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**Committee** Landcare  
**Author** Fiona Shaw, Advisor, Planning and Policy

## Queen Elizabeth Park management plan review update

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the review of the Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan (QEPMP) and set the direction for preparing a draft plan.

### 2. Background

The review of the QEPMP began in October 2004 with an initial consultation phase calling for public comment from stakeholders and the wider community. This stage concluded on 31 December 2004 and is in keeping with the Council approved timetable and process for the review of the plan (Report 03.450).

### 3. Progress to date

Phase 1 of the review – ‘pre-consultation’ – is complete. The purpose of Phase 1 was to identify the key issues involved and the viewpoints of various stakeholders. This has involved:

- undertaking initial discussions with relevant statutory agencies and Iwi
- notifying our intention to review and calling for public submissions (301 received)
- developing a newsletter to inform the community about the review
- press releases advertising the review of the management plan, the process being undertaken and how the public can be involved
- meeting with Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
- placing newsletters, plans and submission forms in Paraparaumu Library, KCDC offices, in the park and on the GWRC website
- holding a public meeting.

### **3.1 Submissions**

Landcare committee members received a copy of all written submissions on Friday 28 January for your consideration. Please refer to “Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan Submissions (Phase one) 00001 – 00150 and 00151 – 00305”.

### **3.2 Public meeting**

A successful public meeting was held on 1 December 2004. A copy of all suggestions and ideas gathered at the Public Meeting is attached to this report for the Committee’s consideration (see **attachment 1**).

### **3.3 Public meeting evaluation**

As part of meeting consultation requirements under the Local Government Act 2003 section 82(1)(a) “...*access to relevant information in a format that is appropriate to the preferences and needs of those persons*” the public were asked to evaluate the consultation to date and the format for the public meeting. Twelve of the approximately 60 people who attended gave feedback using the forms supplied. All comments have been extremely positive. If you wish to see copies of the evaluation forms please contact Fiona Shaw directly.

## **4. Key issues**

Key issues arising from feedback to date include:

- 1) Continued and/or increased protection of the Parks existing values (cultural, heritage, open space and natural character)
- 2) Securing user rights for existing stakeholders (model aeroplane club, equestrian clubs)
- 3) Improving access into and within the park
- 4) Acquiring Whareroa Farm to be included as part of QEP
- 5) Both support and opposition for providing facilities for motorised sport within the park
- 6) Providing more facilities such as an information centre, education facilities and information signs
- 7) Development of small businesses such as cafes and other service providers to generate revenue within the park
- 8) A desire to re-evaluate current and future use of the farm and/or reintroducing it into park use
- 9) Broadening the range and appeal of activities within the park (i.e. mountain Bike tracks, family events, sculptural pieces)
- 10) Providing for motorhome use of the park

- 11) Giving support for the Kapiti “Open Space Gateway” concept (see **Attachment 2**)
- 12) Providing opportunities for QEP to be incorporated into tourism development on the Kapiti Coast
- 13) Protection/enhancement/promotion of cultural and heritage significance (ie representing WWII heritage, landscape and geological heritage and sites of cultural significance such as Whareroa Pa)
- 14) Increasing funding for the park
- 15) Development suggestions (including major infrastructural works ie golf course, rowing lake, race tracks etc).

A summary of the feedback to date is attached to this paper (**Attachment 3**).

## **5. Review of the current plan**

An initial review of the aim, objectives and policies of the current plan in light of the recently approved Regional Parks Network Management Plan (RPNMP), as well as the current feedback from the community collected in recent months, has been completed (see **Attachment 4**).

The current QEPMP, whilst being some 12 years old, covers many of the current issues facing the park. As with the Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan many of the policies, aims and objectives remain pertinent today. Therefore the majority of policies will need only minor amendments. However, the formatting of the plan will be updated to reflect the Council’s new direction for management planning under the RPNMP framework.

Officers will begin preparing a new draft plan concentrating on those sections of the plan that do not require significant change. Issues requiring council direction will be reviewed at the Councillor Workshop on 16 February 2004.

## **6. Key Issues for discussion**

Two overarching issues have been highlighted for discussion.

GWRC and its predecessors have managed QEP for the purposes of protecting recreation and open space values. However, in the written submissions and through the public meeting it was clear that there is a perception amongst the community that a large part of QEP is seen as “waste land” and is “underutilised” which has sparked considerable debate about possible uses and development potential for the park.

Whilst motorised activity has gained the most traction as a possible use for the park there have been many development suggestions offered over the last decade.

To date the funding for any large scale infrastructural development has not been available. Although this particular issue can not be addressed through the

management plan process it needs to be borne in mind when discussing any future management regimes for QEP.

### **Motorised sport in Queen Elizabeth Park**

One of the key issues that continues to dominate the QEPMP review is the proposal for motorised sporting activity within the park.

According to the current management plan policies, objectives and visions motorised sport is an activity which does not readily comply with the management intentions for the park. Area 1 Policy 2 under Policy 1.1 “Management of Land Use Areas” states that “*Motor vehicles, including motorbikes, dune buggies and off road vehicles are prohibited on the beach except for management purposes*”.

Policy 3.4 states that “*The primary recreational use of the Park is for short term visitors pursuing activities that are compatible with the other land uses, including picnicking, walking, cycling, sight seeing and horse riding*” and

Policy 3.11 Activity Assessment would also deem large scale motorised activities as inappropriate within the park.

Management Plan policies were challenged during RPNMP process and again in the QEPMP review process, causing considerable media debate, polarising the community.

### **Whareroa Farm acquisition**

A second key issue to arise from the submission process was the importance of Whareroa Farm to QEP.

The current QEPMP states under 1.6 “Relationship to Other Regional Parks and Recreation Areas” Policy 2 that “*the possibility of purchasing all or part of Whareroa farm should the opportunity arise, will be investigated*”

This topical issue has been discussed in detail in a recent report to council and therefore won’t be discussed further at this point.

## **7. Proposed structure of the plan**

The RPNMP sets the framework for all park specific management plans. The QEPMP will therefore be consistent with the structure, objectives and policies of the Network Plan.

As with other park specific plans the QEPMP will include more detailed maps, management actions (methods) and expected results. This will assist in ensuring that the objectives, policies and methods are aligned and that management actions contribute to park objectives. It will also enable the plans to be effectively monitored.

## 8. Where to from here?

We will begin drafting a plan starting with the policies that do not appear to require significant changes. We also propose that a workshop be held on 16 February for Councillors to discuss those issues and policies requiring council direction.

## 9. Communication

Communication with stakeholders is ongoing. Once we have received guidance from the Committee, we will incorporate that information into our consultation with stakeholders.

## 10. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*
3. *note the key issues arising from the pre consultation phase.*
4. *instruct officers to prepare a draft QEP management plan.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Fiona Shaw**

Advisor, Planning and Policy

**Murray Waititi**

Manager, Parks and Forests

**Rob Forlong**

Divisional Manager, Landcare

**Attachment 1:** Summary of public comments for Queen Elizabeth Park

**Attachment 2:** Kapiti Open Space Gateway proposal

**Attachment 3:** Summary of feedback to date

**Attachment 4:** Review of current plan – aim, objectives and policies