

## Supplementary Information on Rewanui Bush

### 1. Criteria for Regional Parks

There are three primary reasons or values why land is held or purchased for regional parks. [Section 619(2) of the Local Government Act.] These are to protect and preserve:

- Recreational significance or potential for their intrinsic worth and/or for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public (and in particular, the public of the region); and/or
- Environmental or natural features including water, native bush, geological and biological features; and/or
- Cultural heritage features including historic, archaeological, educational, community or other cultural features or values.

The Resource Management Act also refers to matters for which reserve lands may be purchased and held in public ownership. The matters go beyond the protection and management of natural and cultural features and include:

- Matters such as the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers, and, matters such as the “recreational attributes” of land.

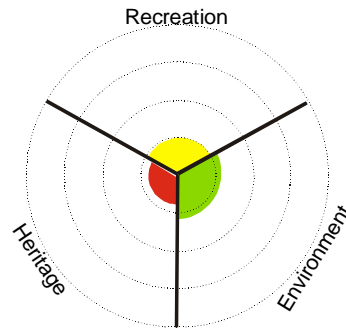
### 2. Signature Values

The Rewanui *Signature* values are summarised below:

**Table 1 : Rewanui Bush Signature Values**

	<b>Recreation Values</b>	<b>Environmental Values</b>	<b>Heritage Values</b>
<b>Rewanui Bush</b>	<p><b>Low:</b> Potential to be used by picnickers, walkers, cyclists, horse riders, campers, and orienteers. If developed as a recreational area, Rewanui is estimated to potentially have up to 20,000 visitors per year.</p> <p>(Score = 5/20)</p>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> One of the best remaining examples of lowland forest in the Eastern Wairarapa ecological district. Contains rewarewa, kanuka and podocarps. Habitat for birds including kereru. Native scrub is regenerating in gullies. Prominent ridges viewed from the Castlepoint Road.</p> <p>(Score = 6/20)</p>	<p><b>Low:</b> Homestead and farm buildings of local heritage interest.</p> <p>(Score = 3/20)</p>

Figure 1 : Rewanui Bush *Signature Values*

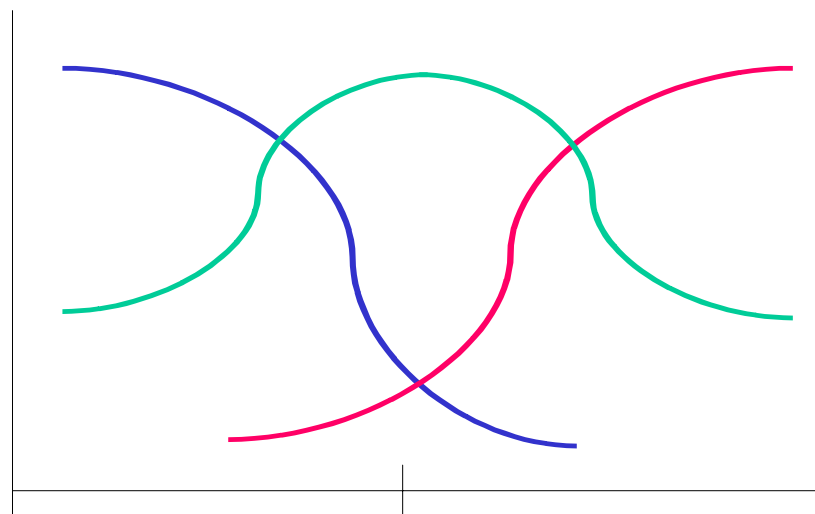


### 3. Is the Council the Appropriate Organisation to Administer the Area?

When considering which organisation should manage an area, it is useful to consider the values of the area and their level of significance on the Governance Continuum.

#### Governance Continuum

High



Low

Values of  
National Significance

Values of  
Regional Significance

Values of  
Local Significance

Key: █ Area of Regional Council responsibility  
█ Area of Department of Conservation responsibility  
█ Area of Territorial Authority responsibility

#### Locally Significant

Rewanui has values predominantly of local significance although environmental values have moderate regional significance. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the Masterton District Council or Regional Council to administer the area.

#### 4. Adds Little Different Experience

A further consideration is whether an area would add to the experiences offered by the Regional Parks network. Each of the parks in the network offers a different experience for users and has its own unique features:

- East Harbour Regional Park - a rugged rocky shore, lakes and wetlands, Maori archaeological features, historic lighthouses and bush walks.
- Queen Elizabeth Park - sandy beaches, coastal dune systems, World War II and Maori heritage features.
- Pakuratahi Forest - native and exotic forests, beech tree stratification, river environments, heritage railway formation, tunnels and bridges.
- Belmont Regional Park - wide open spaces and hill tops, excellent views and recreation opportunities, World War II heritage features.
- Kaitoke Regional Park - high quality natural forest, bush walks, water collection features.
- Battle Hill Farm Forest Park - a working farm and forested areas, educational opportunities - a classroom in the field, a New Zealand Wars site.
- Akatarawa Forest - native and exotic forests, motorised recreational opportunities.

There is currently no Regional Park in the Wairarapa. Rewanui would potentially offer a similar experience to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park, but it is accessible to Wairarapa residents and contains a different lowland forest type.

Rewanui is predominantly of local value although the environmental values have moderate regional significance. While it has a good example of lowland forest, Rewanui lacks other significant visitor attractions and adds little different experience to existing regional parks.

#### 5. Regional Parks Land Purchase Reserve Fund

The Regional Parks Land Purchase Reserve Fund was established by the Wellington metropolitan local authorities who comprised the former (pre 1989) Wellington Region. In December 1985 (Report PE-85.657) Council resolved:

*To pursue a policy of land purchase in the regional park areas using the land purchase fund accumulated up to 31 March 1984; and that the land purchase fund accumulated since 1 April 1984 be available for land purchase for recreational use outside the regional parks.*

The constituent local authorities' views were sought prior to purchase of the Battle Hill property in 1988 (Report 88.219). All other land purchases from the Fund have been for land within or adjoining existing regional parks, (e.g., the Rose property at East Harbour Regional Park).