Toitū Te Whenua vision is ‘*Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature*’. A restoration plan is in development. It focuses on restoring ecosystem health (healing whenua) in parks, and in particular the previously stock grazed areas.

### Context AND/OR Objective(s)

#### Short term:

1. Continuing the practice of baling hay or creating silage in the flatter park areas,
2. mulching other vegetation that is not suitable for baling will be undertaken
3. Seasonal mowing/cut backs along tracks and roads (to reduce fine fuel loads) will be undertaken. Look to increase distances/widths. This increases the effectiveness of tracks and roads as fire breaks, and helps ensure easy access for emergency response.
4. Hazard reduction. Removal or reduction of dry undergrowth associated with highly flammable pines and other species close to residential areas. This work is in progress for trees close to the northern residential areas (the location of most beach fires)
5. The close proximity of the park to Kapiti Airport allows for rapid aerial emergency response by helicopter with monsoon buckets should a fire occur. ??? not sure about this

6. Utilising existing, and refreshing application of, national standard operating procedures and guidelines such as the:
  - Heat and Spark Hazardous Operations (Hot works) Fire Prevention Guideline'
  - Refresher training for park rangers in fire threat management and response
  - Incorporation of fire threat management related rules into concessionaire and event agreements and annual operating plans.

Horse grazing some areas in the north by pony club could also be a short term measure.

## Actions to Date

**Horse grazing:** was used outside the usual boundaries to reduce the risk of long grass near parks infrastructure from November 2021.

Grazing area has been reduced for The Kapiti Pony Club and Kapiti Stables which ceased operating in November 2022.

**Haymaking:** [REDACTED] were contracted to cut hay on the flat areas where practical (Map. 1) This was done in conjunction with [REDACTED]. It is worth noting that in future there will be little to no value in the hay cut on QEP due to the weed infestation that has occurred since farm management practices such as weed control, fertilisation and grazing ceased. We will still need to cut the hay but it will be at a greater cost. Details for the first cut in 2021 from [REDACTED]:

**2023** The areas we can cut, and bale have been greatly reduced due to reclassification of wetlands across the whenua. Jeremy Paterson is [REDACTED] regarding the three remaining areas we can bale. These areas are The Eventing Paddock, Part of the Aeromodellers and a paddock at the Kapiti Pony Clubs new block.

*“Keep in mind that RMA wetlands include natural and non-natural wetlands, that is all the areas of land that are still wet and haven’t been drained.*

*Simply put, the national policy statement on freshwater management and the regional natural resources plan both base their regulations around natural wetland. There’s no requirement to avoid non-natural wetlands.*

*That said, the national policy requires us to identify areas for wetland restoration. This is best done in non-natural wetlands that have the hydrology and soils in place. So you can manage non-natural wetland areas as you wish, but it would pay not to drain them so that we can keep our options open for meeting restoration targets.*

*Regards  
Roger Uys”*

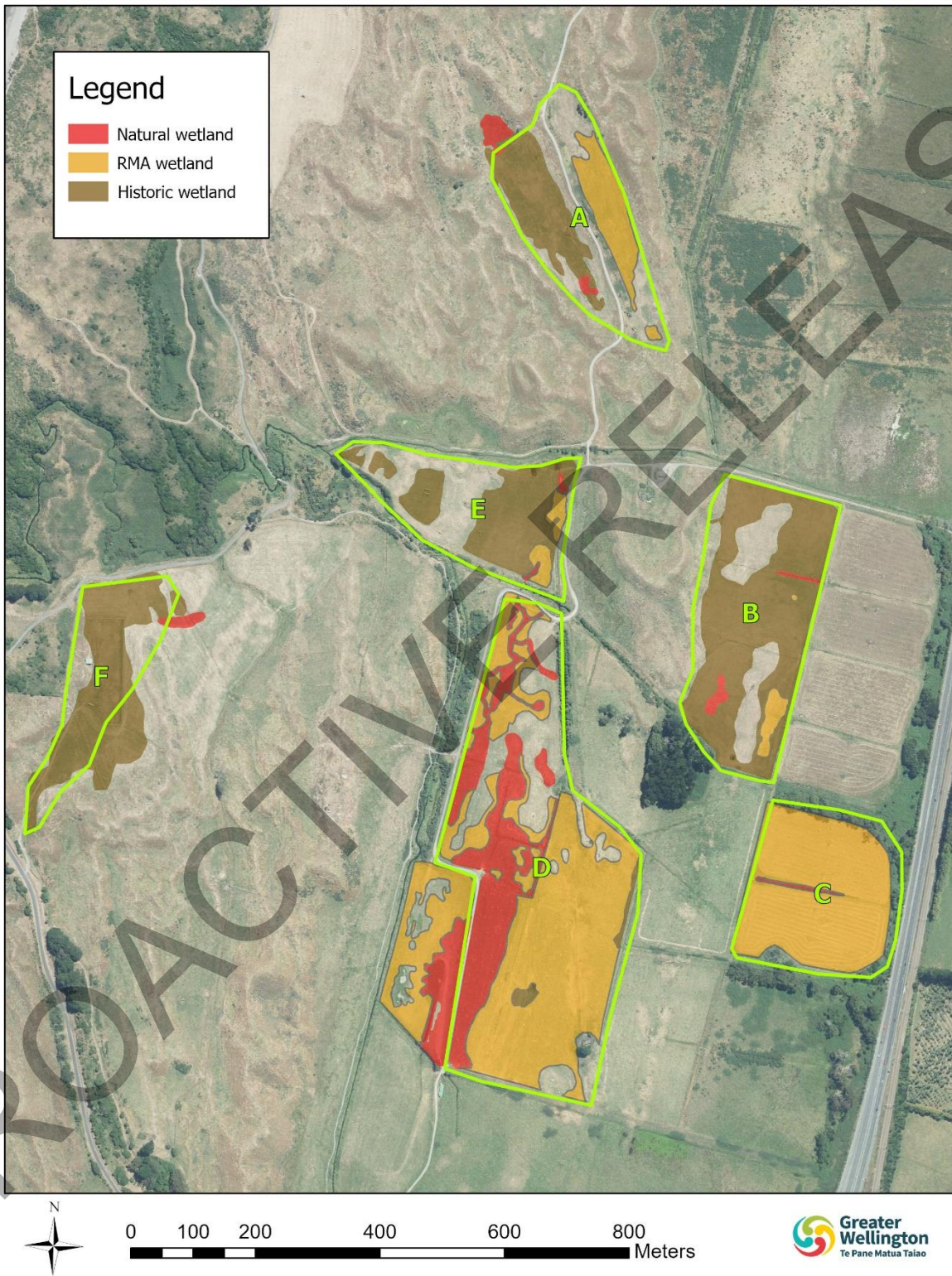
Refer to Map 2.







# QEP Hay-silage paddocks



Map 2: <Paddocks / wetlands 2023>

**Tracks / Fire breaks:** [REDACTED] were contracted to mow and mulch some new tracks and fire breaks in the Northern end of QEP as well as maintain existing ones (Map 3). As well as providing clear emergency access it has created a couple of new horse riding trails and will contribute to opening up more public access to the former farm land. As well as the new trails the existing ones such as The Old Farm Track got an extra mow along the sides to widen them as a fire break. This work was done on the following dates:

Another contractor [REDACTED] also mowed the edges of the Old Farm Track over summer.

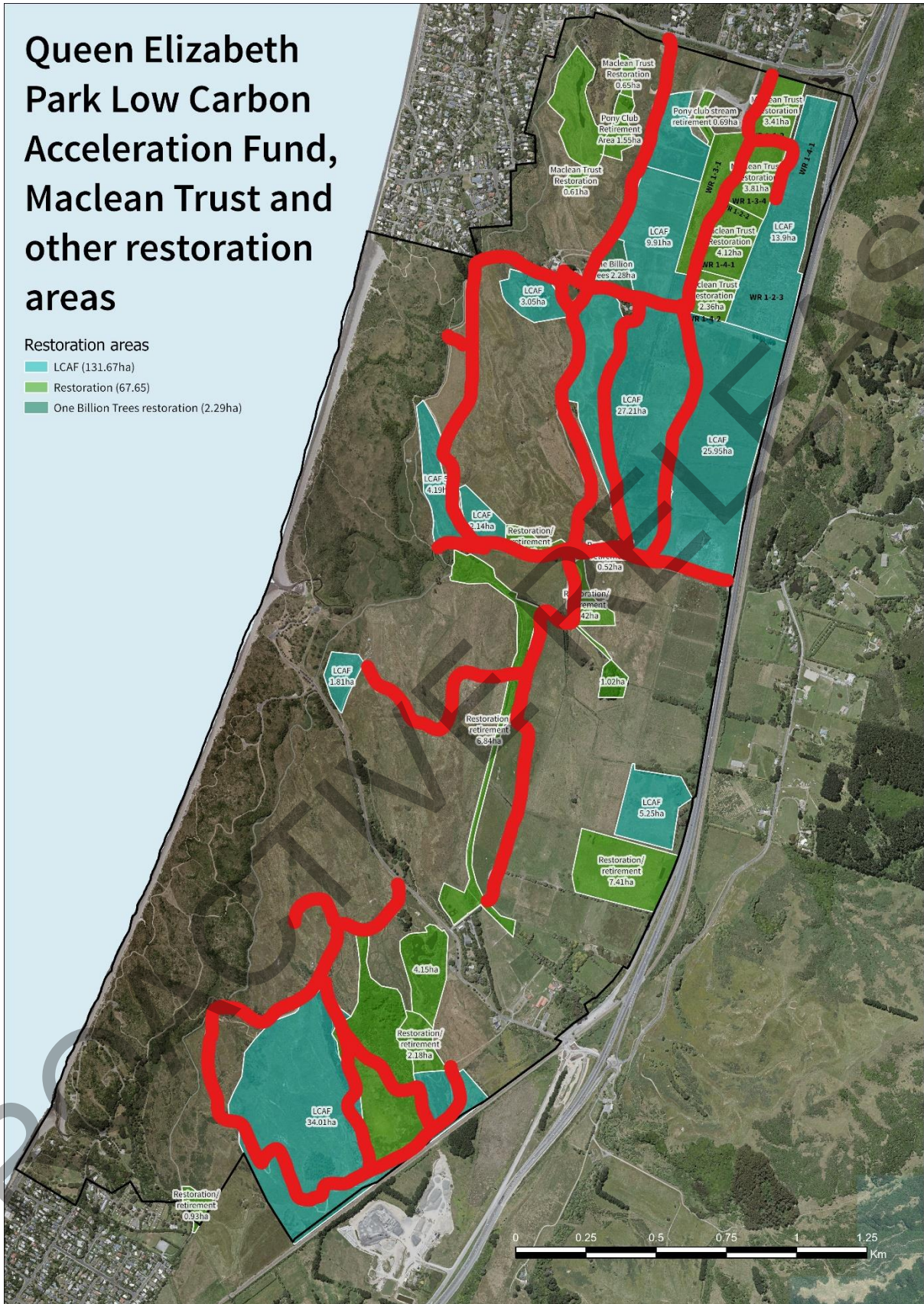
Going forward we will be adding regular additional edge mowing of the Old Farm Track, Yankee Trail and Te Ara O Whareroa to provide good North South fire breaks the length of QEP.

PROACTIVE RELEASE



# Queen Elizabeth Park Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, Maclean Trust and other restoration areas

- Restoration areas
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  - Restoration (67.65)
  - One Billion Trees restoration (2.29ha)



Map 3: <Tracks in Red were mowed for fire breaks and access>

**2023**

██████████ are due to plan the Rainbow Court pines block removal in early March subject to the fire risk at the time.

**Relocating Firefighting Equipment:** The Western Principal Ranger has taken the old truck mounted QEP 'Smoke Chaser Unit' from storage at Battle and sent it off to an engineer to be mounted on a trailer.

**Other Measures:** Extra consideration has now been given to species selection in QEP planting plans. Mainly the selection use of fire retardant species where possible along the boundaries of properties and other assets.



**Brendan Bulliff**

Kaitiakitanga / Park Ranger

Queen Elizabeth Park

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**M 027 244 5319**

PO Box 18, Paekakariki 5258

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## Queen Elizabeth Park – Fire Risk / Control Measures Updated 2024

---

Date: 29th January 2024

To: Jeremy Paterson

From: Brendan Bulliff

Copy: Jordan Clear

---

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This memo outlines the actions taken to date by parks staff to mitigate the fire risk caused by the decision the Regional Council made in 2021 to remove grazing stock from Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP).

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Recloning Papatūānuku Parks Restoration Plan – the Toitū Te Whenua vision is ‘*Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature*’. A restoration plan is in development. It focuses on restoring ecosystem health (healing whenua) in parks, and in particular the previously stock grazed areas.

### Context AND/OR Objective(s)

#### Short term:

1. Continuing the practice of baling hay or creating silage in the flatter non wetland park areas, to provide defensible spaces in the event of a fire, they also provide spaces for recreation.
2. mulching other vegetation that is not suitable for baling will be undertaken
3. Seasonal mowing/cut backs along tracks and roads (to reduce fine fuel loads) will be undertaken. Look to increase distances/widths out to 10m. This increases the effectiveness of tracks and roads as fire breaks, and helps ensure easy access for emergency response.
4. Hazard reduction. Removal or reduction of dry undergrowth associated with highly flammable pines and other species close to residential areas. This work is in progress for trees close to the northern residential areas (the location of most beach fires)
5. Utilising existing, and refreshing application of, national standard operating procedures and guidelines such as the:



- Heat and Spark Hazardous Operations (Hot works) Fire Prevention Guideline'
- Refresher training for park rangers in fire threat management and response
- Incorporation of fire threat management related rules into concessionaire and event agreements and annual operating plans.

## Actions to Date

**Horse grazing:** Kapiti pony club now occupy an area around the dairy sheds at the northern end of the park.

**Haymaking:** A Himitungi farmer was asked to cut bailage and hay off the park over the summer. Regular cutting will reduce the potential for weeds.

**2023** The areas we can cut, and bale have been greatly reduced due to reclassification of wetlands across the whenua.

### Tracks / Fire breaks:

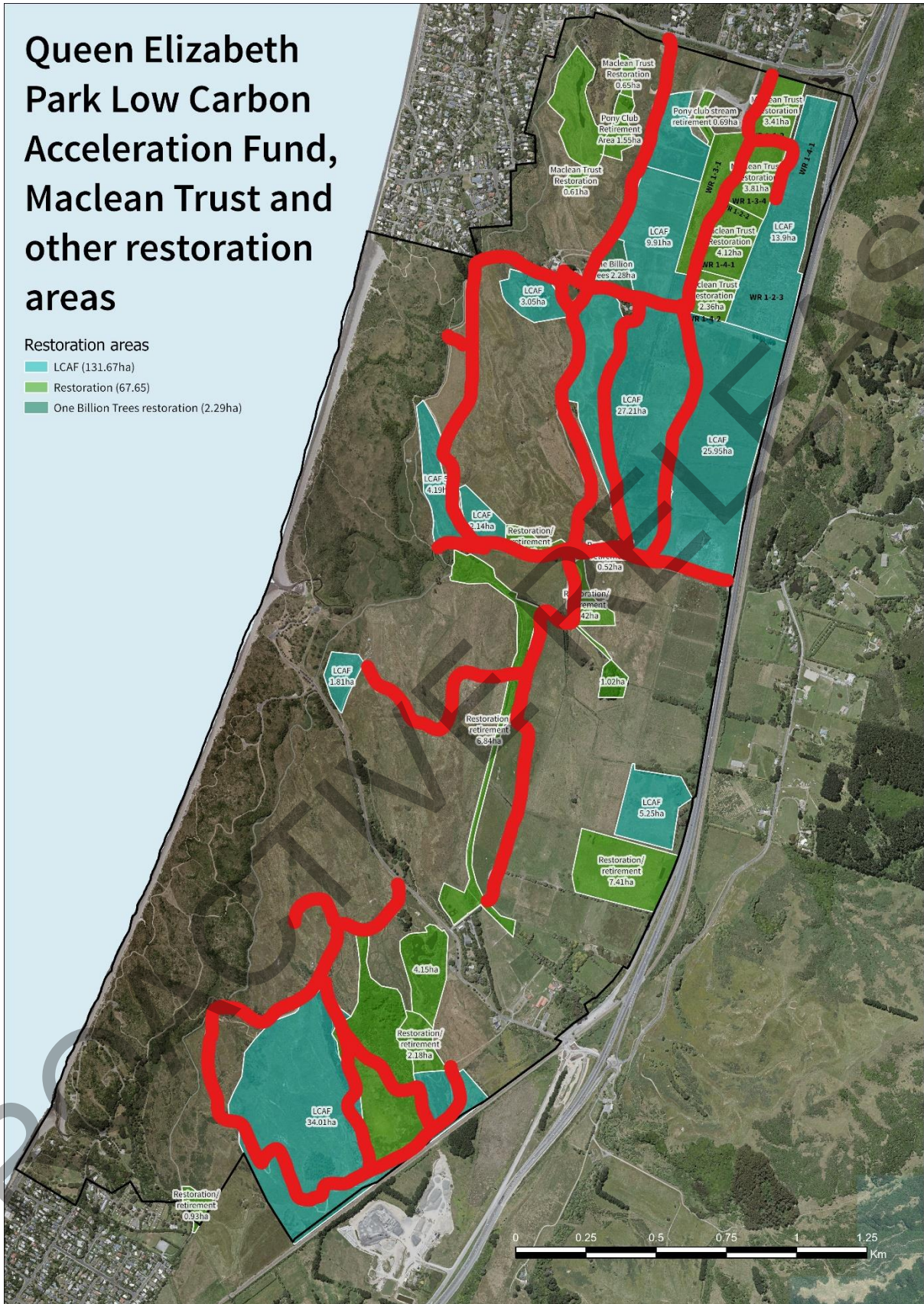
Two monthly mowing of the tracks and fire breaks identified in map 3 below has been undertaken, the goal is to get the main north south tracks out to a width of 10m to create an effective fire break. This allows emergency access into the park and provides defensible spaces in the event a fire was to start in the park. Other recreational tracks are maintained to a 3m width to allow for multi-use recreation.





# Queen Elizabeth Park Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, Maclean Trust and other restoration areas

- Restoration areas
- LCAF (131.67ha)
  - Restoration (67.65)
  - One Billion Trees restoration (2.29ha)



Map 3: <Tracks in Red were mowed for fire breaks and access>

**May 2023,**

removed a block of pine trees on the Northern Boundary of the park these were identified in the fire risk plan as a potential hazard if fire where to start in the park.

**Other Measures:** Extra consideration has now been given to species selection in QEP planting plans. Mainly the selection use of fire retardant species where possible along the boundaries of properties and other assets.



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