

Submission on Biodiversity – 6 March 2015

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The Trelissick Park Group would like to congratulate Wellington City Council on the work carried out in preparing this draft plan. We largely agree with its provisions, subject to the comments below.

General Comments

Budgets - We note from Section 10 Action Plan that “The actions outlined in this plan will be prioritised as part of Wellington City Council’s planning and budgeting processes and itemised into work programmes”. Our major concern, based on past experience, is that the funding that finally gets allocated in Council Long Term and Annual Plans and from other sources will not be nearly enough. The resulting prioritisation causes half-hearted/delayed implementation. Wellington is a unique and attractive city for its integration with biodiversity. We must preserve and enhance this.

‘Teeth’ – We look forward to Council Plans, Codes of Practice and consents having more ‘teeth’, eg mandatory neutral-effect stormwater run-off in developments. All Council activities need to require adherence to the provisions of the Biodiversity Plan.

Specific Comments

p. 13 under “Present” 4th para. - Perhaps kereru could get a mention also.

1.4.3 (g) (i) (n) and 3.1.1(g) – We would like to see WSUD as higher priority.

2.4.1, 2.4.2 – The railway corridor could also feature in ecological networks.

3.1.2(a) – Some Wadestown/Highland Park residents may not be able to access an area of natural space within 10 minutes. Implementing the access to Trelissick Park from Oban Street is essential.

3.1.2(f) – One possibility for forest bathing is at the “18-footer” in the Korimako Stream just upstream of the junction with the Kaiwharawhara. This was a popular pool in the early 1900s.

3.3.1(c) – Other dog problems – catching kaka fledglings and ducklings should be addressed.

3.3.7(a) – Removing weeds from gardens and planting natives instead should include species such as pampas, flowering cherry and sycamore, which easily spread into adjacent reserves.

12.4 and 13.1.3(c) Streams – A major issue for us is that all the stormwater from the huge 20 km² catchment area goes into the Kaiwharawhara and Korimako Streams. Rainwater runoff from hard surfaces during storms causes the streams to rise quickly up to 2 metres, washing away stream banks. This causes bed deposition of debris/silt, affecting invertebrate and native fish life and destroys riparian planting.

13.1.3(a) Pest Plants (p. 45) – Another pathway for spread of infestation is from being washed down by streams, eg wandering willie(*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

13.1.3(a) Environmental Pests Animals – Add dogs as per 3.3.1(c) above.

13.1.3(d) Climate change – Also should cover increase of drought conditions and response – eg selecting more drought tolerant species when planting, need to plant as early as possible in the year and strategies such as not watering to encourage deep rooting, also mulching after planting.

13.2.3 Restoring the integrity of areas – Add to 3rd paragraph about weeds after slips and infrastructure upgrades (roads, sewer, rail).

13.2.5 – see 13.1.3(d) above (climate change).

13.3.5 Making “pro nature” choices – Amplify “preventing pollution from entering drains” by referring to car, paint and cement washing in driveways or roadsides.

13.4.4 and 13.4.7 – Include research into climate change, including strategies to deal with storms, floods and drought.

14 – Include “vascular” in glossary.

Appendix 2 – Could not understand the use of “*Matai*”, “*Kowhai*” and “*Nikau*” in the “level and type of support offered to groups”.

Appendix 4 – Add rabbits and dogs (might need qualifying) to pest animals and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) to pest plants.

Amplification on Himalayan balsam, dogs, old man’s beard and fish migration is given in the submission of Bill Hester, which we support.

Regards,
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(Chairman,
Trelissick Park Group)