

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Reserves Manager
REFERENCE: P100
DATE: 8 May 2007
SUBJECT: Waimea River Regional Park Proposal

PURPOSE

To bring the Committee up to date with the Waimea River Regional Park proposal and seek the Committee's support to further pursue this proposal.

Martin Conway who proposed the Regional Park idea will give a presentation to the Committee at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

During the Annual Plan round for the 2006/07 financial year Martin Conway approached Council for support on a proposal to form the river berm land (Waimea River Soil Conservation Reserve) on the Waimea River into a Regional Park.

Council supported this proposal by providing an allocation of \$30,000 over three years for Martin and Council staff to follow up the proposal.

In November Martin presented his ideas to staff from Environment and Planning (planning staff and scientists), the Property Manager and Parks & Reserves. The staff that attended this meeting agreed that this proposal would be beneficial for the area.

Discussions were held with Engineering Department staff who also support this proposal.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Attached to this report is a Draft Management Statement along with a plan of the Waimea River with reference numbers for discussion and potential for future development.

The Draft Management Statement outlines the issues prompting the Regional Park concept, the aims and objectives and some suggested methods of achieving a park along with a where to from here.

The Council staff that have heard Martin talk to his proposal or who have read the proposal can see benefits for all departments of Council in their work on this area of river berm.

AFFECTED PARTIES

The residents and leaseholders along the Waimea River, iwi, recreational users of the walkways and river berm areas, the general public and visitors to Tasman District.

OPTIONS

Do nothing, leave the area as is.

Resolve to support the proposal of the Waimea River Regional Park as per the Draft Management Statement and instruct staff to undertake consultation with iwi, interested parties and the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee support the proposal of the Waimea River Regional Park as per the Draft Management Statement and ask staff to undertake consultation with iwi, interested parties and the community.

Beryl Wilkes
Reserves Manager