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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**DRAFT KINGSLAND FOREST PLAN**  
**DELIBERATIONS MEETING**  
held  
**1.30 pm, Tuesday, 2 June 2020**  
at  
**Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

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**Present:** Councillors T Tuffnell (Chair), C Mackenzie, D Ogilvie, K Maling, T Walker

**In Attendance:** Senior Policy Advisor (A Bywater), A Ellis (Commercial Portfolio Manager), Reserves and Facilities Manager (R Hollier), Reserves Officer (S Richards), Strategic Policy Manager (S Flood), Executive Assistant (T Fifield)

**1 OPENING, WELCOME**

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Cr Maling/Cr Walker**

**SH20-06-1**

**That the minutes of the Kingsland Forest Development Plan Hearings meeting held on Monday, 16 March 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**4 REPORTS**

**4.1 Kingsland Forest Development Plan - Deliberations**

Staff were congratulated on the robust report. Mr Bywater acknowledged Julie Nguyen's input to the report.

It was noted that for 10 of the 11 questions in the consultation form 85% or more of the

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submitters agreed with the proposal. For the remaining question, about dogs, 71% agreed with the proposal.

### **Extent of native forest planting**

Mr Bywater advised that the majority of submitters that attended the hearing preferred an increase in the area of native planting, the majority of written submissions supported the proposed mix of natives planting and exotic woodland in the Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

In regard species to be planted, Crs said they would be happy to seek the expert's advice as to what is most suitable. There are many steep and dry areas on the Richmond Hill so it would be good to get a mixture of forest cover.

In reply to a question it was noted that the private land adjacent to the 5 ha area that was proposed for native planting in submission #21475, is planted in pine trees which are about five years old. Mr Richards said that a lot of the land is dry and it is definitely going to be the most challenging area to plant whether in natives or exotics. However there is more potential at the bottom of the hill closer to Will's Gully.

Council has made an application for Central Government Covid-19 recovery environmental funding for planting some of the area (40% using native). Should funding become available, the preferred option would be to plant this area in native forest.

Mr Hollier said the other issue in terms of funding from the Reserves Financial Contributions (RFCs) account is that we have not made any allocation for commencing the replanting in the 2020/2021 year in the Annual Plan. Staff will have to confirm the use of the RFCs for this purpose through a report to Council.

### **Recommendation:**

- That the mixed exotic woodland and native forest in Option 3 be confirmed in the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Selection of species for planting**

A number of submitters suggested specific species to be planted in the Kingsland Forest and particular techniques for regeneration of native forest. Mr Bywater noted that the intention is to prepare a detailed planting plan and that all these suggestions can be considered as part of the planting plan.

It was noted that several submitters suggested an advisory group be created. Mr Hollier said that there are already key stakeholder groups in place (Nelson Mountain Bike Club and other mountain biking groups, Keep Richmond Beautiful and other smaller groups). Staff have established networks who they work well with so creating another advisory group could be another overlay.

In the final paper it would be worthwhile noting an advisory group was considered but it was the intention that we work with Group A, B and C.

### **Recommendation:**

- That the submissions recommending specific species and approaches to regenerate native bush be further considered in the development of a detailed planting plan following adoption of the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.
- That a note is added to Kingsland Forest Development Plan to this effect.

### **Planting for continuous canopy harvesting**

Mr Bywater advised that because the costs of selective harvesting are significantly higher than clear felling, it is only realistically feasible for higher value timber species. He further advised that staff did not consider that continuous canopy harvesting was particularly suitable for the Kingsland Forest because of the relatively small size of this forest and its close proximity to residential areas.

There was a discussion around not being able to make a decision without knowing what the financial implications of continuous canopy harvesting are. Mr Bywater said that when we were developing the draft plan, selected harvesting was looked at and discussions were made with PF Olsen. One of the issues was that it was quite hard to know what the likely revenue from the timber would be, particularly if we're looking more than 50 years forward.

It was noted that the area is on the doorstep of Richmond and it would be better not to have logging in this area in the future. It would be good as a reserve. Mr Ellis said that the forest is one of the least economic forests because it is small, close to residential land and is land locked (with logs having to be transported through neighbouring properties).

#### **Recommendation:**

- Not to allow continuous canopy harvesting.
- No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Separation of walking and cycling tracks**

Mr Bywater noted the walker intensive and bike intensive zones in the Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan and that no mountain bike tracks are planned for the native gullies. He advised that it isn't practical to completely separate walking and mountain biking tracks in the Forest. However staff can work to make shared tracks and intersections as safe as possible.

Councillors commented on the potential issues that can occur on shared tracks and potential for complaints in the future.

Mr Richards said that through the design of the track we can mitigate safety risks by putting in barriers like kissing gates – there are some successful ways to manage those potential conflict points. Some barriers are already in place.

#### **Recommendation**

Add an action to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan stating that the intersections between downhill mountain biking tracks and walking tracks will be assessed to provide as much safety as possible to both types of users.

### **Provision of easier grade mountain biking tracks**

Mr Bywater advised that the best opportunity for further easier grade mountain bike tracks is above Easby Park, although this is limited by the existing tracks in this area.

#### **Recommendation**

Add a new action: Explore options to provide further easier grade mountain bike tracks.

### **Mountain bikers building unauthorised tracks**

Mr Richards said the key is to engage with the mountain bike club. A lot of the illegal tracks that have been built up the top of the hill will be lost once the harvesting starts.

#### **Recommendation:**

No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Provision of easier grade walking tracks**

Mr Bywater noted the ideas behind the planned walking tracks in the Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan and the gentle graded tracks in the reserves in the general proximity of the Forest.

#### **Recommendation:**

No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Improved signage**

Mr Bywater noted that the intention to improve signage within the Forest was clearly noted in the Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

#### **Recommendation**

No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Paragliding**

Mr Bywater noted that the main issue with providing a paragliding launching site was that vehicle access to the top of the hill requires crossing private land.

Mr Richards noted Council has been approached by cycle shuttling companies (for people who want a ride to the top of the hill). To date, Council has said no as there is no safe road to the top of the hill. There is also no legal access.

#### **Recommendation:**

- Do not provide a paraglider launch site at Kingsland Forest.
- No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Horse riding**

Mr Bywater noted that the lower slopes of the Forest are already heavily used and vehicle access to the top of the hill is problematic. In addition Council provides for horse riding in other locations.

#### **Recommendation:**

- That horse riding in Kingsland Forest is not practical or suitable.
- No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Dog walking – to leash or not to leash**

Mr Bywater noted the differing views in submissions about dog walking in the Forest. The Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan stated that the situation would continue to be monitored with the potential to change the regulations at a future time should there be significant issues.

#### **Recommendation**

No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Public toilet facility**

Mr Bywater advised that some alternative locations for a public toilet were identified in submissions. The primary area for provision of a toilet is at Easby Park and this project is currently being worked on.

For locations on the hill there are issues in being able to dispose of the waste and access for cleaning. Mr Hollier advised that there may be an opportunity to work with the neighbour to locate a toilet in Silvan Forest.

#### **Recommendation**

Change the wording of the relevant action in the Supporting Facilities section to:

- Consider a simple vault toilet for Richmond Hill.

### **Water storage for fire fighting**

Mr Bywater advised that the existing reservoir could provide a source of water for firefighting but this is limited by silting.

Councillors noted that with the harvesting, it is a good opportunity to look at the choice of species as that could help reduce the fire risk assessments of some areas and to look at how we can better mitigate the fire risk in those areas.

Mr Richards said after the big storm event in 2013 there were a lot of slips in the area and breaching of the old dam. After that storm, the Engineering Department lowered the dam face and reduced its water holding capacity by 90%.

It was unclear which Department was responsible for removing the silt. Staff are to discuss this issue and get back to the Hearing Panel via email.

#### **Recommendation**

To be determined following staff discussions and the Hearing Panel's view via email.

### **Transpower**

Mr Bywater advised that following discussions with Transpower staff he had drafted some revised wording for the final Plan.

#### **Recommendation**

- That the wording of the options section under Utilities Infrastructure is amended to the following:

The most effective way of managing risk is to create safe setbacks at the time of planting or development within the Forest. In addition, following relevant codes of practice and considering the ongoing operation and maintenance (including access) requirements of the National Grid is important in any future development plan. Transpower is available to assist this planning with setback mapping and on the ground guidance.

- That the wording of the actions section under Utilities Infrastructure is amended to the following:

Follow relevant codes of practice and consult with Transpower in the development of planting plans, earthworks, and construction in proximity to the National Grid assets and associated access.

### **Harvest concerns**

Mr Bywater advised that staff are liaising closely with PF Olsen about their expectations concerning the harvest in the Forest. It was noted that the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry have come in to effect since the previous harvesting in the Forest and that harvest techniques have advanced.

### **Recommendation:**

No changes are required to the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.

### **Car parking at Easby Park**

#### **Recommendation**

That wording is added to the Plan to note that planning is underway to provide increased car parking and a public toilet at Easby Park.

### **Forest Naming**

A Cr asked if Council has considered changing the name to Kingsland Forest Park so it conveys that it's a place for people to go and recreate? It was noted that name would be suitable as it would continue to acknowledge Henry and Tom Kingsland and signified the change from a commercial forest to a place for recreation.

Mr Hollier said the intention is to vest and classify the area as reserve. In reply to a question, Mr Hollier said RFC funding can be accessed if the area is being used for reserve purposes.

Councillors supported the idea of moving the forest to reserve and changing the name to Kingsland Forest Park.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Forest be renamed the Kingsland Forest Park.

### **Moved Cr Maling/Cr Mackenzie SH20-06-2**

#### **That the Kingsland Forest Development Plan Hearing Panel:**

- 1 receives the Kingsland Forest Development Plan – Deliberations report; and**
- 2 provides staff with recommendations on matters raised in the submissions received on the Draft Kingsland Forest Development Plan; and**

- 3 notes that the Hearing Panel report will be presented to Strategy and Policy Committee for consideration and adoption on 2 July 2020; and  
CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 3.01 pm

Date Confirmed:

Chair:

Confirmed