



Report 10.429  
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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 5 August 2010

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at Greater Wellington's Wellington offices on 5 August 2010.

### 2. East Harbour Regional Park - Baring Head block

Messrs. Waititi and Troy spoke to their report. Mr Waititi outlined the management steps that need to be taken in the short term in order to open the area to the public. These covered aspects such as consulting with community groups, asset management, the safety of any visitor entering the land and the general security of the property.

Mr Troy updated the Committee on the development of a management plan for the Baring Head block which is to be included in *Greater Wellington Network Plan* (the Plan) as an amendment. The Baring Head block is not able to be included in the Plan now because the Plan is presently being reviewed and well advanced. Before any such amendment can be made research, specific to Baring Head, is needed. This investigation work will include the biodiversity, heritage, land management, recreational and tourism potential amongst other issues. Early engagement with the community will also be undertaken over the next few months.

In discussion, Councillors requested that a cultural impact report be included as an integral part of the planning process and Mr Kennedy confirmed that this was intended.

Mr Kennedy advised Councillors that an interim grazing licence needs to be entered with the grazier to enable them to farm with certainty and plan through a full seasonal cycle.

Councillors agreed that the Council should support a *Friends of Baring Head* group being formed at the earliest opportunity to assist with future planning.

The various interest groups may be represented as a single voice through a *Friends of Baring Head* group.

### **3. Wellington Regional Strategy office update**

Melanie Thornton, WRS Project Leader, updated the Committee on progress with discussing the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) with other Councils and public sector organisations, work on the Regional Broadband Operational Group (BOG), and developing the Open Space initiative.

### **4. Group Report for year ended 30 June 2010**

Murray Kennedy updated the Committee of the group's work undertaken over the past six weeks. In general discussion, Councillors affirmed the comments of the Australian Water Industry Operators Association's publication, *Water Works* which complemented Greater Wellington and its work developing innovative solutions in the water supply business.

### **5. Climate change response – update**

The Committee considered the work underway on climate change response and confirmed the approach adopted.

### **6. Property opportunities**

In the public excluded section, some items concerning property were considered and their respective recommendations approved.

### **7. Public participation**

Councillors heard from several speakers in support of the recent Baring Head land acquisition and suggestions for its future use.

Messrs. Bill Kemp, Mel McGuinness and Jim Watson, former lighthouse keepers, all spoke of a desire to keep the lighthouse and accompanying houses as an enduring public asset for the future, as a part of New Zealand's maritime history. During their respective time at the lighthouse, visits from locals grew to around 1,000 per year. These lighthouse houses could be modified to provide accommodation for tourists and visitors for short-term stays.

Mr Nic Cudby from Fish and Game, Wellington spoke of the importance of the Wainuiomata River for trout fishing and as a game bird habitat. His organisation is keen to assist Greater Wellington to develop the area.

Mr Paul Hughes, spoke of conserving the coastal environment and opportunities for recreation.

Ms Barbara Mitcalfe and Mr Chris Horne spoke of preserving the fragile and unique coastal and ecological values.

Mr Colin Ryder requested that some thought be given to setting up a “Friends” of Baring Head to help promote and protect the area.

Mr Evan Freshwater of Tourism Industry Association New Zealand, TIANZ, spoke of the opportunities that the land purchase presented. He suggested, for example, that this area could be developed as part of a national walkway and cycleway joining the Wairarapa to the hinterlands. Such a development would require an approach, similar to the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, in which tourism was developed in a way which was sympathetic with and protected the natural vegetation.

Mr Derek Wilshire suggested that the two other lighthouses in the East Harbour Regional Park could be combined with Baring Head lighthouse as a feature of the expanded park.

Mr Michael Taylor raised a concern about the process implemented by Greater Wellington in considering the iwi proposal to ban duck shooting at the Pencarrow lakes earlier in the year.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:



**Cr Chris Laidlaw**  
Chair, Regional Sustainability  
Committee

Report prepared by:

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### **Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes of meeting of Regional Sustainability Committee held on 5 August 2010**