

Submitter name: Peter Reimann  
Organisation: Trelissick Park Group  
Organisation contact name: Peter Reimann  
Address: c/- 51 Heke Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035  
Phone: 04 938 9602  
Email: nz.peterreimann@gmail.com

The Trelissick Park Group (TPG) wants to ensure that WCC has sufficient budget in 2019-20 to ensure the protection and enhancement of our special natural environment within the city boundaries. The tongues of native bush within the urban areas make our City unique and need to be preserved.

One of the five "priority areas" identified in WCC's Annual Plan is "looking after our environment". However, as stated in the Plan: "The Council's environment portfolio is large and diverse, encompassing beaches and green spaces, waste reduction and energy conservation, as well as waters services (drinking and tap water, wastewater and stormwater), and conservation attractions." Earthquake strengthening is also included under the 'environment' banner.

There is scant mention of the natural environment, apart from tree planting and enhancements at Zealandia and Makara Peak. We are concerned that the budget in the Plan for protection and enhancement of the natural environment in City reserves is too small.

The Group's specific requests are:

Native Fish Passage Improvement in Catchments –

WCC Officer Daniela Biaggio advises that she has only secured a small amount of funding from the 'Our Natural Capital' budget. She is working now to seek funding from 'operations' which would allow commissioning a project plan to prioritise and do an initial costing for improving fish passage across the City. She says it is high on Council's agenda. Our Group advocates for more operational funding for this.

Pest Plant Control –

Our Group continues to control small outbreaks of pest plants. However, adequate Council resources for pest weed control are absolutely vital and we advocate for more funding. We appreciate the work Council has done over recent years, but it is a continuing struggle to counter weed invasions and to ensure all the past work is not wasted with the situation going backwards. Particularly:

- Old man's beard in the Park and adjacent railway corridor and Ngaio Gorge Road reserve. It is getting much worse (and across the whole City).
- Wandering willie (tradescantia) under and adjacent to forest areas.
- Climbing asparagus below Oban Street.

I do not wish to speak to this submission.

Thank you,

Peter Reimann

Trelissick Park Group

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