

Trelissick Park Group submission - District Plan Stream 11 Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Heke Reserve

Our original submission of 11 September 2022 requested that Heke Reserve be included as an SNA. Further to p.81 of the Section 42a report we discover that the Reserve is actually covered by the SNA map, adjoining railway land. So, our comment is no longer applicable.

Infill housing and multi-unit subdivisions – removal of tree cover

We have concerns about the insidious removal of tree cover due to infill housing and multi-unit subdivision, for the following reasons:

Stormwater hydraulic neutrality – Although this is usually a requirement of the resource consent, full compliance is unlikely when houses/units are jammed up against each other without trees. The leaves of trees and the mulch below significantly slow stormwater runoff. Stormwater from the huge catchment of the Kaiwharawhara/Korimako Streams, stretching from Karori to Khandallah, all runs through Trelissick Park. In heavy rain, the streams become raging torrents causing flooding and carrying away stream banks.

Sacrificing the environment – Wellington suburbs are unique in having houses nestling in amongst native bush. Birdlife has flourished in recent years due to the halo effect of Zealandia. Trees harbour other life and are a balm for the soul.

We have a choice. The environment vs development (money). If infill housing and multi-unit development continue, we can foresee yet another sterile city crammed with houses and nothing else. It has happened elsewhere.