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## **REVIEW OF WAITANGI PARK**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide the Subcommittee with the results of three different and complementary evaluations of the design and functionality of Waitangi Park.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is recommended the Subcommittee:

1. *Receive the information.*

### **3. Background**

Waitangi Park was completed in February 2006. A review of the park in terms of its design and construction, functionality and user satisfaction has been undertaken this year. Three independent surveys/audits were completed and are attached as Appendix 1:

1. Waitangi Park – Design Quality Audit, (Executive summary attached) by TAG
2. Evaluation of Waitangi Park – A Qualitative Study, by UMR research
3. Observation and mapping of use by Simon McDowell, School of Architecture, Victoria University of Wellington.

These evaluations are an important part of the ongoing process of monitoring the park's performance that will inform the maintenance, management and operation of the park.

This report presents the findings of these assessments.

## **4. Discussion**

### **4.1 Waitangi Park - Design Quality Audit**

This audit undertaken by TAG focuses on design issues and follows the structure of the design review undertaken as part of the resource consent process. It is generally a positive audit with recommendations for future maintenance and operation.

### **4.2 Evaluation of Waitangi Park – A Qualitative Study**

Wellington Waterfront Ltd commissioned an independent survey from UMR Research. This evaluates the performance of the park in terms of the users' perceptions and includes results of interviews with a range of groups from parents, skateboarders, passers-by to event organisers.

The results of the survey show that most respondents felt that the park met their needs well and that it was a significant asset for the city. The survey results also include recommendations from respondents for improvements.

### **4.3 Use of Waitangi Park: A Quantitative Study**

Observation and mapping of use was undertaken as a research project by Victoria University of Wellington Year 4 architecture student Simon McDowell. This study over twelve hours on each of four days in May 2007 shows the location, concentration, type and timing of use of various parts of the park. Variation in the timing of use of different parts of the park was recorded along with categorisation of users at those times. Use in the weekend was up to five times higher than during the week, with the highest occupancy being at midday on Saturday and Sunday. The 'activity zone' around the perimeter of the park was the most heavily used area.

## **5. Conclusion**

The three evaluations of the design, functionality and use of Waitangi Park show that the park is well designed and used and is a great asset to the city. Recommendations have been made for improvements to the park that can be taken into consideration in the ongoing management of the park. The responsibility for management and maintenance of Waitangi Park now sits with the Council.

*Contact Officer: Sarah Polaschek, Portfolio Manager Council Controlled Organisations*

## Supporting Information

### 1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

*The Waterfront Development Plan would contribute to the following Council outcomes:*

*More Liveable – Wellington will be a great place to be, offering a variety of places to live, work and play within a high quality environment.*

*Stronger sense of place – Wellington will have a strong local identity that celebrates and protects its sense of place, capital-city status, distinctive landform and landmarks, defining features, history, heritage buildings, places and spaces.*

*More Eventful – Wellington will maximise the economic value from promoting and hosting high-profile events.*

*More Prosperous – Wellington's urban form, and flexible approach to land use planning in the central city, will contribute to economic growth and prosperity.*

### 2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

*C378 Wellington Waterfront Project.*

*A312 Wellington Waterfront Operations.*

*CX131 Wellington Waterfront Development.*

*In accord with the 2006/07 LTCCP.*

### 3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

*Maori have had a long connection with the harbour and waterfront that continues today. There are several sites of significance for iwi around the waterfront including Waitangi Lagoon and Te Aro Pa.*

### 4) Decision-Making

*This is not a significant decision.*

### 5) Consultation

#### a) General Consultation

*Consultation is not required for this report.*

#### b) Consultation with Maori

*Consultation is not required for this report.*

### 6) Legal Implications

*There are no implications from this report.*

### 7) Consistency with existing policy

*This report is consistent with existing WCC policy on waterfront development.*

## **Appendix One**

**Design Quality Audit by T.A.G  
Evaluation of Waitangi Park – UMR Research  
Use of Waitangi Park – Simon McDowell**