



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Wellington Regional Council  
04 JUN 2002

FILE REF: -V2	
R / 05 / 01 / 05	
Doc. No. 689714	
Referred to	Date/Int
R. Fortson	
myw	(51)

For  
Report and  
Reply.  
RD

27 May 2002

Divisional Manager, Landcare  
Wellington Regional Council  
PO Box 11646  
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir,

### Takapu Block – Belmont Regional Park

You will be pleased to learn that the department has, with the support of the Council over the last few years, been successful in securing the transfer and retention of the Takapu Block in public ownership.

The block was declared to be a recreation reserve under the Reserve Act 1977 by NZ Gazette 2002, page 60 (copy attached) and is now under the administration of this department. All improvements on the property – the fences, buildings, tracks and pasture – remain assets of the Crown under the department's management.

The department does not see itself as best placed to realise the recreation and ecological potential of the block and now invites the Council to consider a vesting of the reserve as an administering body under the Reserves Act 1977. The full responsibilities and powers of a local authority as an administering authority under that Act are detailed in the Reserves Act Guide published in 1999 by Local Government NZ and the Department.

So that the Crown does not prejudice the future settlement of claims under the Treaty of Waitangi the vesting would be conditional on the Council agreeing in advance to waive its right to consent to cancellation of the vesting under s.27 of the Act in the event of any of the land being required by the Crown for the purposes of settling such a claim. The Council would be consulted as an affected party if a cancellation of the vesting of the reserve was ever proposed.

Some issues:

#### Management Planning

The department would support the block being retained and managed under the ambit of the Belmont Regional Park management plan as provided for in s.619D Local Government Act.

32901

#### Wellington Conservancy

P.O. Box 5086, 2nd Floor, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington, New Zealand  
Telephone 04-472 5821, Fax 04-499 0077

*Regional Park – An Assessment of the recreation and Landscape Values* are supported by the department and the department would like to see management policies developed in accordance with these values.

#### **Walkways under NZ Walkways Act**

There is one section of the Belmont Walkway that runs through the Takapu Block that has yet to be legally created as a walkway under the NZ Walkways Act with the Council appointed as the administering authority. I intend to complete this action prior to any appointment of Council as administering authority for the new reserve under the Reserves Act.

#### **Grazing Concession**

The reserve has been farmed as part of the Waitangirua Farm since 1983. Initially by the Department of Lands and Survey and since 1987 by Landcorp Farming Limited. Lands and Survey had an initial lease with Ministry of Energy but this was never renewed and Landcorp 'legally has never held a lease of the land. Landcorp however, has continued to pay an annual rent to Land Information NZ (the previous Crown manager) and pays rates on the property. The Crown (LINZ) has no record or evidence of any sale of the improvement assets to Landcorp and Landcorp has made no claim of ownership of these improvements.

Any rights offered for grazing will have to be let under the Reserves Acts 1977. The department would expect Council as the administering body to take the lead on the negotiated terms of conditions of any lease or licence subject to any consent by the Minister's delegate.

Council would be entitled to retain all revenue derived from the reserve. In return the Crown expects the improvements on the property to be maintained in a condition no less than that existing at the commencement of management control.

#### **House**

The house on the property has been the subject of recent vandalism and its economic value (when renovation costs are considered) is minimal. If the house is not required by Council for park management, the department would not claim on any asset value if Council was to demolish the house and restore the site to pasture or forest.

#### **Classification**

The Reserves Act requires all reserves to be formally classified before an administering authority is appointed. With the Council's concurrence I propose that the classification be recreation under Section 17 of the Reserves Act. All or parts of the block can be reclassified at a late date should any regeneration/reafforestation programme require this primary purpose to be reviewed. I would expect this to be some years away.

#### **Conservation Covenants**

The department has conservation covenants with Landcorp under the Reserves Act on several sites of the Waitangirua Farm. One of these sites is the valley system extending up behind Cannons Creek to the border of the Takapu Block. If the Council becomes the administering authority for the Takapu Block then there is logic for the management of all the conservation covenants within the bounds of Belmont Regional Park to also pass to the Council. The department would like the Council to accept this responsibility as part of the management package. The transfer of administration of the covenants

could be **either** by contractual **agreement**, or **through Council** arranging for Landcorp to enter into the **new covenants on the same terms with Council**. The **Crown covenants** would **then** be **cancelled**. Unfortunately the Act does not provide for an interest in a conservation covenant to be **legally assigned**.

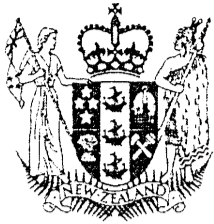
**Media Release**

I believe it **would be desirable for there to be a joint media release** when decisions have been made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Ross', written in a cursive style.

Allan Ross  
Conservator



COMPUTER INTEREST REGISTER  
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952  
Limited as to Parcels



Search Copy

R.W. Muir  
Registrar-General  
of Land

Identifier **31168**  
Land Registration District **Wellington**  
Date Registered 14 March 2002 09:00 am

Prior References  
GN 412269.1 WN4 1A/666

---

Type	Fee Simple	Instrument	GN 5172518.1
Area	290.3342 hectares more or less		
Legal Description	Lot 2 Deposited Plan 66905 and Lot 12 Deposited Plan 297 15 and Section 25-30 and Part Section 31 Horokiwi Road District		
Purpose	Public reserve (recreation purposes)		
Proprietors	Her Majesty the Queen		

---

Interests

LIMITED AS TO PARCELS (AFFECTS SECTIONS 2 j-30 AND PART SECTION 31 HOROKIWI ROAD DISTRICT)  
Subject to the Reserves Act 1977

Land Set Apart for Recreation Reserve Purposes—  
City of Wellington

Pursuant to section 52 (1) of the Public Works Act 193 1, and to a delegation from the Minister for Land Information, Ronald Alistair Joily, Land Information New Zealand, declares the land described in the Schedule to this notice, to be set apart for public reserve (recreation purposes) and to remain vested in the Crown.

Schedule

*Wellington Land District-Wellington City*

Area m <sup>2</sup>	Being
7490	Lot 2, D.P. 66905, being part Section 14, Takapu District, situated in Block II, Belmont Survey District. Part G.N. 4 12269.1.
ha	
9.9476	Lot 12, D.P. 29715, being part Section 12, Takapu District, situated in Block II, Belmont Survey District. Part G.N. 4 12269.1.
63.1309	Section 25 and part Section 26, Horokiwi Road District, situated in Block VIII, Belmont Survey District. Part G.N. 4 12269.1.
140.9317	Part Sections 26, 27, 28 and 29, Horokiwi Road District, situated in Blocks II and VIII, Belmont Survey District. Part G.N. 3 12269.1.
75.5750	Section 30 and parts of Sections 29 and 3 1, Horokiwi Road District, situated in Block II, Belmont Survey District. Part G.N. 4 12269.1.

Dated at Wellington this 27th day of February 2002.

R. A. JOLLY, for the Minister for Land Information.

(LINZ CPC/2000/55 11)

ln1545



5172518.1 CT31168 issued-  
14.3.2002 at 9:00am

S. Johnson  
For RGL

NOTICE NO: 1545

