

Draft Regional Forest Lands Plan: Summary of Submissions

Submitter	Submission	Relief sought	Officers comments
1 Jack O'Kane	All areas should be managed the same as current water collection area and access should be restricted, in time the water collection values will be more important than recreation values. Maps and policies clear for tramping but thought that the document was difficult to read, with too much text & unnecessary information.		Comments noted. The network utilities definition was derived from the RMA. Text has been included for its explanatory value, editing will help the readability of final document.
2 David Weston/ Kaumatua Tramping Club	Supports management philosophy, particularly recreation objectives.		Noted.
3-13, 18-20, 31, 35-48 Various submitters (Proforma submissions)	Supports continued motorised recreation in the Akatarawa Forest.	Wants area ratified as a motorised zone	Motorised recreation is currently a managed activity in the forest and there is no change to this in the draft plan. A map and table are included in the draft plan, as are policies for motorised recreation.
14 E McQueen	Issues relating to Council's management of plantation forestry and the need for water collection areas	Supporting evidence for need for areas and plantation forestry included in plan	Can put more information within text for water supply. Plantation forestry is a different planning process, including Annual Plan and working plan
15 Transit	Plan does not explicitly state that the plan only applies to GW land. Concerned if land management were to impact on SH2 or Transmission Gully		Introduction makes clear the plan's purpose and status (p1). Section 5 contains policies on network utilities. GW continues to work with Transit on SH1 & SH2 realignments affecting QEP, Kaitoke and this management plan.
16 Rimutaka Incline Railway Heritage Trust	Would like to develop a heritage tourist railway, including steam engine along former rail route from Upper Hutt to Wairarapa, currently the Rimutaka Rail Trail. Stage 1 is from Upper Hutt to Summit. Would also like provision for developing an alternative walking track at a higher elevation. Submission contains further details of proposal, identifies some policies relevant to proposal but does not assess activity per policies. Proposal includes Information and Discovery Centre at Summit. BERL feasibility study attached.	That the implications of access for tourist heritage study now be considered. Policy 4.12 should permit the rail proposal. Would like Rail Trail & Summit to be managed as an operational railway.	Report 02.688 and Council resolution is attached to this paper on original proposal. Requires assessment per plan's policies in section 5 & independent engineering/ financial assessment. Key issues likely to be environmental effects of construction and operation of steam engine, impacts on plantation forestry in short term, including risk of fire, & in long-term impact on water supply. Loss of walking and mountain biking at very easy grade. Loss/ damage to heritage structures and formation. Under the draft plan's provisions the proposal is a 'restricted' activity.
17 Peter Gernert	Akatarawa block should be left open for ongoing motorised recreation, including informal trail bike use.	Akatarawa Forest to be accessible to trail bikes	No change in policy is advocated by the draft plan, status quo re trail bike use
21 Transpower	National grid system is regionally and nationally important resource and is located over forest lands. Supports network utilities section.	Amend policy 5.42 to include minor upgrades. Include reference to NZ Code of Practice for safe distances.	Noted. Policy can be amended, although the definition needs to be further investigated to ensure that effects are of similar scale and significance. Considered appropriate to include code for safer distances in final plan.
22 Kapiti Environmental Action	Concerns over 4WD's at the end of Maungakotukutuku Road. Supports the investigation of links between Queen Elizabeth Park, Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and Akatarawa Forest.	Would like a gate installed at Maungakotutuku Rd similar to Perhams Road.	Gate was installed and a letter was received from KEA thanking the Ranger for his help. Unfortunately the gate was damaged again last month but should be fixed in the short term.
23 Ngati Tama	Agree in principle to plan's intent but plan does not go far enough to enhance mana whenua, mana moana, and status of iwi, hapu & whanau		Have met with Ngati Tama representatives to discuss the issues. They have not indicated that they wish further relief. Plan identifies processes for continued involvement rather than outcomes per se.
24 Wellington Botanical Society	Do not believe areas are suitable for dams or wind power developments, which involve clearance. Opposes horses next to indigenous forest, motorised use is incompatible with water collection area. No extension of plantation forestry areas, 40m buffer zones Rimutaka trail.	Various editing changes	Assessment policies are in section 5 and monitoring section 10. No extensions of plantation forestry are proposed at this point. Buffers were planted soon after logging was completed in the area in the late 1990s. Currently planting along the trail and riparian areas in indigenous species.
25 R Zdrahal	Believes that there is some confusion on the tracks available for motorised recreation. Environmental concerns should take precedence only where there is unacceptable damage. Inappropriate for GW to have policies that allow GW to close areas from motorised recreation without consultation (p23).	Would like changes in activity types, managed vs. restricted.	Maps and accompanying tables can be made clearer. Assessment policies section 5. Management tools include assessment of environmental effects, tracks agreed to date on assessments of value. Need ability to close forest for hazards such as fire, rain, wind and forestry. Currently, Ranger liaises with forest users over any closures.
26 Cross Country Vehicle Club	Supports process and plan's principles, wishes to maximise opportunities for club members consistent with the plan's objectives. Supports designating the protection of environmental values at risk as significant, with the balance of the area's management including environmental, recreational, heritage and cultural values. Supports continued motorised access in the Akatarawa Forest but does not support prohibition in Pakuratahi. Fees should be to cover costs and work on self management. Believe that activities should be classified as appropriate unless there is compelling evidence to the contrary. Map and table too restrictive and should instead be living documents subject to ongoing review.	Motorised access to Pakuratahi forest. Maps and tables detailing use removed from plan.	Managing area's environmental values is the key management tool to ensure the area remains fit for future water collection. Assessment policies section 5. Pakuratahi forest managed for passive activities including walking & mountain biking. Motorised tracks in current significant areas include N-W Akatarawa Forest, where part of the Kapiti Coast District Council's current water supply. Approach to motorised recreation using tables and map and public consultation agreed in 2002 with ARAC (Report 02.42 attached). Monitoring ongoing and plan review in 5 years (section 10). Concessions Policy governs fees and is based on actual impacts for motorised activities and self management.

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27 ARAC	Supports the intent of the plan, its vision, objectives and policies.	Designate Orange Hut for overnight stays. Process for ongoing review Allow for future revisions of guidelines Motorised access to Pakuratahi Reference to recreation in forestry section To provide further material at hearing	Building consent doesn't allow for overnight stays. Section 10 of plan addresses monitoring and review. Pakuratahi Forest managed for passive recreation experience. Plantation Forestry section is for information purposes only as it sits outside the management plan framework, explained p1. Officers will provide further information if required at hearing on material presented by ARAC
28 NZ 4WD Association	Believe that the 'living document' status has been lost with the management of motorised recreation in plan, especially the ability to review tracks. Concerned about charges to 4WDs.	Access into Pakuratahi Forest	Earlier plan and guidelines were an interim measure. Assessment policies section 5. Pakuratahi Forest managed for passive recreation experience. Process agreed in 2002 includes public consultation with ARAC (Report 02.42 attached). Monitoring & review section 10. Concessions Policy applies to all users of parks and forests. Recreation in Plantation forestry is on a managed basis.
29 Windy City Offroaders Inc	Support continued motorised recreation in Akatarawa Forest. Inclusion of map and table overly restrictive, and access needs ongoing review. Areas with significant values should be managed as prohibited areas. Would like unrestricted access to plantation forestry.	Maps and tables detailing use removed from plan. Access to plantation forestry	Process agreed in 2002 includes public consultation ARAC (Report 02.42 attached). Assessment policies section 5. Monitoring & review section 10. Recreation in Plantation forestry is on a managed basis.
30 Tread Lightly	GW is a flagship and leader. Motorised recreation growing.	Would like GW to consider expanding network. Allow fluidity for changing conditions	Process agreed in 2002 includes public consultation ARAC (Report 02.42 attached). Monitoring & review section 10. Some discretion in plantation forestry areas for events. Access is managed in response to changing conditions. Recreation in Plantation forestry is on a managed basis.
32 Kapiti Weekday Walkers	Enjoy walking in Akatarawa & Pakuratahi Forests. Pleased with general policies to permit access and make links with other public lands and Te Araroa.	Access from Akatarawa to Mackays Crossing (QEP) and Mt Wainui Track	Consistent with Policy 5.26.
33 Fish & Game	Whakatikei, Akatarawa and Pakuratahi main spawning tributaries. Potential for upland game hunting. Plan is prejudiced against introduced species, such as trout.	Focus on valued, rather than indigenous ecosystems. Specifically include trout and trout habitat. Reference to pest management strategy. Include trout fishing as informal use. Include upland game. Acknowledge Fish & Game in Community Section	Lands managed have primarily indigenous vegetation values. Individual species are not identified in policies, indigenous or otherwise. Pest management strategy referenced in policy 2.12. No hunting currently permitted in plantation forestry areas due to safety concerns, forestry areas located close to popular passive recreation areas. No requests for upland game hunting received to date. Removal of natural material currently excludes fishing (footnote 19). More information can be added within document acknowledging the importance of the trout fisheries and the recreational opportunities available in the forests. Appropriate that Fish & Game should be acknowledged in the Community Section
34 UH City Council	Considers objectives clear and sets acceptable policies to achieve objectives. Support plan.		Noted.
49 Department of Conservation	Ecological value of Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests very significant in a regional context. Has further detail on forest vegetation. Would like addition to primary objective. Notes presence of dwarf galaxids and long finned eels, both nationally threatened fish species. Supports policies for freshwater management, would like acknowledgement of importance of forests to freshwater habitats. Would like clear definitions of activity categories, & terms 'permit' & 'allow'. Would like further criteria added to removal of natural materials. Because of significant environmental values of forest areas, Department would like to be consulted early of suitability of wind farms and mitigation measures but supports activity as a 'restricted activity'. Supports recreation and monitoring sections.	Wording changes, including threatened species to be added to text. Avoid, remedy or mitigate added to Objective 1.1. Additions to Table 1 of threatened species. Added criteria to removal of natural materials.	Draft plan acknowledges high ecological values of forests and maintaining these environmental values is the key management tool for ensuring lands are able to sustain water supply in the future. Policy 1.1 change consistent with plan and could be accommodated. Further information on the forest's values adds to the document and can also be included. Further clarification and editing in tables and wording will be undertaken to improve clarity. Biodiversity and ecological criteria already factors on assessing permits to remove natural materials.
50 Kapiti Coast District Council	Have briefly reviewed the plan and have no concerns.		Noted.
51 Historic Places trust	Strongly supports plan and appreciates GW's awareness of cultural heritage. Concerned about the re-introduction of trains onto old rail formation. Would like use of rail for logging trucks reviewed and would like a buffer of indigenous between formation and plantation forestry. Identifies site at Maungakotukutuku (outside this plan). Pleased to see recognition of tramways and other heritage sites connected with timber extraction/ milling. Concern about motorised recreation to tramways. Access to Mt Wainui from Paekakariki.	Review of logging truck access. Buffer of indigenous vegetation amendments re wording of Historic Places Act	Plantation Forestry get HPT authorisations if required, issue outside ambit of plan. Access consistent with Policy 5.26. . Buffers were planted soon after logging was completed in the area in the late 1990s. Currently planting along the trail and riparian areas in indigenous species.