



ARAC Akatarawa

Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Incorporated
6 Takanini Grove, Stokes Valley Tel 04 938 5250

30 September, 2004

Forest Lands Plan Submissions
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11-646
Wellington

Attention: Trecia Smith
Advisor – Planning and Policy

Re: **Draft Regional Forests Lands Plan: future Water Collection Areas**

The Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Incorporated (ARAC) wishes to make this submission to the above draft plan which was prepared by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW).

ARAC has worked extensively with GW over several years and has formed a strong and healthy relationship with GW in relation to the development of policy, managed access and ongoing operations in the Akatarawa Forest.

ARAC has reviewed the draft plan and commends GW for producing such a comprehensive and comprehensible plan.

As a general statement, ARAC supports the intent of the draft plan, its vision, objectives and policies.

There are some specific elements of the draft plan that ARAC requests be amended:

- Please identify the Orange Hut in the plan as a designated site for overnight stays (section 6.2)
- Please include a process for ongoing review and management of the list of defined tracks in Table 3, so that tracks can be added or deleted temporarily or permanently, as circumstances change over time (section 6.11)
- Please allow for future revisions of the *Motorised Recreational User Code and Management Guidelines 1997*, as there may be circumstances where GW or ARAC wish to propose improvements or other amendments, for example (but not limited

to) additional management requirements to better safeguard current and future water collection resources (section 6.13)

- o Please make provision for future recreational vehicle access to the Pukuratahi Forest, along the lines of the managed access specified for the Akatarawa Forest, as there is already a network of vehicle tracks and there are extensive areas of modification, for example in the exotic plantation forestry areas. As with the Akatarawa Forest, a list of tracks could be agreed for recreational vehicle access in the future (page 43)
- o Please consider whether the Plantation Forest policies (pages 46-47) should include reference to recreational policies, particularly (from our perspective) motorised recreation, in keeping with the reference in the draft plan's introduction that recreational policies relevant to plantation lands are included in the plan (page 1)

ARAC commits to supporting policies that protect the forests' primary functions as future water supply and plantation forestry areas, along with the secondary ecological and biodiversity policies.

As with any consultation process, ARAC has additional details it would like to set out for consideration by GW in finalising the plan. To this end, ARAC requests the right to speak in support of its submission at any opportunity and to furnish additional written material that supports this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Purdie
Executive Committee Member
on behalf of The Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee

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