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**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

**RATIFICATION OF MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY  
BOARD SUBMISSIONS:**

- **GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL POLICY  
STATEMENT**
  - **GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL PEST  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
- 

It is recommended that the Makara/Ohariu Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Board submissions to the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement and the Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy.*

Attached are the Board submissions to the:

- Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement (Appendix 1)
- Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy (Appendix 2)

# APPENDIX 1

## **MAKARA OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD**

### **Submission on the Draft Regional Policy Statement**

*Date for submission: 16 May 2008*

The Makara Ohariu Community Board ('MOCB') makes the following comments in respect of the objectives, policies and methods in the Draft Regional Policy Statement which are potentially problematic for residents of the rural area of Wellington District. MOCB is generally supportive matters pertaining to the rural area that are not included in this submission.

#### **OBJECTIVES 1&2 / policies 2 & 61**

Domestic fires in the rural area are a necessary and traditional form of heating. Wellington District rural area does not have the inversion layer particulate problems associated with Masterton and should not be included in regulation of wood fires. Most landowners use waste wood from forestry or grow firewood crops for burning, thereby off-setting their carbon emissions from burning.

#### **OBJECTIVE 3 / policies 3, 33 & 50**

##### ***Appendix 1***

MOCB recognizes that defining sites of regional significance in the coastal environment is going to be difficult and that GRWC has undertaken this as a desktop exercise informed by the papers listed as references. MOCB takes issue with the selection of content from some of the references which is carried over into the listing in certain circumstances, i.e. the Kenny and Hayward Inventories in which Quartz Hill is defined as the largest intact peneplain remnant in the District, but the only mention of peneplain in the sites of significance being no 21, where it states "The top of Terawhiti Hill is a peneplain remnant tilted to the west by movement of the Pukerua Fault". This may be because Quartz Hill falls outside the landward extent of the coastal environment, in which case it should be picked up by the notable and significant landscape inventory. MOCB submits that all references put forward from reputable professional sources should be considered before this list is finalized in order to make it robust.

MOCB wishes to see site no 20, Makara Estuary, included for *landscape* as well as geological and ecological reasons in its significance value, being the only remaining saltmarsh estuary in the Wellington District.

MOCB wishes to see further areas included in sites of coastal significance regardless of private land ownership or past/present land use activity, in particular coastal areas from Ohau Point to Makara Beach and especially the dramatic coastal escarpments on the northwest coast to the right of Makara Beach.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4 / policy 4**

A firm definition of what constitutes a 'compromised' landscape is required. MOCB would not like to see the development of windfarming in the inland coastal/rural environment as an encouragement to further residential or industrial development. Prevention of such subdivision is one of the landowners stated reasons for being part of the Mill Creek wind farm resource consent. The DRPS needs clarification on this matter.

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## **OBJECTIVE 8 / Policy 50 / Methods 4 and 51**

MOCB submits that public access is not possible or practical in parts of the coastal environment on the northwest coast of Wellington, and that an inventory of places with *significant values for public access* should not be confused with identification of *significant coastal sites* as in Appendix 1. Likewise, public access along streams where the adjacent land is farmed is not always practicable. MOCB would like to see local council's encouraged to promote practical measures to assist landowners where riparian land is required for public access through making funds available for fencing, signage, maintenance and pest control .

## **OBJECTIVES 9 &10**

MOCB submits that particular focus on the benefits of renewable energy *as currently drafted* does not fulfill GRWC's responsibilities to *local* people and communities as required under s5. RMA.

Section 7(j) RMA is given dominance with the introduction of an entire section, although no hierarchy for renewable energy as a consideration is present in the current Act – it would be listed in s6 if this was the intent.

MOCB is well aware of the local issues and effects arising from the application for \$1 billion worth of energy infrastructure in it's area, and would like to see opportunity for local concerns to be addressed and well-managed at an early stage of the process. Placing the need for renewable energy over the needs of those who will live the effects of generation it is a recipe for discontent.

**OBJECTIVE 9 (c)** The word 'maximise' should be changed to 'make best use of'. Maximise indicates a use of all resource at any cost, regardless of any community or effects-based drawbacks.

**OBJECTIVE 9** MOCB submits addition of wording:

**9(f)** 'do not adversely affect local communities'.

## **Policy 8 & 37 / Method 31**

For reasons stated above, MOCB submits that the rural communities of Makara and Ohariu should be you should be consulted/involved when the region-wide renewable energy strategy is developed.

## **OBJECTIVE 23 / policies 24 & 47 / Method 30**

MOCB submits that the rural communities of Makara Ohariu be included in development of inventories of outstanding natural features and landscapes and notable landscapes in the Makara Ohariu area.

## **OBJECTIVE 29 / policies 56 & 69 / Method 43**

MOCB recognizes that rural land in Makara and Ohariu is not capable of grazing the high numbers of stock units as other rural areas in the region. However, being in such close proximity to the capital city, and providing the only road or bicycle access to the coast on the northern side of the Wellington District, it provides large areas of open space and subsequent recreational opportunities. The rural communities of Makara and Ohariu value the comparatively restrictive subdivision rules in the area, and as stated in their respective community plans, are not in favor of greater encouragement for subdivision. MOCB has been meeting with the major landowners

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in the southwest peninsula area in relation to pest control, and submits that one likely agreed future for the area is investing in it's ecological and recreational opportunities. MOCB submits that it should be involved in any identification of suitable land for sustainable rural residential development through the Wellington Regional Strategy, especially where it affects the Board's area.

We would like the opportunity to speak to this submission should the opportunity arise.

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## APPENDIX 2

### **MAKARA OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD**

#### **Submission on the Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy**

*Date for submission: 28 April 2008*

The Makara Ohariu Community Board ('MOCB') makes the following comments in respect of the Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy ('DRPMS') that impact on the rural area of Wellington District. MOCB is generally supportive matters pertaining to the rural area that are not included in this submission.

#### **MOCB Goat Eradication and Pest Control initiative on the Southwest Peninsula**

In the last few years MOCB has been actively pursuing the idea of total goat eradication on the Southwest Peninsula of Wellington city.

Wildlands Consultants were engaged by WCC in 2007 to provide an initial discussion document in respect of such an initiative. This document can be provided upon request.

This project is compatible with WCC's Biodiversity Action Plan. It also links well with the geographical location of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.

In recent months we have had constructive meetings with all major landowners on the Peninsula and are close to confirming with them an agreed mission statement concerning feral goat eradication and possum and pest control.

The reason for securing this statement is to enable MOCB to provide a record of support and co-operation from the major landowners when applying for funding to progress the initiative. MOCB will apply to GRWC for contribution such funding in whatever form it is available should the initiative progress. It is MOCB's view that there will be no greater or more achievable contribution to biodiversity (particularly native) in this area than goat eradication and pest control in conjunction with private landowners.

#### **Comment on Site led pest category programmes – Biodiversity**

The inclusion of feral goats in the 'Site-led pest category management programmes' is supported. However, limiting it only to Key Native Ecosystems or TLA reserves may limit its value on the Southwest Peninsula. Addition to the Objective wording such as "and Territorial Local Authority authorized eradication areas" may resolve the problem.

If the proposed MOCB initiative were to succeed and extend into smaller landholdings in Makara Valley, MOCB supports strict regulations for containing goats on private land where they are not to be treated as pests, i.e. appropriate fencing at landowners cost. This does not seem to be specifically covered in the Strategy Rules.

Likewise the inclusion of possums is supported.

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The inclusion of feral cats but not mustelids is interesting as there is information available which indicates that mustelids do more damage to native birds (eggs and chicks in particular), and that the feral cats do more good controlling mustelids than they do harm through the killing of native birds. MOCB submits that these animals should probably be included in the same category.

### **Comment on Site led pest category programmes – KNE's**

MOCB would like to see Barberry (commonly called Darwin's Barberry) given a higher pest management status, particularly where it is currently uncontrolled on TLA owned land. Where bare land has the opportunity to revert to native in the rural area, this will not happen if barberry gets there first. MOCB would like assistance with managing the spread of this weed as it's speed of encroachment in the rural area is unprecedented, providing greater management costs for private landowners and threatening the re-establishment of native bush in certain areas.

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