

Report 99.577

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Report to the Environment Committee
from Richard Peterson, Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

Guidelines for the Region's Outstanding Landscapes

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about progress on guidelines for the Region's Outstanding Landscapes.

2. Background

When it withdrew the Proposed Regional Landscape Plan in September 1998, the Council resolved to:

...prepare non-statutory guidelines for the sustainable management of regionally significant landscapes and implement these through targeted regional forums, education programmes, information dissemination, statutory advocacy and other associated initiatives.

Consequently, Boffa Miskell was engaged to provide advice on the content, format and use of guidelines in the management of regionally significant landscapes.

Following receipt of the advice from Boffa Miskell, a project brief was prepared and tenders sought for the work. Final negotiations are currently underway with the preferred consultant..

3. The Objectives of the Project

The objectives of the guideline project are:

(1) To produce landscape guidelines for each of the following areas:

- Wellington Harbour
- Castlepoint

- Cape Palliser & Aorangi Ranges
- The Tararua & Rimutaka Ranges
- Kapiti and Mana Islands

(2) To develop a follow-up/education programme.

The primary audiences to be targeted will be:

- Landowners.
- Interest groups and individuals.
- Practitioners.

However, the guidelines will also be useful for resource consent applicants and local authority staff.

While Pauatahanui Inlet had been identified as an outstanding landscape in the Proposed Regional Landscape Plan, it has been excluded from the guidelines project at this stage. The reason for this is that resource management issues involving the Inlet are being addressed through a separate process, as outlined in Report 99.588 to this Committee.

4. **Outputs and Work Programme**

The guidelines will be completed by the end of March 2000. It is intended that by this date four brochures will have been produced, one for each of the landscapes, Castle Point, Cape Palliser/Aorangi Ranges, Tararuas/Rimutaka Ranges, Kapiti/ Mana Islands. In addition a more detailed booklet will be produced for the more complex Wellington Harbour landscape.

The new material will pick up on the principle that landscape guidelines need, first, to promote an awareness of a landscape's qualities and values in order to guide future landscape management. The guidelines will therefore:

- graphically explain the landscape character of each landscape;
- set out, in neutral language, the key issues that relate to each; and
- provide some introductory guidance on the landscape management of the particular landscape.

It is intended that the guidelines will aim to foster recognition of specific landscape values, a sense of ownership or pride in those people who play a significant part in managing those landscapes and offer some constructive actions that can be taken.

The project will be completed in a series of stages. Following the initial project set up phase, it is intended that the chosen consultant will review the existing information that the Council holds on the landscapes, including the submissions on the Landscape Plan. This will be followed in November by a round of public consultation aimed to both inform those interested about the project, and to get feedback on the issues within

each landscape area. A key aspect of the consultation process will be to emphasise the non-statutory nature of the guidelines.

Draft guidelines will be presented to Council for approval in January 2000.

5. **Communications**

The chosen consultant will be preparing a consultation programme which ensures that the relevant land owners, interest groups and territorial authorities are kept informed and involved in this project. It is also intended that in the future the guidelines will be used as part of the Council's education programme. This will be guided by the "Follow-up" document produced as part of the guideline project.

Media coverage of the guideline's release will be planned to get the best mileage out of the messages being conveyed, and to promote the Regional Council's positive and pro-active involvement.

6. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the information noted.

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