

TABLED INFORMATION

Friends of the Town Belt - reference a

Wellington City Council Environment Committee -- 20 March 2014

As representatives of the Friends of the Wellington Town Belt we recommend that this draft of the Wellington Town Belt Bill be approved by the Council for public consultation.

We sincerely thank the Councillors, Council Staff and legal advisers for the work they have done. The Friends have appreciated the opportunity to review the various drafts and to provide feedback. We especially thank Mike Oates and Adam Holloway for their work and for listening to our concerns and indeed incorporating many of our suggestion.

This draft follows the instructions approved by Council in June 2013. The draft includes most of the points the Friends of the Wellington Town Belt have been advocating for many years.

To summarise:

- (1) It reinforces the role of the Council as Trustees. The Wellington Town Belt is held in trust.
- (2) It includes the concept of the Original Town Belt; the 1873 Deed and the Guiding Principles which taken together will result in the Town Belt forever being protected as a natural environment available as a recreation area for Wellingtonians.
- (3) It reaffirms the 389ha already protected by the Trust Deed of 1873 and incorporates another 130ha managed as Town Belt but without legal protection until this Bill is enacted and it provides the mechanism to add appropriate land in future.
- (4) It allows no more than 8ha in total to be subject to lease (excluding the Canal Reserve, Chest Hospital and Wellington Zoo). It sets limits to leases and licences and for-profit use of the Town Belt. But these are the aspects the Friends feel will need to be constantly monitored.
- (5) It states clearly in Section 13 "No removal of land from the Wellington Town Belt" and again in Section 17 "That the Council has no power to voluntarily sell, exchange or use as security any part of the Town Belt". Also in Section 14 it notes the Town Belt is subject to the Public Works Act – it clearly states the Council must not agree in advance to any land being removed but if it is taken by the Public Works Act then it must seek appropriate compensation.

The Preamble to the Belt gives a concise background to the Wellington Town Belt and recognizes the importance of some of the area to Mana Whenua and the importance to all Wellingtonians of green space in our city – provided by instructions 1839 and on the 1840 Plan provided for the area now known as the Wellington Town Belt.

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The preamble starts with a Maori proverb and words that speak of building positive relations and working together towards common goals and initiatives. We hope that every effort will be made to progress the Bill through its next stages. The Friends of the Wellington Town Belt will continue to do all they can to assist. Thank you again for the opportunity to express our views today.

by John Bishop (Chair) and Joan Quinn (for Friends of the Wellington Town Belt).

Note. Is there a discrepancy in the figures for the Exhibition Site?

In Schedule 6, while the land is expressed as 12 acres 3 roods 25 perches this seems to be the total for the original site.

The Town Belt Management Plan P.132 notes that the site is divided --

3.1119ha suspended from the Deed at present

2.1111ha (including Te Whaea Artificial Turf) back under the Deed.

Therefore it seems Schedule 6 should record the 3.1119ha and Schedule 2 the 2.1111ha. At present Schedule 2 records the total area of 5.2230ha.