

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN BELT

The Friends of the Wellington Town Belt thank the council and particularly Council officers and advisors who have committed substantial time and consideration to the proposed Wellington Town Belt Bill to date.

The Friends are delighted another step in the process towards introduction of the Bill to Parliament has been reached.

The Friends generally strongly support the Bill as released for public comment.

At a public meeting hosted by the Friends on Thursday 6 May 2014 there was disquiet expressed about aspects of the Bill. Most significantly those present at the meeting stated their belief the Bill must be specific in referring to and safeguarding ongoing involvement of the citizens/inhabitants of Wellington as a trustee in respect to the Town Belt.

The following points are made on the draft Bill:-

Preamble

Para (4) – It is suggested it would help clarity / understanding if the phrase “1,562 acres” was converted to the metric area with the imperial area remaining in brackets thereafter.

Para (7) – The final sentence of this paragraph would be improved by the addition of the word “separately” after the word “subsequently”.

Para (8) – Remove the words “For the Wellington District” from the beginning of the second sentence.

Para (9) – In the first sentence the word “people” should be replaced by “inhabitants” as used in the Town Belt Deed. The word inhabitants should be used throughout the Bill thus reflecting the purpose of the Bill.

Para (10) – After ‘Belt’ in 10(a) add the words “on behalf of the inhabitants of Wellington”.

Specific sections of the Bill

Section 3 – In section 3(a) add after Belt “on behalf of the inhabitants of Wellington”.

In section (c) add “while safeguarding opportunities for the inhabitants of Wellington generally to contribute to the trusteeship and management responsibilities in accordance with this Act.”

Section 4 – Adjust the definition of “Council” to “Council means the Wellington City Council including Councillors being those persons representing the residents / inhabitants living within the territorial boundaries of the said Council as existed at the date of enactment of this Act.”

- It is suggested a definition of “Public Purpose” may well be appropriate.

Section 9 (i)- After “Deed” add “and in accordance with section 3”.

Section 10 (i) – Adjust (d) to read “the Wellington Town Belt should support healthy ecosystems”.

- Adjust (f) to read “ the Wellington Town Belt should primarily be used for a wide range of passive outdoor activities.”

Section 14 – Add the following in this section

“14(5) Notwithstanding section 14 (4), in the event the Council is advised of any prospect the compulsory provisions of the Public Works Act 1981 may become operative in respect to any land subject to this Act, the Council must :

- a) Ensure the inhabitants of Wellington are immediately fully advised of any such prospect with specific reasons for any such action;
- b) Not enter into any negotiations nor any commitment for any agreement resulting from such negotiations until after the requirements of section 14 (5) (a) have been complied with and the reaction of the inhabitants of Wellington is known, and further;
- c) Ensure all monetary compensation for any potential loss of land subject to this Act is held by the Council in trust and applied only as agreed with the inhabitants of Wellington for enhancement and management of the Wellington Town Belt.”

Section 16 (1) – Add after the word “has” – “in accordance with this Act”.

Section 16 (3) – Delete the words “without limiting subsection (1)” and replace with the words “in accordance with section 16(1)”.

Section 18(2) – It is appreciated the maximum extent of land (occupied by buildings) that may be leased has been subject to debate for many years. The current belief is that eight hectares, as included in the Bill, may indeed be excessive. That area could well more appropriately be reduced to four or six hectares.

Section 20(1) – This section should read “After prior consultation with the inhabitants of Wellington, the Council must adopt a management plan for the Wellington Town Belt”.

Section 20(4) – Add to this section “and to this end must appoint a senior manager as Town Belt Curator to act in a liaison role on behalf of the inhabitants of Wellington”.

Section 20 (6)(d) – Reorder wording to read “take into account all submissions on the draft”.

Section 21 (2) (b) – Reorder wording to read “taking into account all submissions made on the proposed exercise of powers.”

Schedule 2

It is suggested the schedule should mirror the schedules of land as shown in the August 2013 Wellington Town Belt Management Plan. By so doing, the individual land parcels will be more clearly identified.

Appendix 1 Maps

Figure 2 – Upper Weld Street

As illustrated, the Friends oppose the proposal and submit that further site inspections and land survey is required before any detailed proposal can be properly considered.

Figure 3 – Brooklyn Road and Nairn Street

The proposal is supported.

Figure 4 - Connaught Terrace

The Friends note the area of Town Belt land adjoins vegetated road reserve and thus the proposal is not supported, rather the Town Belt should remain protected and enhanced by the road reserve.

Figure 5 – Liardet Street

The proposed exchange of Town Belt land for the formed portion of Liardet Street is supported. The green area of Town Belt should remain Town Belt.

Figure 6 – Mt Albert Road

The proposals are supported.

Figure 7 – Volga Street

The proposals are supported.

Figure 8 – Lookout Road

The proposals are supported.

