

Report 04.625
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Committee Ara Tahi
Author Trecia Smith Advisor - Planning and Policy

Draft Resource Information: Heritage

1. Purpose

To provide Ara Tahi with information on the heritage component of the resource information collated about the regional parks and forests and clarify the process for completing the work.

To present an example of work currently being undertaken at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park with Ngati Toa Rangatira on interpretation at the park.

2. Background

Resource information is collected about the lands that the Park and Forests Department are responsible for. The information includes physical and biological aspects, for instance, flora and fauna, as well as cultural and heritage information. The Parks and Forests department uses resource information to better understand and manage the regional parks and forests network. It is also available for use by the regional community.

The information forms an important part of the management plan review process as it provides a baseline for policies and future monitoring. As part of the management plan review process the information held by Greater Wellington was reviewed and updated.

The review of the physical and biological information has been completed for all the parks and forests. The work now needs to be professionally edited before being published. No substantial change in the information reviewed from past resource statements about the biological or physical resources was required.

However, the review identified that the heritage component of the resource information required work to ensure that it was at an acceptable standard. Once these components have been completed they will be published in an accompanying volume to each new park or forest management plan.

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3. Heritage component

To complete the heritage component as agreed with Iwi, an historian, Tony Walzl, and an archaeologist, Mary O’Keefe were engaged to compile the heritage information. Tony’s research provided the bulk of the material and included Mary’s finding from site visits. Iwi representatives were invited to attend site meetings and contact was maintained with Iwi throughout the process. The draft material was completed last year and made available to Iwi for their comments. Contracts were agreed to recognise the commitment from Iwi for their time in reviewing the work.

To date we have had some comments back and we would like to ensure that we follow the best possible process from here. Some of the comments included how to deal with matters of weight within the narrative. The need to include a section on current Iwi matters to provide a context to the information collected was also raised. A new section will be added to the resource information to clarify this. A short section will also discuss the reason for collecting the information and other sources where heritage information can be obtained, including Iwi sources, Waitangi Tribunal reports and other reputable documents.

4. Process from here

We need to finalise the resource information for each park and forest so that it can be made available for staff and the general public. The resource information will be published as a separate document that accompanies each management plan. Any further comments are requested before Christmas.

Tony Walzl will be present at this meeting and will briefly describe his background and the methodology that he used for compiling the information. There will be time for some questions. Copies of his work will be available at the meeting, for your information and comment.

We will forward any comments on the drafts to Tony Walzl to amend the narratives. If there are any differences that cannot be reconciled, an additional section will be added describing any alternative views. Tony will also be available for Iwi to discuss any issues at the Wakefield Street Regional Council office in December.

5. Interpretation at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

One of the most important functions of the resource information is to provide Officers with a level of information that allows the management plan policies to be implemented effectively. For heritage information, this means that Officers will be informed before consulting with Iwi about issues like interpretation or sites of significance to Iwi.

The Regional Parks Network Plan provides the overall strategic direction for cultural heritage (page 42) and working together with tangata whenua (page 71). The network plan will provide a template for each of the regional park’s management plan reviews including Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

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Annabel Riley and Amanda Cox have just begun working on an interpretation project at the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and have been liaising with Ngati Toa Rangatira. A short presentation will be given with opportunities for questions.

6. Recommendation

That Ara Tahi:

1. **receive** the report
2. **note** the report's contents
3. **support** the proposed process and timetable to conclude the heritage component of the resource information

Report prepared by:

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