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## **Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 Submission on Section 2 Environment**

We would like to thank Council for cooperation with our Group, working towards Trellissick Park (in the valley between Ngaio, Crofton Downs and Wadestown) becoming a native bush wilderness.

### 2.1 Gardens, Beaches and Green Open Spaces

We are pleased that you will progress the Biodiversity Action Plan (including additional funding) and that as part of 'Our Capital Spaces' there is:

- "an increase in support for community planting and pest control of \$75,800 in operating expenditure
- funding to support the Project Halo partnership project, with \$47,000 in 2014/15 to support backyard biodiversity in a buffer zone around Zealandia and pest control in the adjoining rural area."

We are working with Council officers on the Suburban Reserves Management Plan to ensure this adequately reflects the unique needs of Trellissick Park, which suffers from urban infrastructure and catchment developments and pest animal/plant ingress from adjacent areas and upstream.

We are particularly concerned about funding for animal and plant pest control and consider that the above increase is inadequate. Trellissick Park is classified as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE), because it contains original forest remnant and is part of the ecological corridor in the catchment between the harbour and the outer green belt/Zealandia. For this reason it has received priority animal and plant pest control. Over the last few years WCC, in collaboration with the GWRC and ourselves, made considerable progress with animal and plant pest control. Trellissick Park also benefited greatly from the GWRC 'Take Care' fund, in conjunction with Otari Wilton's Bush Trust.

However, WCC funding for animal and plant pest control of late has been 'lean' and the GWRC 'Take Care' funding has finished. To make matters worse, GWRC is withdrawing from any Trellissick Park funding after June this year. WCC Park's staff are hard-pressed to keep up with demands for maintenance and enhancement. We have already noticed pest plants taking over again due to lack of follow-up – a waste of past expenditure. Unless WCC covers the funding that is being reduced by GWRC, the gains made through pest control will go backwards.

### 2.4 Wastewater and 2.5 Stormwater

We support all efforts to improve the quality and quantity of stormwater discharged into Wellington's streams and the development of integrated catchment management plans. We look forward to being able to comment on the plan for the Kaiwharawhara catchment.

Trelissick Park is affected by:

- pollution from urban owners and commercial/housing developments
- the downstream effects of fast run-off from hard surfaces in the large catchment area after heavy rainfalls
- pollution from broken sewage pipes.

Development of policies related to the draft Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) need advancing. Wellington can then genuinely claim to be a "Biophilic City". We believe it is important that the above aspects are linked closely with responsibilities covered in 2.1 and that there is sufficient liaison between relevant staff to ensure that Parks can request some of the funding allocated to these two chapters (budgets of K\$40,449 and K\$18,734 respectively) or ensure that wastewater/stormwater staff cover the needs of Trelissick Park.

## 2.6 Conservation Attractions

We are concerned about large budgets for Zealandia and the Zoo and that these are selected as "attractions". Why are so few attractions listed? Selecting only Zealandia and the Zoo seems to denigrate other places which could be regarded as conservation attractions. Surely at least Otari Wilton's Bush and Trelissick Park could be included, with some of the proposed budget? Trelissick Park in particular is increasingly very popular with local residents, dog walkers and visitors, being so close to the city, accessible and attractive.

Summarising, our requests are as follows:

- 2.1: Substantial increase in operating expenditure for animal and plant pest control in Trelissick Park, surrounding areas and upstream.
- 2.1: Policies related to the draft Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) need advancing.
- 2.4, 2.5: Sufficient liaison/funding between wastewater/stormwater staff and Parks staff to ensure the needs of Trelissick Park are met.
- 2.6: More recognition and budget for other conservation attractions such as Otari Wilton's Bush and Trelissick Park.

I would like to speak to this submission, on behalf of the Group.

Regards,  
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(Chairman  
Trelissick Park Group)